

God's Gracious Dealings

. FRED PRUITT

GOD'S
GRACIOUS DEALINGS
OR
LED BY HIS SPIRIT

The Autobiography
of FRED PRUITT
SEVENTH EDITION • 1978

• *With an added history of the work,
the workers, and improved equipment
at the Lord's Print Shop since 1962.*

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Dedicated
to
The Glory of God
and
His Cause in the Earth

(Thanks to Don Moon, artist and longtime friend of the Pruitt family, who designed and lettered the front cover and title page of this Seventh Edition.)

FOREWORD



Simplicity and straightforward sincerity to bear plain witness to establish facts is one sure way of doing good. It is no impeachment of our meekness or modesty to make public acknowledgement of the victories that we have won by faith in the all-conquering name of Jesus.

We are His witnesses and we should not prefer to appear humble to the world and withhold truth that would encourage souls to have faith in God.

We are full of devout gratitude to God for making it possible for us to give these experiences in print to the reading public. If we have been faithful in the stewardship, it is God that has made it so, and not us. We take no credit, and beg to be counted as naught that God might be glorified. Any thought of credit sinks into insignificance when we remember our former life of evil and gross selfishness. Thus we ask the reader to let us be hid behind the cross while you read, that the Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, may be exalted.

Since Part One of this book was printed in 1933, we have revised it five times and added brief records of God's gracious dealings with us in recent years. Part Two was added in 1939, Part Three in 1943, Part Four in 1947, Part Five in 1955, and Part Six in 1962.

Your humble servant,

—Fred Pruitt

(In reading this book you will notice the word "we" is often used; meaning the Lord and I or others who are concerned.)



**Fred and Mary Pruitt taken in 1935, soon
after he wrote Part One**

INTRODUCTION

(Year of 1933)

It is not without timidity and much feeling of inability that I essay to write this book which reveals some of the gracious dealings of the Lord with my soul.

It is the most earnest desire of my heart that the contents of this book will be used by the Lord in being a blessing and a great encouragement to many of God's "broken creation." Also, an inspiration to those who are not in the fold to have faith in God and to step out on His promises and get saved by grace through faith in the sacrificed Lamb of God.

At different times during the last few years I had thought that it might be to the glory of God for me to put in print the truth concerning the love and mercy of God shown to me. Each time the Lord did not burden me very much about it, and the subject was soon dismissed from my mind.

A few months ago I was in waiting before the Lord and it came very forcibly to my mind that Bro. Robert Longley ought to write a book about the Lord's dealings with him as it would be a blessing to humanity. At once I wrote to Bro. Longley, telling him of the impressions and thoughts upon my mind and heart.

The substance of his answer was as follows: "I might write a book sometime, if the Lord wills it; but I have a suggestion to make to you. I am sure that you could write several books. Have you thought of that? I feel sure that all of those past experiences you have gone through would be a great benefit to the people."

I thought over the matter some and considered it from different viewpoints with prayer, and the undertaking seemed to be so great that I dismissed it from my mind.

A few nights later the Lord awakened me at three o'clock in the morning and talked to my soul about writing these experiences and giving them to the world by the printed page.

With much prayer that God would guide me in the writing and that self be kept behind the cross while Jesus

and God the Father are exalted, we proceeded with much fear and trembling, asking God that our eye always be single to His glory.

—The Author
Year 1933.

The Reason for This Book



One night the Lord roused me from sleep;

Laid on my heart this obligation:

That I should write a little book

To carry truth and consolation.

Tell how in darkness and in sin

I lived till light and peace from Heaven

Came changing all my heart and life—

Brought revelations Spirit given.

How, led, we took of His and gave

It back to Him. His praises voicing,

Saw food, supplies, and money gone,

Yet looked to Him with hearts rejoicing.

So read this record of our days,

God's faithfulness and love recalling;

Though winds may blow and waves may roar,

Steadfast with Him we keep from falling.

Preface to This Seventh Edition



Approximately sixteen years have elapsed since the publication of the Sixth Edition of *God's Gracious Dealings* in 1962. The following year, on June 6, 1963, my beloved father, Fred Pruitt, the writer and publisher of the Sixth Edition, departed this life to be with the Lord in his 82nd year. That edition has been out of stock for a number of years, and many requests have been received for the printing of a new edition.

Over the intervening sixteen years with the blessings of the Lord, much progress and advancement have been made at the Faith Publishing House in getting out much more gospel literature, not only in English, but also in several other languages. Many more out-of-print books have been reprinted and kept in stock that were written by the pioneers of the Church of God reformation in this "evening time" of the gospel day. Changes have been made in printing equipment, as well as the printing process. Changes have also occurred in the personnel. All of these events have necessitated additional pages to record God's care and direction in His publishing work.

This volume has been written over a period of 45 years—from 1933 to 1978.

The reader should keep in mind that not every one whose picture appears in this book professes to be a Christian.

With praises unto our heavenly Father, this writer and compiler submits to the reader this Seventh Edition of *God's Gracious Dealings* which includes Part Seven of the continuation of God's faithful dealings with His work and workers at the Lord's Print Shop.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

Guthrie, Okla., March, 1978

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Fred Pruitt, editor, writing subscriptions
at the campmeeting in Pacoima, Calif.

God's Gracious Dealings



Part One

CHAPTER ONE

Brief Life Sketch of Early Years

The writer of this sketch, your servant in the Lord, was born at San Antonio, Texas, on the fourth day of October, 1881. My parents were possessors of very little of this world's goods. When I was five years of age, they moved to southeastern Kansas, and located in Neosho County.

My schooling was very limited, for as soon as I was able to do much work I was only allowed about three month's schooling each year. My parents lived on a farm and I received my limited education in the country schoolhouse, having attained to the eighth grade.

My father's family consisted of seven sons and one daughter, the youngest being a girl. I was the fifth boy of the family. My father was weak and frail of body and fought hard in this cruel world to get needed sustenance for the family. I had a real good mother, but as I review the past I can realize with a deep regret that I did not appreciate her as she should have been appreciated. I was careless and rather indifferent toward her continuous toil and care for us.

My parents professed religion in the Christian Church and were many times called "Campbellites." They did not attend church very much, as it was not convenient, and the cares of life were heavy. While growing up, I attended Sunday school but very little; therefore, I knew very little about the Bible. My spare time and many Sundays were spent on the Neosho River or on Big Creek, hunting game, fishing, swimming, or gathering nuts. Baseball was a game I delighted in, and would often continue in the ball game rather than eat my meals.

I could write a book on my boyhood days and tell many interesting experiences, but the object of this writing is to tell about God and His dealings with me so I will omit those experiences, except to say that I was very much alive in the worldly spirit—card playing, dancing, some gambling, some drinking, and many other things that go to make up evil works.

When young in years I was very tenderhearted and had a deep desire to do just what was right. As years went by I was hardened by the coldness and deceitfulness of sinning men and women (some of them even professed religion). When I was sixteen years of age, I joined the Christian Church and was baptized along with a group of my boy and girl associates. I failed to get any experience of salvation, and knowing that I was not living right, I quit professing although the minister told me that I was all right and wanted me to go right on. This I would not do, yet I felt I was not as bad as many who professed.

God deals with every soul, and, if possible, convinces them of His goodness and convicts them of evil. When they do good He makes them feel good; when they do evil, they feel bad. This is the drawing and convicting Spirit of God working on a tender conscience, a conscience which is not seared.

When I was about fifteen years of age I remember working for my cousin, Job Burroughs, and he sent me on an errand to a neighbor by the name of Chenny. His son about my own age, came from the orchard with two apples in his hand for me to take one. I reached and took the larger and better apple, leaving him the smaller one. On the way home I felt very bad for taking the better apple. It was the Lord convicting me of selfishness.

Several years later at the age of twenty-one, when I had gone much deeper in sin, I was returning from Washington state with two other boys who were as rowdy and evil as I. The train stopped at Ogden, Utah, and a large group of girls and boys were there with baskets of peaches, so I stepped out to buy a basket. The larger boys crowded the girls and weaker boys back and held their baskets of peaches up near my face, entreating

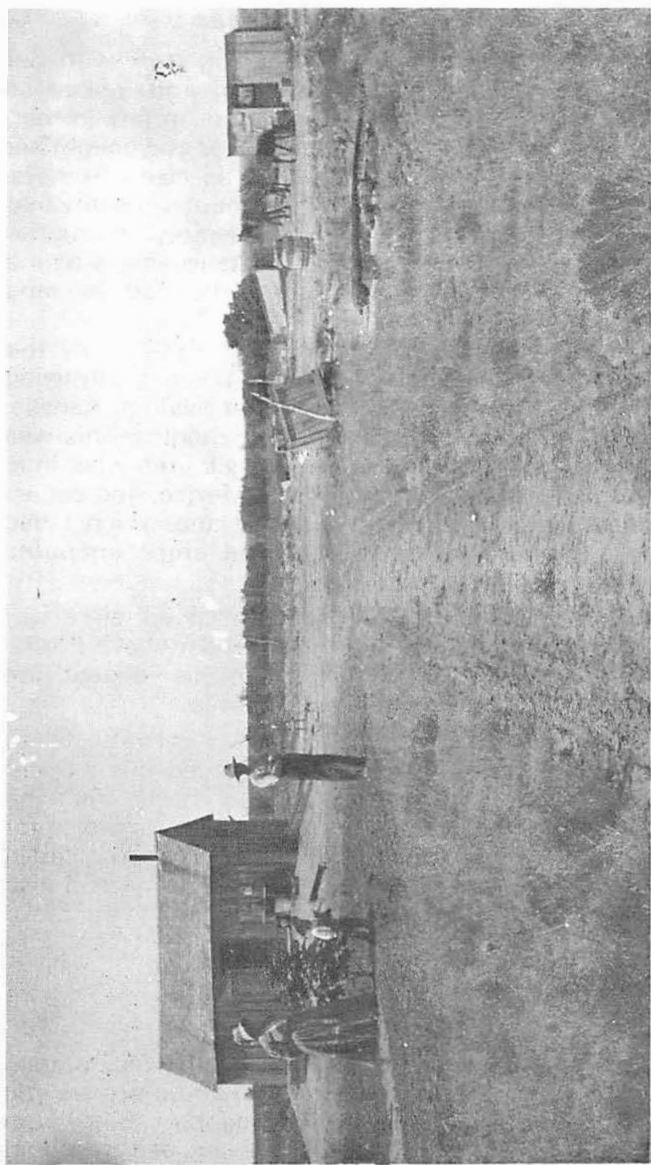
me to buy. I saw a little girl standing back with her peaches. She was shabbily dressed and looked so dejected and forlorn. My heart went out in pity for her, and pushing the boys aside, I went to her and bought her peaches, even though they were not as nice as others. God made me feel so good over this act of sympathy that it has never been erased from my memory. It was the goodness of God leading me to repentance, showing me that His pleasure was upon those who had pity and showed mercy.

At the age of twenty-four I was married by the County Judge to Miss Mary Ann Balla, a young lady living with her grandmother on a farm near Walnut, Kansas. She was sixteen years old, less three months. This was in the spring of 1906. In the fall, we gathered what little we had together and moved to New Mexico, and settled on one hundred and sixty acres of land which I had previously filed on. It was located eighteen miles northwest of Clovis, New Mexico.

We dug into the ground four feet deep, eight feet wide and ten feet long, and built a room above it with floor two feet from the ground, and in this "dugout" we first began to keep house for ourselves.

I can hardly keep back the tears now as I write, when I think of the hardships that accompanied this pioneer life, and how my young wife bravely stayed with me through it all. I hauled water for ourselves and also for our stock to drink, sometimes twelve or thirteen miles in the lumber wagon, making the trip twice a week. I also hauled wood and posts thirty-five miles, trying to improve our place. With the loss of two infants, property, and loss from dry years, it seemed for six or seven years that nothing but poverty and hardships were our lot (a schooling for future work in His service).

The all-seeing eye of God was watching and ordering all unknown to us, and though we were both sinners and made no profession, yet God was good to us. Since I am saved and know how God works, I can see how that many times God made ways for us when we were much



FRED AND MARY PRUITT and their son Andrew on the old homestead eighteen miles northwest of Clovis, New Mexico. Taken about 1910.

perplexed. One instance stands out very distinctly in my memory. We had no feed for our three horses and the milk cow. It was the first winter we were there. To buy feed we would have to go to another settlement fifteen miles away, as the sod had never been turned and no crops planted in our neighborhood, with the exception of a small crop near us which was fenced with a strong four-wire fence. I did not know the man who owned it, nor had I ever seen him, as he did not live on the place. Besides this, I did not have the money with which to buy. It was a cold, damp day; and as I sat thinking of these things, wondering what to do, my eye caught sight of the man's corn in the field. I thought if I could see the man who owned it, I might get to gather it for him and take feed for pay. I was feeling bad indeed, as it looked as if I had brought the few stock I had down there to starve and bury on the plains. Just then I looked down the road and saw a man coming in a cart. I was moved very strongly to go out to the road and talk to that man. I soon found that he was the man who owned the corn, and he was glad to give me the job of gathering his corn and would pay me in feed. Certainly, God directed me in this and provided when there was no way.

After several years of hardship and hard work I was taken with a nervous prostration, and there I lay in the 'dugout' racked with pain. The doctor was called and he fed me on strychnine to counteract the pain.

The neighbors were very kind. They took turns sitting up and waiting on me. We then sent for James U. Miller (who was nearly twenty miles away) to do our farm work. He was a young man from Arkansas who had filed a claim in the same section with us. By his working for us and proving dependable and faithful, we became attached to each other. Our friendship has never been broken, and I often pray for his salvation. We expect that some day he will fully surrender to God and be saved. I do want to see him in heaven.

I grew worse, and after being in bed for many weeks it seemed that I could live no longer, and I gave wife counsel as to what to do after I was gone. Those were

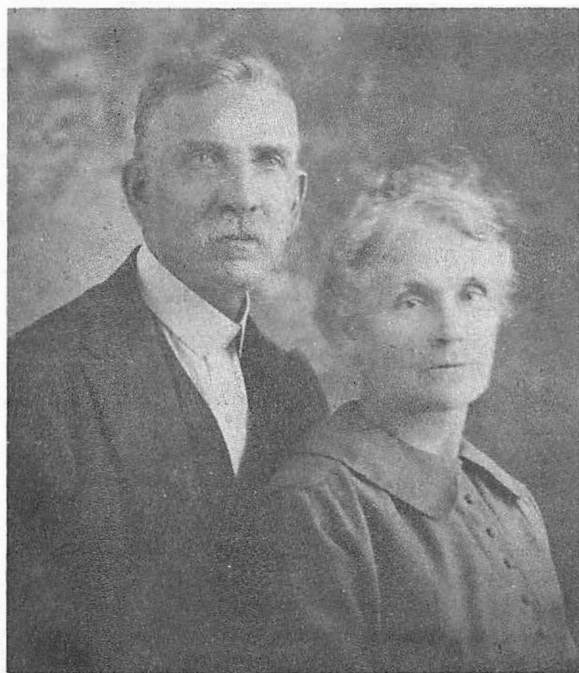
dark days for her, as she knew not God to get comfort from Him. They were dark days for me, as Andrew, our oldest boy, was nearly three years old, and oh, how I did want to stay with my wife and little boy! We had no God to go to; no one to comfort us. To pass out was darkness and no hope. Truly, it was a "leap in the dark."

Of all who came to see me, there was only one man by the name of Wm. Brownell, a Methodist, who said anything to me about God. He spoke just a very little, but it set me to thinking a little about God. I knew nothing about praying; did not know how. Down in my heart I promised God if He would get me out of this I would try to do better. The next day about four o'clock in the afternoon the pain and intense suffering began to move and leave my body. It started at my arm and went down through my body (taking all pain with it) and out at my toes, and I was well. I got up to walk but I was too weak, and my limbs were so badly drawn that when I did get strength to walk, I just crippled along. I could not walk straight for nearly a year.

When temptation came and I would do wrong, I would think of the promise I had made the Lord and did try to do better. I had a longing in my heart to know what to do to be right with God. I felt that the professed Christians whom I knew did not live right. I had the habit of smoking tobacco. I felt it was wrong and wanted to quit it. Often I would quit, determined not to use it any more, but each time Satan would overcome me through fleshly appetite. I felt very bad over this, and longed to be free, but saw no way.

People who professed to be Christians were a source of discouragement to me, because I could not find them living according to the teaching of the Bible. One day I was sitting in the hotel lobby at Roswell, New Mexico, when a big man came in, wearing a high silk hat and a long-tailed coat. I was sitting near the hotel proprietor, so I overheard their conversation. I learned this man was Bishop of the Methodist Church, so I listened to what he had to say. He was urging the hotel man to pay money in to the church as they were in great need of finances. The

hotel man pleaded that he was doing all he could. When their business was over and the Bishop started to go, the hotel keeper reached into his case and got a box of cigars. The Bishop took one, lit it and walked out of the hotel. I was so interested in him that I followed him out of the hotel and up the street. As I walked along and saw the smoke coming from him in puffs, I thought to myself, "Would Jesus walk along with, and agree with a man dressed as he was and smoking a cigar?" My conscience answered with me that He would not. Oh, what a curse to mankind are professors of religion, and Satan loves to have it so! Since light from heaven has come into my heart, I know that Satan has many more preachers in the world than God has, but I did not have this knowledge at that time, for all was darkness to me.



Bro. George E. and Sister Vienna Harmon

CHAPTER TWO

Hearing and Accepting the Bible Truth

It was a great question with me as to what church to join. Which one was right? Surely, there was one right and the rest were all wrong. My heart was burdened and I longed to know what to do. My heart was praying for God to do something; things looked dark and very confusing to me.

Several years later God sent a holiness preacher to our neighborhood, preaching holiness and purity of life. As I had been taught and also believed that man could not live without committing sin, I with others, laughed at a man teaching such things and never thought about ever going to hear him. His name was A. J. Hammond. Others who went to hear him talked so much about his preaching that I went one night to see and hear for myself. The meeting was held in a house built for family use where they were holding public school. There was a door halfway up the side, and I stood outside and looked through this door, as the preacher was close to it. He talked so earnestly and with such authority that I became very much interested. When they sang the song, No. 377 in *Select Hymns* entitled, "He Is Just the Same Today," the truth of that song just struck in my soul.

"Is it true that every sickness may be laid
at Jesus' feet?

All my trouble, care, and sorrow; and I rest in
joy complete?

Yes, my brother, every sadness, if by faith to
Him you pray,

He'll remove with tender mercy,
For He's just the same today."

It seemed that I had never heard such words, and that I had never heard the gospel preached before in my life, although I had heard many preachers. I thought I certainly needed a Saviour like that, for I was both in sin and afflicted in body. If He is just the same today, it would be truly wonderful. I had never heard a preacher or

anyone else say that before. Afterwards, the enemy made me believe that it was not so, and those preachers were false teachers. I kept hearing them at different times and deep conviction came upon me to join their church, as I thought I would have to join them like the denominations. About that time some of my neighbors began to join; some with whom I had been in trouble and toward whom I had hate in my heart. The enemy said, "You do not want to go in there and mix up with those people." I thought, "No, I surely do not," as I did not want to associate with them at all, so I drew back.

I had been believing there would be a thousand years' reign of Christ on earth, and that I would then get right with God, so I rested awhile on that theory.

A little later the holiness people had a tent meeting about two miles east of us in another school district. I attended that meeting some, and one Sunday morning a preacher from Clovis, by the name of Geo. E. Harmon, preached on the "Biblical Trace of the Church," and I just drank it in. I had never heard nor seen such power and authority, or the truth preached like that before. He took up the Scriptures and proved there was no place nor need of a millennial reign where people could get right with God after death, and I could never feel safe on that theory any more. Conviction settled down on me heavier than ever. I was also enlightened by the reading of some tracts given out in this meeting by Erle E. Forbes and his sister.

Shortly after this, I began to attend Sunday school at our schoolhouse which was three quarters of a mile west of our home. Bro. Hammond, the first preacher I heard, had monthly appointments there and would preach to us after Sunday school. I became very much interested and was anxious for his day to come so I could hear him preach the gospel.

One day, I could hardly know why, I gave him a dollar bill just before he went to the pulpit to preach. This was unusual for me to give a preacher money, and he said, "I'll preach all the harder." I noticed that the church

members of the denominations did not like his preaching very well and I wondered why, for I thought they ought to love the truth. I did not understand it at all.

Soon he moved away, leaving me under the deep conviction of being a bad sinner. I had quit a few of my sins, and had almost quit cursing, which was a habit of longstanding. I would sometimes start to curse, then think and stop; and in the next breath, ask God to forgive me. I became so desperate in this struggle to quit cursing that I wanted God to strike me dumb so I would not speak bad words. I was trying to be Christian in my own strength and was miserably failing, yet I was quitting a great many sins.

About that time a Methodist preacher came in. The leaders of the Sunday school were a small group of Methodist people; some Baptists and Presbyterians attended, and wife and I favored the Christian Church. We all decided to go together and form what we were pleased to call, "An Affiliated Church," hiring the Methodist preacher to preach to us. He used tobacco. He believed in "being all things to all men," but far different from the way Paul meant it.

Wife and I were very earnest in desiring to be in favor with God, to be saved and delivered from condemnation. Before we got our "Affiliated Church" organized, we had, through confessing and believing in Christ, received peace in our souls from God. We had prayed and confessed our sins, and through faith in Christ were justified while at home. We were very ignorant of what the Bible taught, but we had peace in our souls and a love from God that caused us to love God, and we were very desirous of pleasing Him in everything.

When the day came that we were to organize the "Affiliated Church," the preacher wrote down our names and also the church we favored. Some would say Baptist, some Presbyterian, etc. When he came to me and asked what church I preferred, I said that I wanted to be led by the Spirit of God. I had read in the eighth chapter of Romans where Paul said, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." The Lord had

impressed me to be led of His Spirit. I was feeling at that time that there was something wrong about the many church names.

After the organization of the "Affiliated Church," then came the question of being baptized. Wife wanted to be immersed like Jesus was. Others wanted to be sprinkled. I considered the matter very seriously, and as I was baptized years ago and it did me no good, it was a question with me whether it was needed, as I already had peace with God. At that time I did not understand, neither had any light as to the purpose of water baptism. As we had no creeks or rivers in that country, we met at a neighbor's well where they had a large stock tank, and there the Methodist preacher baptized wife and sprinkled some others. It was a very serious and thoughtful day for me as I was not able to come to any conclusion or understanding about the administering of baptism. It was not for the purpose of washing sins away, because mine were gone through repentance and faith in Christ, yet I was sure that the Word commanded us to be baptized.

Later, when God had given me understanding that water baptism was a sign to the world of being dead to it and to sin and of being resurrected with Christ from a watery grave to walk in newness of life; wife and I were both baptized by Bro. G. E. Harmon, a saint preacher.

CHAPTER THREE

Receiving the Experience of Sanctification

This joy and comfort of being saved was a new thing for wife and me, as we had never experienced anything like it before. Oh, how we did love the Lord, the neighbors, and one another! We also had love and goodwill toward those we had once hated. This was wonderful indeed! Truly, old things had passed away and all things had become new, and the future looked bright—great contentment. We were very careful to please God in all things, being anxious to do everything that would please Him and quick to quit anything that we thought would displease Him.

I was a user of tobacco, and had tried to quit it time and again, but was unable to resist the desire for it that would come upon me. When the Lord saved me, I quit and tossed my pipe back on top of the kitchen cabinet behind the pans, buckets, and other utensils which were seldom used. This was in the summer of 1915. That fall I bought a one-row corn binder and cut at least one hundred and fifty acres of feed belonging to myself and neighbors. I shall never forget what peace I enjoyed and how the Lord gave me victory and calmness in my soul when the binder went wrong or the horses were ugly. I used to curse and behave badly, but now a sweet peace filled my soul, and, by His help, I never uttered a cross word nor sinned against God at any time, and the peace increased and flowed deep like a river.

I was naturally very timid and backward, and could never get up and express myself in public with any degree of liberty. When I was called on to read the minutes for the Sunday school, it was with much weakness and trembling that I would arise and read them. I shall never forget when I was to read them one morning and felt very weak. I asked God to help and He sent such a calmness with strength in my soul that I arose and read them with ease. This encouraged my heart as I was finding more and more that God was real and a present help. Oh, how I did love Him! It did not

seem to me that there was anything too hard, or any sacrifice too great for me to do or make for Him, and the love and peace increased.

We had continued in this justified state for two and one-half months. We had not sinned against God and the peace had never been broken. This life was sweet indeed, and we were very satisfied and happy. One day while I was cutting feed for a neighbor, I saw lying on the ground a reddish-looking can with these words on it: "Prince Albert Smoking Tobacco." I stopped the horses, got off the machine, picked up the can, and found it was half full of tobacco. I put it in my pocket, intending to take it home with me at noon and send my little boy down to the neighbor's with it, as I was certain that he had lost it. I always had a custom of smoking after eating my noonday meal, so after I had eaten dinner, the devil said, (I did not know it was he then), "Your pipe is back on top of the cabinet, and you had just as well smoke a pipe full of that tobacco. You know your neighbor will not care." Yes, I thought, that was so, and I yielded to the temptation. I wish to say that during the whole two and a half months since I was justified, I had thought nothing about using tobacco again. My thoughts were on God and heavenly things. Now Satan had succeeded in getting me to use that which I knew was wrong. I had no sooner smoked the tobacco, than I lost the peace of God out of my soul, and I felt miserable. Everything looked so dreary and the sun did not shine very brightly. Wife and the children did not look so good to me. The horses, cattle, and fields of grain did not look so good, and I felt sad at heart, indeed. I did not know what to think of this or how to get deliverance from such a state. I knew very little how to pray to God. About all I said to God was: "Lord, send back to me that good feeling." This darkness and lost condition stayed on me that day and the next day until it seemed I could bear it no longer, and I got more earnest before God. I repented bitterly and told God if He would send back that good feeling, I would never touch that tobacco again by His help. God heard my cry and forgave me, and restored to me the peace and love as before, and, oh,

how happy I was! I was determined to be more watchful and careful than I had ever been.

When I got saved I had a number of cows to milk. Before being saved I could not keep my stool together, as I would get angry and use the stool on my cows; thus keeping it broken most of the time. After the Lord saved me I had no trouble, for God kept me in perfect peace. His grace was sufficient. Praise the Lord!

After I had committed sin by using tobacco and the Lord had restored me, I was much encouraged by this experience and was wondering why I did not have power to resist doing that which I knew was wrong. Fearing lest I might be overcome again, I began to search my heart and yield more and more to God, seeking Him for more strength. The Lord made me know that I needed more of God's work in my soul. I saw in the Bible where Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8. I began to have an intense longing in my soul to have a pure heart, as I was finding out there was a power within me that hindered me from being strong in the Lord, and at the same time darkened my vision of spiritual things. I did so want to please Him. (At this time I knew nothing about sanctification or the infilling of the Holy Spirit, "the promise of the Father.") God was leading and convicting me of this need. I was looking to God to so fix me up that I would always please Him—crying to Him for a pure heart.

One Sunday night I was to lead prayer meeting. On Thursday night before, I was looking up some Scriptures to read in prayer meeting and on which to comment. I was reading the seventh chapter of Romans where Paul said, "For that which I do, I allow not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I," and also the twentieth verse which reads: "Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." I was telling Wife that Paul was a Christian and in that condition, so that we need not expect to be any better but would be troubled as he was. I was intending to teach that at prayer meeting. As I got up and went to put the Bible away, the Lord spoke to me and said, "You must not

teach that—you must not go up there and teach that.” I was bewildered and knew not what to think or say, as this was the first time the Lord had ever spoken to me so definitely, and too, I felt sure I knew the meaning of those Scriptures. If I were wrong, what did it mean? What was I to do? What was I to teach? These were puzzling questions to me. I was in deep thought and very anxious to know exactly what Paul was teaching. I soon retired to bed, still thinking of the words of the Lord, “You must not teach that.” Presently a voice spoke to me very loudly, clearly, and distinctly, saying, “Paul was telling how he felt when he was in sin.” I was astonished and turned over to see if anyone was in the room. I could see no one. I lay there in a puzzled and perplexed condition, wondering what to think of these things. The Lord spoke clearly and distinctly again and said, “Paul was telling how he felt when he was in sin.” The Lord had sent His angel to speak to me and set me right in this matter. In my heart I said, “Amen, Lord.” Feeling more and more the need of a pure heart and the Spirit to dwell in me to give me understanding of the Scriptures, I sought God earnestly for a pure heart, and there in the night as I lay upon my bed, God purified my heart by faith that is in Him. (Acts 15:9b.) The Comforter came in to abide. The Holy Spirit was given to lead and “guide” me “into all truth.” John 16:13. The promise of the Father (Luke 24:49) was sent into my soul. Oh, what a blessing! It seemed that I had gone into heaven or heaven had come into me. I cannot describe the blessedness of it all. God was more real to me than anything living, and I just feasted and continued to feast on the good things the Spirit brought to my mind and heart. Truly, Christ abode in the Father and they had come and taken up their abode in this clay body! Glory! Hallelujah!

CHAPTER FOUR

Called to Preach the Gospel

Truly a new era had dawned in our lives. The Holy Spirit was to lead us now. To be in communion with God the Father, the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all things therein, was greatly inspiring and uplifting. The Sun of righteousness arose with healing in His wings. (Mal. 4:2.) And we were to "go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall."

When I got up the next morning and walked out into the yard, it seemed that I was treading the air and the strong power of God was reigning in my heart. Oh, how immensely I loved God! I was wrapped up in Him; was truly "hid with Christ in God." I went to the barn to milk the cows. I always had to tie one cow when I milked her, as she was a fierce kicker. I was so completely enveloped in God that I never thought of tying her. She stood quietly like a gentle cow. It seemed like the cows were sanctified, too. The love of God and the glory of God were flooding my soul. The love for souls increased a hundred-fold. Great love came into my heart for those whom I had hated before I was justified. I received a burden to go and visit Bro. Joe Fuller, a neighbor with whom I had had trouble when I was in sin. I had hated him. He was at this time preaching the gospel of holiness. I hurried down to him and told him what God had done for me and asked him to forgive me for what I had said and done against him. He did so, and I went home satisfied and exceedingly happy.

That very day the Lord laid the burden on my heart to preach the gospel and it was a great surprise to me, as such a thing had never entered my mind before. I loved the Lord better than my own life, but this seemed too much—an impossible thing. I thought surely that God had made a mistake somehow or somehow, as I was unable to do such a thing. I knew very little about the Bible; had only a limited education; could not speak in public—was not qualified at all. All of these excuses I gave the Lord, yet the burden stayed on me.

We loved the Lord with all our heart and wanted to please Him above all things, but to preach the gospel seemed to be an impossibility. We told the Lord that we would be willing to use our means and pay preachers to come into that neighborhood and preach the gospel. We would do anything else, but to preach the gospel seemed out of the question. The Lord increased the burden upon me of going before the public and teaching the gospel of Christ, until it seemed certain that I would be lost unless I became willing to obey the Spirit's voice. Finally, after a long struggle, I came to the point where I told God I would get up before the people but He would have to do the preaching. That pleased the Lord and I was at rest over the matter. I did not know that the Bible said, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." Ps. 81:10. Neither did I know that Jesus said, "For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist." Luke 21:15.

One Sunday night the neighbors came in from different directions and nearly filled the schoolhouse—more than usual for prayer meeting night. I felt very weak, timid, and frail, but God's love and Spirit were burning in my soul. Also, I had a deep passion for souls that they might know God as He revealed Himself to me. On taking the pulpit I told the congregation that I felt like testifying. I had spoken but a few words when the Spirit of God began to work, and I was speaking strongly, clearly, and readily without any exertion on my part. The Lord had given me the Spirit of prophecy, and the Holy Spirit was using these clay lips to give out the message He wanted the people to have. For at least thirty minutes the Spirit of God worked in and through me in giving the truth to the souls present. This was a new and strange experience to me. I cannot remember now all that the Lord used me in saying to the people during that thirty minutes. I was exhorting and speaking about the wrong of talking evil of others, and how we ought to love our fellow man and not hate anybody. I also said that he that hath hate in his heart is a murderer already. I told them that I was a nonsectarian. One thing I remember saying

near the close was: "The Lord has been telling me these things and I am telling them to you; I am going to tell you if I burn at the stake."

The Spirit of God was working mightily with the people while the preaching was going on. The young sister at the organ was crying. One sister who was backslidden renewed her faith in Christ. The neighbors looked on with astonishment. One Methodist sister in the Affiliated Church was trying to bother me while I was preaching. She was saying, "You are fanatic." The Lord had me rebuke her with these words: "If you had the love of God in your heart, you would not say that." She hushed and said no more. I did not remember just what I said to her at that time. A few Sundays later, after I had preached there again, her two sons waited at the door for me with the intention, it seemed, of giving me a whipping. When I stepped out of the door, they began to accuse me of saying that their mother had not the love of God in her heart. The Lord gave me perfect calmness, and I told them that I did not remember saying that. The younger tried several times to call me a liar, but when he was ready to speak the word he failed to say it. The Lord would not let him. The older took it up and he called me a liar. (He was professing to be saved.) It did not ruffle me in the least, as I was hid with Christ in God. They soon left me alone. I asked some of the others if I had said that in my first sermon, and they said that I did. I made some apologies to her and asked her to forgive me for speaking in a way to be offensive but not for any truth I had uttered.

CHAPTER FIVE

Experiences of Divine Healing

I continued to preach the gospel in our home school-house every other Sunday morning after the Sunday school. My "Affiliated Church" brethren would not accept the Holy Spirit teaching, and the Affiliated Church soon broke up and came to naught.

The Holy Spirit began to show me the family of God, the beautiful Church of Zion, the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

The church members in the Sunday school got so stirred at me and my teaching on the Scriptures that they did not want to hear me at all. One Sunday I went to my appointment at the schoolhouse and not a soul came to hear me. I knelt down and prayed earnestly to God for them, and God so blessed my soul that I sang all the way home with great joy. The blessing I received from the Lord was precious indeed.

The Lord showed me to go to other places and preach the gospel. We bought a Ford car, model 1915, and went to other schoolhouses where they had Sunday school. We drove as far as twenty miles and had some place to preach every Sunday. I was treated much better in other places; had good attention, and in many places a warm welcome. Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country and in his own house."

The enemy of all righteousness worked hard to keep me from going on with the preaching of the gospel. Ofttimes I was severely tempted, as Satan would work hard on my timid and sensitive nature. I loved the Lord more than my own life, and wanted to please Him above all else. I had such a burden for souls who were lost, and was willing to suffer any kind of humiliation, or even to die for their salvation, and the Lord was permitting the enemy to prove me. When I went to my appointment one time, I found only a few people there. The Baptist folk were having a Sunday school convention at a neighboring schoolhouse and most church-going people had gone there. The Lord had not given me a message so I

was feeling discouraged. I went into the schoolhouse and sat down behind the few that were there. I overheard one man say to another, "I wish we had gone to the convention." I felt worse indeed, and not having a message, I wondered what to do. I wished I had never come. When the time came to preach I got up and stepped into the pulpit, expecting God to anoint and give something helpful to the few souls present. The Lord did not forsake me in this moment of great need, but as I began to open my mouth to speak, the Holy Spirit began to give the message to the people, and He made it precious to the few who were present. Some were heard to say that they were glad they stayed for the meeting. Our hearts were encouraged, and Satan was defeated again.

I had been afflicted for fourteen years; wore a band around my body and then suffered much of the time. While lying in bed a few nights after I had preached my first sermon, I just believed that God, who had so wonderfully saved my soul and wrought such a mighty miracle in changing my nature, could heal my body. I began to call upon Him for my healing. He sent His healing power through my body and healed me. I took the band off and went without it, suffering no pain nor inconvenience. I was healed. A few weeks later I was drawing insilage out of the silo for the stock. I strained myself, and the devil said, "You are not healed; put the bandage back on." I put the band on again and I did not feel good about it, so I took the matter to the Lord in prayer. The Lord told me I was healed. I took the bandage off by faith and burned it up. The suffering soon left. I was truly healed by power divine. I have never put a band on any more, and have never needed it. I had found that the Lord is the healer in Zion. Praise His holy name!

We threw our medicine away and did not use any more medicine in the home, for the Great Physician had come, the sympathetic Jesus. When sick and afflicted, we called upon God and He would heal Wife, the children, and myself. He still heals us. We do not take medicine, but trust in the Lord for all needed healing.

Two different times I had given up to die, but the Lord was called upon and He healed me. We have found Jesus the same yesterday, today, and forever.

One day I was over to our little town, St. Vrain, doing some trading. The lady clerk in the store, with whom I was well acquainted, mentioned that she had been sitting up with a sick baby the night before. I inquired about the baby and she said that two doctors had given it up to die. I told her that the Lord could heal the baby. She said, "Yes, He could with medicine." I told her that He could heal it without medicine.

The people with the sick baby lived near the edge of town on my way home. When I got in my car and started home, the Spirit spoke to me and said, "Go there." I hesitated about it, for I wanted to get home and get into the field to work. Again the Spirit spoke to me and said, "Go there; stop there." I drove the car up near the house, got out and went to the door. The man came to the door. I was slightly acquainted with him, but had not met his family. I told him I heard that they had a sick baby. He said, yes, and asked me to come in. When I went in, I found the wife holding the baby on her lap. It had a deathly look on its face. It was perhaps fourteen months old. I asked him if he knew that the Lord healed.

He said, "No, I do not know that God heals."

I told him that Jesus heals us now the same as we read about in the Bible. I told him about a number of different ones around where I lived that God had healed, and also how he healed me and our family so many times of various afflictions. He said that he was not serving the Lord, and neither was his wife; but he wanted me to pray for the baby. I hesitated, as I did not know whether the Lord would heal the baby since the parents were unsaved. He insisted that I should pray for the baby.

I read some Scriptures from the Bible on divine healing and talked to them, trying to encourage their faith. He asked me again to pray for the baby. We knelt down and laid hands on the baby and implored God to have mercy on the child and heal it. When we arose to our feet she took the baby and went to the bed and lay

down on the bed with it. With what chance I had of knowing, I could see no change in the baby. I talked with the man and made arrangement to come to his house Sunday night (the next night) and have prayer meeting.

On Sunday night wife and I took Bro. Joe Fuller and his wife with us. When we arrived at the place, we found that several of the neighbors had gathered in for the meeting. The man told us that the Lord had healed the baby when I prayed for it the day before, and that it was well until four o'clock that evening when it took sick again. It looked deathly sick. We talked to him about getting saved. He got down on his knees and called upon God, repented, confessed his sins and believed—was saved. We anointed the baby with oil in accordance with James 5:14, and the Lord healed the baby instantly. One could see the color come into its face and it looked like a well baby.

We proceeded with the prayer meeting and were singing the song No. 471 in *Select Hymns* entitled, "I Am Coming, Lord, To Thee," when the mother, who was feeding the baby some water with a spoon, cried out, "The Lord has healed the baby." The mother began to make a peculiar noise, sliding off her chair to the floor, going into what might be termed a fit. The Spirit of the Lord spoke to me like a flash and said, "That's the devil; rebuke him."

I went to her at once, calling upon God and rebuking the devil. All four of us laid on hands and rebuked the devil and commanded him to come out of her in the name of Jesus. God heard our cries, and as she struggled and her throat swelled up much larger than ordinary, she was soon delivered of that devil. We went on with the meeting, but she soon manifested devil-possession again, and we all went to her and laid on hands, rebuking the devil and commanding him to come out in Jesus' name. The devils began to come out; everyone manifesting himself differently. We struggled with her and against the devils for more than an hour, and five devils came out. God had thoroughly done the work. She was exhausted and almost as one dead, after being delivered

of the devils. God had truly worked in that home. The baby was well from that hour, the husband was saved, and the wife was delivered of devil-possession. We accept no honor or praise in this work. We deserve none. God is all and in all. His name alone is to be praised.

There have been other cases of the casting out of devils, and the Lord has used us in praying for many sick folks in whom God honored faith and healing, both near at home, and sometimes we were called many miles away, and God would show His power in healing in answer to prayer. He has used us in preaching the gospel in nine different states, and we wish to say that after sixteen years of continued service for the Master, we are just as dependent upon Him for a message and for strength to deliver it as we were the first time He called us to the pulpit. Although we have a greater knowledge of the crafty, deceiving ways of Satan, yet if God does not help and hold the powers of Satan in check, we are helpless and weak. While we are writing these lines we are engaged in a meeting near Louin, Mississippi. The devil has been putting up a fight against us. Just the other night we had a "hard pull" in preaching. Satanic powers were so strong that our voice was weak and our words were with much stammering and seemingly with no effect. Satan will always put up a stubborn fight against a meeting, especially where there is much good to be done.

A few nights later we dreamed that we went to the mill to get a sack of corn ground. We brought the sack of meal home and opened it, and began to pull out cobs, shucks, and chaff. We wondered where the meal was, and in the bottom of the sack we found two packages of meal. The Lord was showing us that He was going to save some souls in this meeting. He did begin to work and gave great liberty in proclaiming the truth. Thirty-seven souls claimed salvation in this meeting.

CHAPTER SIX

Making Restitution

Before I got saved, A. J. Hammond, the first holiness preacher I ever heard, the one whose preaching God used to convict me very much and to lead me in the light of His Word, moved away from Melrose, New Mexico, leaving several bills which he was unable to pay at that time. When God saved us He had given us a great concern for the welfare of others, making us anxious to spend our time and means in every way possible to the upbuilding of His kingdom. Going over to Melrose in company with a brother in the Lord we paid the bills amounting to sixty dollars. His righteousness was at work in our souls and this ministering was done gladly.

My life was so changed and my acts and ways were so different, that some of the neighbors thought I had lost my mind, which was true in one sense, but I had the mind of Christ. Praise the Lord! His mind is far better than ours.

The Lord talked to me about making restitution. I immediately went to work to make all my wrongs right, asking those with whom I had quarreled, to forgive me; giving back again wherein I had robbed. I sent one man seventy-five dollars. I had taken fifty dollars from him through false pretense while engaged in real estate business. The twenty-five dollars sent extra was interest on the money, as it had been done several years previously. I also confessed and made several other minor things right with neighbors.

The hardest thing to confess and make right was a pocket of fence staples taken from a neighbor. The man's name was W. C. Tharp. He had moved to town and was keeping a store. I would resolve to confess to him and make it right when I went to town, but he was always busy, and too, it seemed hard to confess to such a little sneaking thing like that, and I rather thought that the Lord would let that go. We had moved to Okla., and I had never made that wrong right. While I was engaged in a revival meeting near Konawa, Okla., I was in the woods

looking to God for a message for the people, and every time I would pray the fence staples would come up between God and me. I determined those fence staples would stand between God and me no longer, so I went to the house, wrote Mr. Tharp a letter, confessed the theft, enclosed a dollar asking him to accept this bill on payment, and to be sure not to return it, as I would not be satisfied unless he kept it. I received a good letter from him in which he stated that he had much respect for my belief in God, and would have returned the money if I had not been so insistent that he should keep it. Years after that, when my son Lawrence visited him at his home in Clovis, New Mexico, he said to him, "I never saw any one have such a change as your father had when he professed Christianity."

The man to whom I sent the seventy-five dollars was a Catholic. When he would meet my brother, who lived in that country, he would say to him, "Your brother has the genuine religion."

To confess and make your wrongs right will cause people to have confidence in you and in God whom you serve. The Bible teaches us to "Restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die." Ezek. 33:15. Sins and iniquities are the only things that will separate a man from God (Isaiah 59:2). When a sinner humbles his heart before God and confesses to Him his sins, asking Him to have mercy and to forgive him, God will forgive him of all his transgressions as he manifests faith in Christ. When man has wronged his fellow man, he should confess to him and make his wrongs right just as far as it is in his power to do so. The Lord gave us an illustration of a sinner getting right with God. It was as follows:

Little Johnny was a good boy and his mother was a Christian. She taught him not to lie or steal, for to do so would be breaking the commandments of God. While living this way he was happy and free and had no condemnation or guilt upon his soul. Little Johnny went to school and stole a marble from his playmate. He did

not feel good about this, but he wanted the marble so much. He took the marble home. As he was rolling it across the floor his mother said, "Johnny, where did you get that marble?"

"I found it," was the reply.

Johnny felt bad, indeed. He was miserable, because he not only had stolen, but had lied also; thus breaking two of the commandments of God. He had transgressed against God, he had transgressed against his playmate at school, and he had transgressed against his mother. Now, what must he do to get back to that innocent place where he was before he stole the marble? He felt so miserable and he longed to be free from condemnation and guilt. He took the marble back to his playmate at school and confessed his theft, giving him the marble and asking him to forgive him his wrong. The boy gladly forgave him, and he felt better, but still was under condemnation. He went home, confessed to his mother about lying to her, and got her forgiveness. He felt good over this, but yet he was under condemnation. He was greatly troubled and sought his mother's advice. She told him about the crucifixion of Christ, and how that He was a sacrifice for our sins, and His shed blood was innocent and blameless and if we confess our sins to God and accept the sacrifice as an atonement for our sins, then God would forgive us and guilt and condemnation would leave us. He went to God and confessed the whole thing to God and asked God to have mercy upon him and to forgive him for transgressing His laws. He accepted the atoning blood of Christ and God forgave him and then he was justified and clear before God—just as innocent as he was before he committed any wrong.

It seems to me by this illustration any one can see just how he can get right with God. There are many that confess and begin to feel better, but fail to go on and clear up everything and are left with only a profession. Let us make our calling and election sure and come clear and clean for God. And the Word says, "As ye have received Christ, so walk ye in Him."

CHAPTER SEVEN

Called to Full-Time Gospel Work

After I had preached the gospel for several years in New Mexico, in a radius of twenty miles around my home, it seemed that the Lord was through with me in those parts.

The Lord had been talking to me for some time about selling off the personal property and moving to another field of labor. This was a test of my consecration—a “something in the bundle” that I had put on the altar which I did not know was there—it was the will of God which I had promised to do. It surely was a great trial to me as I had done but very little of any other kind of work except farm work. The Lord had some surprises ahead for me.

For a good many months after the Holy Spirit had sanctified me (set me apart for His sacred use) and had come in to stay, I had great victory and scarcely any trials that I could speak of. In meeting with the saints at prayer meeting, I would often hear them speak of trials which they had, and I wondered about this. I wished that I could share their trials with them and prayed God to send me some trials. The Lord surely did answer prayer, and He is still answering. I have learned not to ask God for trials, for they will come to all the faithful.

In order to give the reader a knowledge of what it meant for us to make a move of this kind, it seems best to make some statements concerning our circumstances. The Lord had blessed us in a financial way, as we had 320 acres of land well-fenced, with another quarter section fenced with it and well-stocked with cattle. With windmill, farming tools, horses, mules, young orchard beginning to bear, shade trees in the yard, new five-room house, barns for horses, and barns for cows, with silo, everything seemed dear to us, as we had worked hard and our hands had put these things there. Wife had been a good wife and mother. She had worked hard, saved, and denied herself many needed things that we might have a home for ourselves and our children. We had four

children at that time—two boys and two girls. It meant much for us to sell out and leave that home. I thought and prayed over it much without saying anything to Wife about it, as I did not think she would be willing at all. The Lord kept talking to me about it. He showed me that He was through with me there—even causing me to lose interest in farming, a thing I loved to do so well.

I was praying to God about that matter while in the barn one day, and finally I told the Lord that I would sell out and move if He would make Wife perfectly willing. I arose from my knees and went to the house and told her what the Lord wanted us to do. She said, "I am perfectly willing." The Lord had her to answer me in His way. There was nothing else to do but to prepare to move. We rented out the farm and had bills scattered advertizing the personal property for sale. We sold all our personal property except a cow, one shoat, and a few hens. After a few debts were paid (which were very few, as we made it a rule not to go in debt), there were forty-two hundred dollars on hand. We bought some property in Clovis, New Mexico, and moved there [year 1917] for awhile until we could know for sure where the Lord wanted us to locate permanently.

While we were on the farm the Lord used us in helping the cause in many ways. I believe it will be to the glory of God for us to make mention of giving to the cause under direct leadings of the Spirit, showing how God does, and will talk to hearts that are willing to give of their substance.

We had come in touch with L. Y. Janes' tracts printed at Guthrie, Oklahoma, and were also taking his little paper, *Field Views and Testimonies*. In it we read that they had a manuscript from Sister Lottie Jarvis of India to print in a pamphlet, but didn't have the money to buy the paper which would cost \$35.00. When we read about this need, the Lord made us know at once that He wanted us to send that amount for that purpose. The little book made from this manuscript was called, *A True Story In Allegory*. It showed the compromising spirit at work at that time and which can clearly be seen now.

I had raised six or seven two-bushel sacks of pinto beans, and the Lord wanted me to send Brother and Sister Janes a sack of those beans. I told the Lord if He would supply money for the freight I would ship the beans to them. I went fifteen miles one night to hold meeting in a private house. After meeting was over, a man followed me out to my car and handed me a dollar bill. The freight on the sack of beans was \$1.03. At another time I received word that Brother and Sister Jarvis, missionaries in India, were in great need. The Lord wanted them to have \$260. I prayed over the matter, and I thought since that was quite a sum of money I would go to the bankers and businessmen of our town and get them to help send the amount. But the Lord made me know that He wanted me to send the amount.

Brother G. E. Harmon lived at Clovis, N. M., being pastor of the congregation at that place. He had no milk cow, and the Lord showed me that I had more cows than I needed, and for me to give Brother Harmon a milk cow, which I did. By the time we had our sale, the cow was dry and the Lord showed me to have him bring that cow back and give him the fresh cow. He owed money on a car which he had bought, and the Lord showed me to give him a hundred dollars to pay on the car.

Some who read this will know how true this is to the Lord's ways, as many of His dear children have had similar experiences. It is truly blessed to live in the will of God and just be led by His Spirit as to how to use and give those things which He has placed in our hands. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Romans 8:14. The Spirit of Christ will never be satisfied to stay in any soul that is not willing to spend or be spent for perishing souls, or for the furtherance of His kingdom in the earth.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Moved to Clovis, New Mexico

After I got my family settled in Clovis, I made a trip to Florida to visit my aged mother and father, and enjoyed visiting with them. I had an opportunity of doing some preaching while there as the Lord opened the way. When I started to leave, my father said, "Fred, this is the last time I expect to see you." It was hard to leave, but duty was calling. I never saw my father again. He passed away a few years later. My mother is still living, and is past eighty years of age [year 1931].

After arriving home and being with the family for awhile, I felt the Lord calling me to make a trip to Kansas to labor in that state for souls. I went in the Ford car and preached some around Thayer, Kansas. My brother lived there and my brother's wife got saved—had a real experience. I was thinking some of coming back by Guthrie, Oklahoma, and visiting with Brother and Sister Janes. I received a strong impression from the Lord that someone would give me some money that day at meeting. I was not in need of any money and felt assured that if the Lord gave me some money I would go by Guthrie, and give the money to Brother Janes. When we got through preaching that day, a lady stepped up to me and handed me some money; so we went back by Guthrie, Oklahoma, and visited with Brother Janes for a few days.

I had never seen them before and knew very little about them, only through correspondence. I found them living in a rented four-room house with their little printing outfit in two rooms. Everything had the appearance of poverty and I was very much touched by their small, insufficient, and handicapped way of trying to print and send out the gospel; yet it appealed to me and I felt I would like to share it with them. They talked to me about coming and being with them in the work. I knew nothing about printing, but thought I might be able to run the little foot power press and to do other manual work as the Lord led and helped. I told them that I would not make

any promise, but would go on home and if the Lord wanted me to come there, I would do so.

Before we had left the farm I had been in much prayer concerning our future work for the Lord, and He had given me a vision to encourage me never to give up even though the way was rough and hard to the flesh. It seemed I was upon an elevated piece of ground and as I looked down the slope I could see the future road I was to travel. It was winding, and in places very rough. At other places there were rocks to bump over, and there were briars and thorns to go through. At the bottom, a long distance away, it swept off into a smooth road. I suppose that smooth road was the entrance into heaven, for I still go through briars, thorns, and rough, rocky places.

I talked to Wife about moving to Guthrie, and also held the matter before God in prayer, seeking His leadings, as I wanted to be sure to keep in the order of God.

I was taking the *Herald of Truth* paper printed at Carthage, Missouri, and was also reading the *Gospel Trumpet* paper. I was much puzzled about which was right, and being much in earnest about the matter, I sought the Lord in prayer that He would keep me in the right way. I told the Lord I would be satisfied if I only knew I was pleasing Him. The Lord gave me another vision.

I was standing in the edge of a river. The water was some above my ankles. Out in the middle of the river was a man and boy in a buggy, driving up stream. The water in the river began to rise and I at once began to call to the man and boy to get out of the river, because it was rising. They would pay no attention to me, but just kept driving up stream. Pretty soon it occurred to me that I had better get out or I would drown with them. I got out on the bank and stood and looked at the man and the boy in the buggy. The water got higher and higher, and they were swallowed up and drowned. I began to travel, and had a hard, rough, winding road to go over. It seemed to me the man represented the *Gospel Trumpet* and the boy, the *Herald of Truth*.

CHAPTER NINE

Called to Move to Guthrie, Okla.

Wife was willing to go. As I was seeking the mind of the Lord and consecrating, becoming altogether willing to labor in any little, humble way that He should choose, the Lord poured out a blessing on my soul and made me know that it was His will for us to move to Guthrie, Oklahoma. We made another sale of almost all we had, loaded a few things in our Ford car with Wife and the four children, and were on our way to Guthrie in less than ten days after I reached home. We arrived at Guthrie on the 13th day of June, 1918.

When we arrived at the office, we rented a four-room house next to the printing office, and I went to work in the print shop, running the foot-press, and doing other work which I could do. We set type by hand, as we didn't have a Linotype machine. I learned to set type by hand, and was kept quite busy, setting type and running the printing press.

It was not long until Mathilda Paulsen of Olympia, Washington, came to work at the office. She was just a young girl seventeen years of age. It was almost a marvel to think that she had come so far, had left her parents and relatives to work for the Lord—so young, yet so consecrated. She was a good help and soon learned to set hand type very fast.

When I came to Guthrie, I did not expect to be in the office work very much, as I expected the Lord to have me around at different places holding meetings and getting souls interested in Christ, through the preaching of the Word. I expected to work in the office only at short intervals, when I would be at home between meetings. The Lord had a mind that was quite different from my thoughts.

The first Sunday we were at Guthrie, we went to the saint's chapel and listened to a sermon preached by James L. Glasgow, and we enjoyed it very much. Bro. Janes thought it best for us to have a meeting of our

own, so we started meeting in our house, and held it there every Sunday.



James and Eva Glasgow, taken in front of the Guthrie Chapel, Sixth and West Warner Streets, where Bro. Glasgow was the pastor in 1918 and later years.

Some saints living in another part of Oklahoma were wanting a meeting held, and I wanted to go and hold the meeting. I began to inquire of the Lord about going. He gave me a dream that was so plain, and when I awoke it was so clearly impressed upon me that I do not doubt until this day that it was given of God.

In the dream a preacher and I were at a place in a large building to hold a meeting. A large crowd had gathered in to the service. The preacher got up and preached to them and the people enjoyed his preaching. I got up before the people to speak, and they became restless. Soon one called out, "We would rather read your literature," and another said, "Send more literature to us." The Lord made it plain to me that He wanted us to stay in the printing work.

We bought several hundred dollars' worth of type and a power job press, run with a gasoline engine; also some other equipment; and settled down more in the printing work.

I still had a desire to get out in the gospel work rather than print and send out the gospel, and after some time had gone by there came, what I thought, a good opportunity to meet the people face to face and tell them about the risen Christ. In the Panhandle of Texas, Sister Janes had a brother who had a large wheat crop. They wanted us to go there and hold a meeting first, and then help in the harvest. This suited me fine, because I had long wanted to harvest and the Lord had never let me go. We never sought the Lord much about it as we thought that He was opening up this way for us. (Perhaps He was, but for a different purpose than we thought.)

CHAPTER TEN

Giving all to Print and Preach the Gospel

Sister Mathilda Paulsen, Brother and Sister Janes, and I prepared for the trip, and started for the Panhandle of Texas in our Ford car to the harvest field and to hold meetings. We had not gone much farther than thirty miles when we ran into muddy roads, got the car stuck in a mud hole and had to be pulled out. Then later while moving rapidly along the road, the rear tire came off and jumped over into the weeds. It was a long time before we found it. We thought a man who was passing by had stopped and picked it up and taken it with him. We found it in the weeds beside the road. Then we came to a creek which we had to ford. The car stopped in the middle of the water, so the others had to pull off their shoes, get into the water and push us out and up the hill. Someone started the song entitled, "Farther Along We'll Know More About It." That song was very comforting at this special time as we went along the road singing.

The next morning as we were driving along, the clutch band broke or wore out. We worked with it a long time in the hot sun, and not having proper tools, we could do nothing toward fixing it. We finally got it started by pushing it, and then we were afraid to stop, so we went in high through the country for many miles, going down hill very fast to make it up the hills in high,—down hills, up hill, and over hills—until we came to a country shop where we got the man to put on new clutch bands. It was getting late by the time he got it fixed, and we wanted to make it to Sis. Janes' brother's home that night if possible.

The engine got very hot and began to slow down. We would stop and let it cool off and then drive on until it slowed down again. We could not find out just what was the matter with it for some time, and on more careful examination we found that the oil had all leaked out because the man who installed the clutch bands had not properly fixed the pan underneath. We drove the car beside the road and settled down for the night, wishing for the day.

When we reached her brother's home and had two or three night's meeting, I took sick and, it seemed, could get no permanent relief. Her brother took me to the depot and I took the train for home. When I arrived at Guthrie, I was so sick that I hardly knew which way to go from the depot to our house. I suffered intensely for several days. I could not rest because of pain. I was anointed and prayed for, but got no lasting help. In the night, when suffering all through my body, I called earnestly to God for relief and He spoke to my heart and said, "Lay across that other bed." (There was an empty bed in the room where I was.) With much effort I managed to get to my feet and throw myself full length across the other bed, and at once every pain left my body. I fell asleep and it was after day before I awoke, being completely healed of the trouble. When I went into the office I was given a strong impression from the Lord to write articles, and in just a short time, by the inspiration of the Spirit, I had written three articles which would convey truth to souls. The following is one of the articles which the Lord gave me at this time:

How James and John Read the Bible



James and John were two neighbor boys who had grown to manhood. Both had parents who professed salvation, but partly because they did not have a deep, sincere desire to follow Christ all the way, and partly because of blind leaders, their parents had drifted along through life with only a glimpse of Jesus now and then, but in late years they had so many times grieved the Spirit of God that they were left with only an empty profession.

As these boys were feeling the sting of sin and the Spirit of God was striving with their hearts, they became interested in meetings and in the Bible. One day John said to James, "I tell you James, I just think we ought to quit our sinful ways and serve God."

"Yes," said James, "I have been thinking of that myself, but what do you mean by sinful ways? We are not

bad boys. I have overheard people say that we were exceptionally good boys."

"Yes," said John, "people may say that, but they are not our judges. I have been reading in the Bible of late and found in John 12:48, Jesus said, 'He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.' So you see the words that Jesus has spoken will judge us in the last day."

"Well," said James, "I have been reading in the Bible too, and I find that Jesus said many things that neither your parents nor mine nor others around us are keeping, and they are Christians."

"I acknowledge that," said John, "but I find that the apostle Paul said, 'For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.' (II Cor. 10:12). So you see that we are not to measure ourselves by our neighbors or those who profess to be Christians, but measure to Jesus' words for they will judge us."

"Yes, that seems right, but you talk some like that preacher who is holding the meeting at the schoolhouse, and you know that he said the other night that he had been born of the Spirit of God, passed from death unto life, and had come up at the first resurrection; therefore, the second death would have no power over him. Father says that preacher is crazy and ought to be put in the asylum. He says that he is trying to unchristianize all of us who have been serving God for years. He further said he did not see why Bro. Brown would keep such a preacher; that he would kick him off the place."

"Perhaps," said John, "you haven't heard that Sister Brown has gotten saved. Bro. Brown was telling Father about it yesterday and he said he was much surprised, for she had always said she was a Christian ever since she was old enough to remember. But he also stated that she is a wonderfully changed woman, and sees the Bible very differently. She is very kind and gentle, and declares

that she loves everybody, even Mrs. Smith to whom she had not spoken for years. She went over there and wept and asked her to forgive her for the wrong she had done, telling her that she loved her. Oh, I do not understand these things, for the preacher is very good! Our little sister got her arm badly sunburned and the preacher asked us to kneel with him and he prayed for the Lord to stop the pain and God healed it, and she at once quit crying. Then he thanked the Lord for it and told us to read the last part of the sixteenth chapter of Mark."

"Well," said James, "I do not understand all things, for the preacher said the other night that we must live holy every day and without sin all the days of our lives, but Father says that our spirits are saved and sanctified, but we sin more or less every day, and that nobody lives without sin. When I asked him what we got saved from, he just kicked the mule he was harnessing and talked ugly to him and never answered me at all."

"It seems to me, James," said John, "the only safe way for us to do is to prayerfully read our Bibles without excusing ourselves from any part of it, and ask God to convict us so that we can properly repent and then 'bring forth fruits meet for repentance' (Matt. 3:8). At least, I intend to do this and to keep the words which Jesus has spoken, 'for grace and truth came by Jesus Christ'; so you see, with the truth He gives us grace to keep His words."

The Lord strongly and deeply impressed me again that He wanted me to stay in the printing work.

A missionary visited Brother and Sister Janes, one they knew while in Panama. She was a missionary to the San Blass Indians living on islands near South America and Panama. Her name was Elizabeth Purdy, a woman possessed with a lovely Christian spirit, and she told of narrow escapes with her life and of the great work that God was doing among those Indians. She was on her way back to the Islands, and the morning she left a brother was impressed to give her some money. The thought came first to give her five dollars; it was raised to ten, then to twenty-five, to fifty, on up to a hundred; and

before she left, a check was written out to her for one hundred and fifty dollars. Then all was clear and the burden lifted; God was satisfied. It was learned afterward that she was praying earnestly for God to supply her with means to return to her labors among the Indians.

Soon after this, we were holding a tent meeting in the eastern part of Guthrie. Also, we took the aged and feeble folks to and from the meeting in our Ford car. As we were taking some of them home after meeting, the devil said, "You had better quit this, as you know that you have only a little gas in the car tank and you haven't money to buy more." The devil told the truth about not having but little gas in the car and no money to buy more, but he lied when he said I ought to quit. The devil is a liar even if he does tell the truth. Satan was resisted and told that God would take care of things. When I returned to the tent to get some others, a man stepped up to the car and handed me fifty cents, saying that it was to be used to buy gas. I rejoiced in spirit that God reveals things to babes and hides them from the wise and prudent.

While this meeting was in progress, a man and his wife and a preacher came from Tennessee and joined us in the meeting. The preacher was a "long time service man" in religious work and could preach strong and make a big show, but we could not have fellowship with him. He tried hard to win us over to him and to get us under his power and influence, wanting to love us a lot. One time when putting his arms around us against our wish, it seemed to us that Satan was putting his arms around us. We continued to resist him until he saw that his hope was gone. One morning Wife and I and three of them were in the front room of our house. We were resisting him and trying to show him where he was wrong. He arose and, while shaking his finger at me, said, "I pronounce a curse upon you and your work." They then filed out of my room and I have never seen them since.

A letter followed them back to Tennessee, directed to two young men of their company and their eyes were more clearly opened to the corruption that existed in the

heart of their leader. In a few weeks these two young men came to our office. Their names were Irvin H. Whitehouse and Robert L. Longley. They had been having some severe tests and trials and the enemy had left marks of grief, sorrow, and discouragement upon them.

Brother Longley continued to stay and work in the office. Our fellowship was sweet and we became more and more melted and cemented together in holy love and fellowship with Christ.

Before Brother Longley came, the four-room house, which held the office fixtures, had been bought; later a concrete block building, 24x24 feet, was built onto it. A Linotype machine and other printing equipment were installed in the new building. The *Christian Triumph* paper was enlarged and the circulation greatly increased.

The farm in New Mexico had been sold, and also the three rental properties in Clovis, New Mexico, and the money used in buying and building the office, installing the Linotype and other printing equipment.

For two years we had been living in a rented house and working in the office, bearing much of our family expenses and giving means wherever God's Spirit directed, not knowing that God would ever let us have a home of our own. But God, who doeth all things well, and plans the future for us, was leading and He put a strong impression upon us to buy a home for our family which had increased to six children, three girls and three boys.

We began to look around for a place, all the time asking God to direct us. One day we went west of the office and inquired about property for sale. A corner house was shown to us and as we looked it over, we were deeply impressed by the Spirit that it was the place. The house and barn were on two lots and there were two vacant lots. The property was soon purchased and our family moved to this place (924 W. Mansur Ave.) which was out of the flood district, a great advantage not fully realized at that time, but prearranged by the Lord.

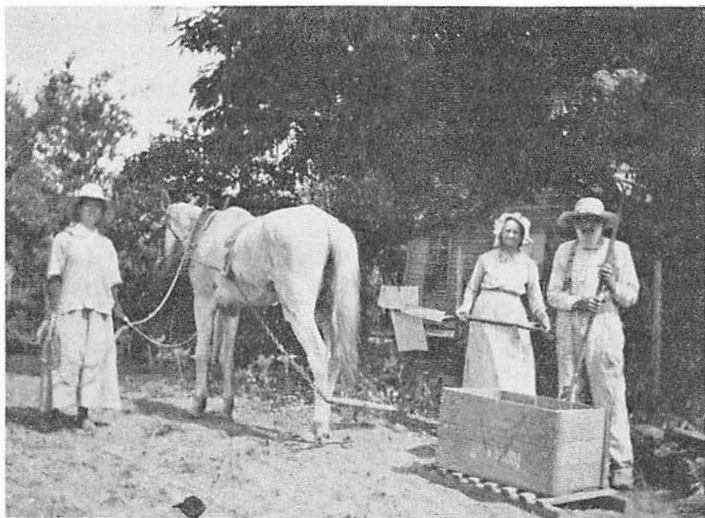
Since selling off our personal property and leaving the farm, we had yielded wholly to God to direct us and to lead us in using the means. I had been giving freely to

the cause of God. The personal property, farm, and Clovis properties brought us eleven thousand dollars. A large portion was used in building the addition to the property already bought which housed the machinery; also the money was used freely to buy paper to print on and some for family needs. Nearly fifteen hundred dollars was sent to different missionaries at different times in different sums for different purposes, all of which was directed by the Spirit of God, as near as we understood His will. We continually asked God that we be led by His Spirit. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom. 8:14. That was our Scripture when we got saved; it was our Scripture then; and it has been our Scripture since then; and it is our Scripture now. Blessed be His name!

We accept no honor or praise from any one for the freely giving of means to the Lord's work; for God had given us all we had and we only took from His hand and gave to Him. The account of these things is not given with any thought of directing attention to what self might have done, but that it might prove a blessing and encouragement to those who are giving as the Spirit leads; to press on and not become weary in well doing, for God will never forsake a trusting and obedient child. A man might give all his possessions to feed the poor or to gospel work and give his body to be burned, and if the giving and sacrifice were not prompted by divine love in the heart, it would profit him nothing. Get divine love in your heart and let it prompt and move upon you to give as the Spirit directs.

We were fully awake to the fact that there would come a time when our means would run out and we would be left to depend wholly upon God for all things; but our faith was strong in Him as we believed what He had promised in His Word He would fulfill: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matt. 6:33). And again He says, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with

the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38); and again, "Every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." (Psa. 50:10). When the enemy oppressed and tried to discourage us, these and other Scriptures were a source of comfort to us, and we kept moving on in His will.



Harrison and Mary Pruitt, parents of Fred Pruitt, and his sister, Nellie, at their home near Tampa, Fla., about 1920.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Preaching at the County Farm and Jail

During all the years that we labored in His cause while we had means, there was very little given to us; neither did we pray for, nor expect it, but just as soon as our earthly support gave out, our hearts went right up to God for our need and God stepped right in and began to supply for us. I shall never forget the first dollar that was given. It came from Sister McKay of Pa. The letter read plainly: "Here is one dollar for Bro. Pruitt." Tears filled my eyes as I began to see God's tender care which I had seldom experienced before in just this way and under such circumstances. My love for Him and His ways greatly increased and faith anchored strong and fast.

Heretofore we have been telling instances of giving out and how God will lead one to give if he is willing to be led by His Spirit. I do not say, nor mean to teach, that God will lead every one to give just as He did me. I am sure that He leads each of us, as individuals, according to our calling, or place of labor in the body. There is no question in my mind but that many souls are lean, and many lose out with God, because they will not harken to His Word and give freely of what God has given them to the cause of God. We know that God's Word will not fail to come true to all who obey or disobey. "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isa. 1:19-20. I believe there are more rebels for lack of this obedience than on any other line, as folks are more interested in their selfish gratifications than in the spread of the gospel, and the Lord's anger is kindled against them, causing them to be in soul trouble. Paul says to "awake to righteousness and sin not."

As the printing work increased, the help also increased and there were four of us working in the office. Sister Mathilda Paulsen, Brother Robert Longley, and Sister Celena Lacue of Pa., had joined us in the work.

I was very anxious to please the Lord and to get into personal gospel work for Him. We were having cottage prayer meetings. Brother Longley had purchased a mission hall on West Noble Ave., where we had missionary gospel meetings, but I had a deep desire and burden to be in more active service for the Lord, telling Him that I would be a "minute man" for Him—would go anywhere, any place, any day, any hour or moment He would lead by His Spirit, just so He would make plain to me when and where.

One Friday night the Lord had me awake some time after midnight and He spoke, telling me to go to the county farm and give them literature and preach the gospel to them. At the time I did not know there was a county poor farm in Logan County and I was somewhat puzzled, but could not be mistaken about the Lord directing, as He made it very plain to me. The next morning I began to inquire whether there was a county farm and its location. Some did not know there was one. Finally I found a man who said the county farm was near Seward, a town ten miles southwest of Guthrie. I went to the county commissioner's office and asked them about it, and they told me just where it was, how to get there, and said I was welcome to give literature and preach to the inmates.

It was misting rain that day. The road down there was dirt and not very well graded in portions. Also, it was Saturday, so I was making it up in my mind that I would wait and go down there the next day. The Lord quickly said, "I thought you were going to be a 'minute man' for me."

I said, "Yes, Lord." I got into the car and started alone to the county farm to fill a direct call from the Lord. I was happy indeed on the way there and found the farm without any trouble. When I told the mistress of the place what I wanted to do, she said, "All right, just go into the dining room and we will call the inmates in."

She stayed to hear what we had to say. We prayed for them and gave out a short message the Lord had laid upon our heart, and also gave them literature. There

were twenty or more of the old people, and they were a sad, forlorn-looking group. It touched my heart very deeply. Some were very feeble with age; some blind; and many others crippled in many different ways. They were glad for me to come, and a few of them listened to the gospel with intense interest. Several seemed really saved.

I was preparing to go and had promised them to come back again, when the mistress came to me and said, "Will you please preach that over again to us? My husband and the hired man have just come in from the field, and I want them to hear it. If you will preach it over again, I'll run and bring him and the hired man right in."

That sounded good, and yet rather strange to me, but I had promised to be a "minute man" for the Lord; I told her that I would look to the Lord, and we would have another service. The Lord anointed more than ever for the last message, and I went home very happy indeed that I had obeyed the voice of the Lord. It seemed they had been praying for something like this, as Paul was praying when God sent Ananias to him. He told Ananias, "Behold he prayeth."

The obeying of the voice of the Lord at this time was the beginning of four years' work with the aged inmates. Also, in the county prison we would often preach the gospel to seventy-five or a hundred federal and county prisoners who were behind the bars. Bro. Robert Longley was with us practically all the time, and often the other workers and young saints living in and around Guthrie. We would go to the county farm every two weeks and to the jails when not at the county farm. The Lord greatly blessed our labors among these seemingly unfortunate people. The Lord gave us meetings as good as any that I have ever witnessed, at the jails and also at the county poor farm. Many of the inmates got saved and a number of them were baptized. One old man, more than eighty years of age, who had been preaching and baptizing for forty years, got light (understanding) on water baptism and had us to baptize him. When the word went forth on the wrong of using tobacco, he quit tobacco and the Lord

cleaned him up and got him ready for heaven. I expect to see him there. It was remarkable how many of those old people would get saved and in just a short time the Lord would take them Home.

I shall never forget the times when Bro. Longley and I used to meet in the office at an early morning hour and agree in prayer together. A dwelling house was nearby. A man was visiting there who had heard us praying each morning before day and conviction seized upon him. He came to the door of the office and told us all about it. He said he wanted to get saved. After much prayer and instruction he claimed the victory and proved it by his looks and testimony. In a short time he left for his home in another state. When we inquired about him a few weeks later the lady said he died soon after he went home. Thus another soul was "snatched from the burning." While we were having our early morning prayer meetings and asking God for more liberty in Spirit, power for service, and that He would save souls, several came to us seeking for peace with God. They were prayed for, and they received the desire of their hearts. One old man whom we called Grandpa Schooley, a Seventh Day Adventist convert, wanted a heart experience. He became completely satisfied after instruction and fervent prayer were offered. He took sick a few years later while visiting in our home. He was moved to a neighbor's to have a nurse's care and passed away the next day. We believe we shall meet him in Glory.

Sister Mathilda Paulsen and Sister Celena Lacue began to join us in the morning prayer, and they were much refreshed and strengthened in soul.

CHAPTER TWELVE

Faith and Victory Started in March, 1923

Shortly after this, a separation took place between Bro. Janes and us in the printing work. To write in detail the occurrences leading up to the separation, and of things standing between us that caused us to look at one another as being decidedly wrong, and the circumstances existing, with collisions spiritually, that caused the final separation, would fill a good many pages. We believe it pleasing to the Lord to draw the curtain on the scene and leave those things that came to pass as things of the past, and "press on to the mark of the high calling in Christ."

We have purposely avoided casting reflection on others many times in writing this book, even though, in so doing, we could bring out some interesting experiences and show God's mighty power in defending us and giving us power to move as He led. To say that the tests and trials at this time were severe would be saying it mildly. While in these fiery furnaces, many times the "form of the fourth" (Dan. 3:25) could easily be seen and felt, and our hearts were greatly comforted, and rejoicing was our portion rather than otherwise. It is when the Spirit of God is leading contrary to the wishes of many people that Satanic forces array themselves against one the hardest in order to thwart the plans of God and hinder the subject He is leading. We have always contended that God has a right to do as He pleases with His own, and as He had purchased us with His own blood and we were "His purchased possession," we kept all committed to Him and said in our heart, "Thy will be done."

After much prayer and many years of meditation and thought upon the matter, and with later leadings of the Lord, we have decided and believed with all our heart that it was the will of the Lord that we separate one from the other. We have been taught through the sufferings and strange circumstances that followed, precious truths that we could never have gotten otherwise. I am told that

rubber companies test their rubber by putting it in the fire test and then in the freezing test. Job tells us in the 23rd chapter that God was performing the thing which was appointed for him, and he says that "many such things are with him." God has appointments for each of us, and in order to fulfill these appointments it was necessary for us to separate. He had many lessons to deeply impress upon our heart while this was being done, so "we know all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. We believe the true saints of God will see the hand of God in these things more clearly as time goes on, and will say from the heart, "He doeth all things well." Let His name alone be exalted.

When it first became known to me that a separation was unavoidable, I felt the printing work would go to pieces and that all our labor in the work for four and a half years, including the means invested in the building and machinery, would be a total loss. Therefore, we spent much time in prayer with deep prolonged thoughts why God would permit this, but could only console ourselves with the thought that we were being led by His Spirit, as we had promised to be in the beginning. Then we would wonder why the Lord would lead us into a thing like this, and our attention would be directed to the fact that Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil, and that the devil was literally turned loose on Job.

The separation was a peaceful one. We gave Bro. Janes all of his machinery, all that was in his office room, including the *Christian Triumph* with all the subscription list, and helped him move them to his home at 1109 W. Washington Ave.

It was a surprise to us that God led us to Guthrie in the beginning, and then to think that He kept us continually in the printing work. However, it was a greater surprise when we found ourselves with a printing outfit in our possession and leadings directly from God to print and send forth the gospel. While we had over four years' experience in the press room, we knew very little

about the editorial work and it loomed up before us as an impossible task. What were we to do? The Spirit was unmistakably leading. Brother Longley and I felt that it would please the Lord for us to print gospel tracts, and also to print and send forth the *Faith and Victory* paper each month, so we began to write manuscript for the paper. Soon the restraining hand of God was upon us, and we ceased operations and continued in fasting and prayer for four weeks to hear His instructions and to be certain of moving in His order in everything. When we started on with the work, the Lord was so well pleased that the work of setting the type and printing the first *Faith and Victory* was easily and quickly done, and the precious blessings and approval of God were so marked and definite that we often marvelled and wondered at the greatness of our God.

As we said before, our earthly substance had long before this been used in the work of the Lord, and we had no means to commence printing, only as the Lord supplied. The Lord directed us to commence printing and sending the paper out to whoever wanted it without any subscription price. The first issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper was put in the mail in March, 1923, and contained twelve pages. The following is a poem from the front page which expressed the victory we had gained through the "fiery furnace":

What once was woe is changed to bliss;
The spear has lost its edge of pain;
And piercing thorns that bound my brow
No longer leave their bleeding stain.
What once was woe is changed to bliss;
What once was loss is now my gain;
My sorrow is my happiness—
My life doth live by being slain.
The birth pangs of those dreadful years
Are like the midnight turned to morn;
And daylight shines upon my tears,
Because my soul a greater life doth know.

The piercing thorns have changed to flowers;
The spears have grown to scepters bright;
And sorrow's dark and sunless hours
Become eternal days of light.

We printed six thousand copies of the first issue and circulated them to the people in order to get as many addresses as possible of those who wanted the paper sent to them regularly. For the next issue we had three or four hundred addresses of those who wanted the paper sent to them regularly. The paper was sent out free of charge for a period of seven years and the circulation increased until we were sending six thousand copies of each issue. The postage alone amounted to a sum as high as forty-five dollars for a single issue. The Lord supplied us with means to print and send forth the paper, to keep tracts printed and circulated, and also for the family needs. To say we had no trials of faith would be untruthful, for we were often tested, seemingly to the limit. We often had prolonged tests—often very little food for the family and scanty clothing. In one prolonged test we had Irish potatoes which we had raised for the main diet. Fried potatoes for breakfast, boiled potatoes for dinner, and potato soup for supper. Bro. Longley and Sister Celena Lacue were with us at that time, and we all thanked God for what we had and encouraged one another to be faithful.

After the separation we continued to hold meetings at the county farm, and also preached to the federal and county prisoners. The Lord truly blessed these meetings. They would be given tracts and papers to read at each visit. Some would get saved and rejoice much in God who forgave them and registered their names in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The sheriff gave us permission to hold meetings in the prison, but the jailer opposed us and did not want us to hold meetings there at all. He said, "They do not care for that stuff."

We discerned that it was he who was under conviction, and rather than yield, he wanted to get rid of us.

Finally, he told us not to hold meeting more than one-half hour. No doubt he thought we would quit coming. Nevertheless, we went and held the meeting one-half hour and gave them tracts and papers. We could discern that he was angry about it.

One Sunday afternoon five or six of us went to hold meeting there, and Grandma Spradling was with us. She was aged and could not stand during all the service. I went to the kitchen to get her a chair, and as I returned with the chair, the jailer came out of his office and walked rapidly toward me. I could see he was angry and intended to hurt me. I met him in the hallway and we stopped and faced each other. He muttered something that was not clear to me. After looking murderously at me for a few moments, he turned and went back into his office. I went on with the chair and held service. It was easy to see that the Lord had fought our battle for us, and the evil he thought to do he did not do, because his strength was rebuked by the power of God. The next time we went there the Lord had so softened him that he wanted to show us kindness, and he invited us into the kitchen and showed us what and how much they fed the prisoners. After this, we had freedom and plenty of time for services with the jail boys, or at least for a time. We met many hard characters in the jails; some seemed to be unredeemable.

Six or eight of us were holding meeting in the jail one Sunday afternoon, and within one-half hour after we closed our services about thirteen of the prisoners escaped from the jail. They dug the stones loose and made a hole through the wall, and the authorities blamed us to some extent. They said we sang, prayed, and preached so loudly that the prisoners dug out while we were making so much noise and they could not hear them digging. After this, they closed us out from going in next to the prisoners, and stationed us off with two sets of bars and a heavy screen mesh between us and them. The sets of bars were about four feet apart, and it made it very inconvenient and hard to preach to the prisoners. We could do no personal work with them at all. The

following poem was published in the *Guthrie Daily Leader* concerning our preaching there and the prisoners escaping:

At the county jail one Sunday
The preacher he was there,
And some goodly brethren too,
Who knelt with him in prayer.
"O Lord, please help these poor souls out,"
The minister he prayed,
And into some of those prisoner's minds
A wicked plan there strayed.

So with a pancake turner,
While the preacher knelt to pray,
Those prisoners started digging
To make their get-away.
The preacher said, "Let's sing a hymn,"
And kind'er wondered why,
Some of those prisoners' voices
Reached almost to the sky.

And when he said, "Be seated,"
They sang louder than before,
'Cause in the other room their pals
Were kneeling on the floor,
A digging, scraping, scratching
A hole right through the wall.
Soon the hole was big enough
And they began to crawl.

So while the preacher sang his song
And offered up his prayer,
A dozen prisoners or more
Got away from there;
They searched them in the underbrush,
And woodlands all about;
But all they ever found
Was just the hole where they got out.

—Golda Phillips

The Lord would let us be tested severely in a financial way. Much of the time we would have very little means, and part of the time not any at all.

One time a carload of us were going to the county farm ten miles away to hold meeting, and we had no means with which to buy gas, and there was not enough gas in the car to make the trip there and return. No one knew it except wife and me and the Lord. He made us know clearly to go, so we went and the Lord greatly blessed in the service. When we came out to go home, we found the manager of the farm pouring gas into our car. We had been going there a long time before this, and he had never done such a thing before. No one had ever said anything about our need. Our hearts swelled up with praise and gratitude to God for His watchful, tender care in supplying our needs.

Another time there were a hundred dollars in taxes due to be paid, and no money with which to pay them. We began to pray and seek God for this money. He began to supply, and by the time it had to be paid He had sent in the tax money, and also enough to buy a case of paper on which to print, which was also needed.

The family expense and the office expense amounted to one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty dollars per month, according to the amount of tracts and booklets which were printed. The Lord graciously supplied according as He had promised us in the time of our waiting upon Him before we began to print the tracts and papers. In that time of waiting the Lord gave us a consoling Scripture found in II Cor. 9:8: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

In the fall of 1926 we had a feeling that the Lord was going to make some changes in the advancement of the publishing work. Heretofore, the work had been moving along with many spells of prolonged hindrances and retarding of the work. In one period of three months we were unable to print and put the paper in the mail, and

had very little to live on. We kept looking to God until we decided that surely the Lord did not want us to continue in the publishing work or He would make us able to keep the paper going out. We visited Bro. Hiebert who lived near Homestead, Okla. He owned a farm and would rent it to me. I wanted to be sure to stay in the order of God, so I told him I would go home and pray about it, and if the Lord willed we would move on the farm. We held the matter before the Lord, but the pressure stayed on us and no answer came from the Lord. We got a letter from Bro. Hiebert saying he would have to know what we were going to do. I prayed more earnestly and went into fasting. While in the closet one day, seeking the mind of the Lord, He spoke to me and said, "Go ahead with the printing work." That settled it, for I had promised the Lord to be led by His Spirit. I told the others that we would go ahead with the work, and we began to set up manuscript and to otherwise prepare to put out another paper. The Lord began to supply, and we were able to buy paper on which to print. When the *Faith and Victory* was ready to be mailed, the Lord had money on hand to buy the postage, and He just kept supplying. All praises to His gracious name!

It might not be out of place, and also it may be of interest to the reader to say that after the separation and the responsibility of printing the gospel was upon us, we went through some of the most prolonged and severely strange trials we have ever experienced. It seemed the devil was raging upon us. Darkness was dense and the oppressing, crushing powers of Satan seemed strong and cruel. The burden of the work and financial pressure, together with Satan's harassing accusations and strange actions of loved ones, weighed down so heavily upon me that I would go alone in the office for hours at a time, praying, crying, and weeping aloud. The burden of prayer, fastings, and waitings would be for weeks. Then upon all this—while we were cranking the Ford car, it kicked backwards and broke the bones in our wrist. We were then laid up, could not work, and were suffering with the arm in a sling. We asked the Lord to get all the good He

possibly could to us in the suffering. He directed us to the 23rd chapter of Job. As we read that chapter it was a greater consolation to us than it had ever been before. The special verses the Spirit gave us that we needed were: "For he performeth the thing that is appointed for me: and many such things are with Him." And the sixteenth verse which reads: "For God maketh my heart soft, and the Almighty troubleth me."

The Lord made me know that these sufferings and strange, fiery trials were appointments for me, and if I would exercise rightly in them that it would soften my heart and prepare me for future traveling with Him. A great burden rolled away. I became reconciled to His will as never before. Truly, Job was a planting of the Lord, a tree of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:3). Many of God's children are eating fruit from that tree today. Through all these trying times and afflictions God has taught us many precious lessons which, we are sure, could never have been learned in any other way. We thank God for all and know the Scripture has been fulfilled which reads: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28. Thank God, when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Lord will lift up a standard against him.

From this time things began to be better, but the prolonged suffering and face to face battles with Satan, and much wrestling with God for victory had weakened my body, and I became poor in health, and even today I feel the effects of those struggles. We promised the Lord in the beginning that we would be led by His Spirit and this we have done in everything as near as we can understand, and at this present time we feel and believe in our souls that God is pleased. In some cases we have been misled and made mistakes, of which we repented and corrected, and we leave them behind and press on in the true and holy way.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Print Shop Moved Out of Flood Area

In the fall of 1925, after Brother Longley had been gone a year or more to the foreign Islands as a missionary, I was alone in the office one morning. A man came into my office and gave his name as J. B. Thorne, saying he was called of the Lord and was going about over the country giving out tracts and talking to souls. He stayed all night with us, and made a remark or hint of helping in the office work, but as he did not appeal to us as one who would be adapted to printing work, we gave him no encouragement to stay. The next day he got tracts and put in his satchel and started on his way. We were surprised to see him stepping into the office that evening. He declared that the Lord would not let him go on. He had started and gone down the highway, but there was a weight and pressure against him that would hardly let him walk in that direction. When he started back, there was no pressure against him and he could walk with perfect ease, and he felt certain that the Lord wanted him to help us here. We told him, all right, the Lord's will be done. The Lord was prearranging for work ahead unknown to us. We gave him tract folding to do, which was done by hand, as we had no tract folder at that time. He worked faithfully at this and was satisfied to be helping along in the work of sending forth the gospel.

The first of the year of 1926, my wife fell heir to some estate, and a little later we sold some property which we had bought for an old people's home and used for that purpose for awhile. We had strong leadings that this means, or a good portion of it, should be used to build an office building for the printing work. Up until this time the Faith Publishing House had been located at 611 W. Mansur Ave., which was in the river bottom where it sometimes overflowed, doing much damage to machinery and materials unless put up out of reach of the flood water.

We thought surely the Lord would have us move to another city and build an office where there was no other

publishing work similar. The saints at Springfield, Mo., wanted us to move the work there, and we thought that would be a good location. We told them we would hold the matter before the Lord and do as He directed. We had gone there and helped in a tent meeting, and had picked out a lot where we thought to build. They were going to purchase the lot and put up a building on it, which offer we appreciated very much. However, we wanted to be sure that the Lord wanted us to move the publishing work there. We kept the matter before the Lord for two months, and the Lord would give us no encouragement to move the work there, so we just had to write and tell the saints that the Lord would not make it clear to us to move the work to Springfield, Mo.

The Spirit of the Lord directed us to build the office building on the vacant lots next to our dwelling house at 924 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla. This would be very convenient and also above the flood district. We knew if we had means to finish the building and get some other needed things that we would have to do much of the work ourselves and save the cost of hiring as much as possible.

We measured off the foundation of the building 22 feet wide and 72 feet long, dug a good deep trench, bought pipes, rods, and bars of iron from the junk yard to put in the cement foundation, making it strong enough to build several stories if it were ever necessary. We needed some good strong men to mix cement and put in the concrete foundation. I began to see clearly why the Lord wanted J. B. Thorne to stay with us in the work. The foundation of the new building was to be put in and the cement block room of the former office building was to be torn down and the blocks and lumber to be used in the new building. While we were getting ready to put in the foundation to the new office building, the Lord was working and arranging for it all unknown to me. A Bro. Simon Stormquist who lived in Missouri felt led to visit us, and he drove by and stopped at a friend's home by the name of Palmer, in Girard, Kansas, whose father was sick and had been unable to work for a long time, and

also could hardly see to go anywhere without assistance. Brother Stormquist told them how we prayed for the sick and the Lord would heal them. The father became much interested, and wanted to come down to see us and be prayed for. Bro. Stormquist, Mr. Palmer, and his big, strong, thirty-two-year-old son, who was a concrete contractor, came down in Brother Stormquist's car to see us. They told us that they came because the father wanted to be healed. On questioning him, we found he was a church member but unsaved. We told him it would be best for him to repent and believe on the Lord and get saved before asking Him to heal his body, and this he was glad to do. When he was satisfied and had peace with God in his soul, we anointed him with oil and asked God to send His power into his body and heal him. God verified His promises and the man said, "God has healed me."

He was up the next morning before the rest of us, and took a walk up town alone, being able to see for himself. The son, seeing the concrete work we were getting ready to do, said, "We will take Father home and come back and put in the foundation for you."

They were soon back at work on the foundation for the new office building, and they were glad for the privilege of helping along with the Lord's work. Thus the Lord furnished the labor free of cost and all unexpected to us. A letter later from the father said that he had gone to work, which he had not been able to do for years. He was surely thanking God for his healing.

We built the new office building one story high with a good, roomy attic for storage purposes. We are here giving a picture of the building, so the reader may see what it looks like. It is made with concrete blocks with concrete floor, making it practically fireproof. In this building the workers are busy printing, wrapping, and mailing thousands of papers and gospel tracts. More than seventy different gospel tracts are printed and sent forth freely to all parts of the world, besides pamphlets and books.

When the building was nearly finished we felt led of the Lord to attend a campmeeting at Carthage, Mo. Bro. Thorne, who had been a faithful helper in moving and helping on the new building according as God had willed it, said he felt led to go forth again in his work of distributing tracts. He attended the Carthage campmeeting and did not return with us, but a young man by the name of Paul Gibson came home with us to help in the work. He helped us faithfully in finishing up the building, putting in some of the machinery, and then his mother called him home.

As we were getting the new office built, we realized that we needed larger and better machinery to carry on the printing work. We had been asking the Lord for a large cylinder press, and we mentioned in the paper how we expected the Lord to supply funds to buy it. God moved on the hearts of the saints in different parts of the country and they began to send in money to buy the press. Some sent a dollar each, some sent fifty dollars, some sent a hundred dollars, and one man sent five hundred dollars. Over twelve hundred dollars were received with which to buy the press. We found a press that suited us which would print a sheet of paper 26 by 38 inches, and would make fifteen hundred impressions or more per hour. It was a Whitlock press and for sale by a Kansas City firm. They were to furnish a new Kimble motor and send a man to install it. The price was fifteen hundred dollars complete, delivered at Guthrie, tried out and proved to be satisfactory to us. This machine has proved to be a splendid purchase and has been faithfully printing tracts, papers, and books for the last six years, and seems to be running just as good as the day it was installed. The Lord also provided us with a tract folder which we had long needed. A paper folder to fold the *Faith and Victory* paper is much needed in the printing shop at present. All the paper has to be folded by hand. Five or six hundred dollars would buy a good one for this purpose, and we are praying the Lord to supply this needed machine. Also the job press, which has been doing service for the Lord for twelve years or more, (being

a made-over machine in the beginning) is badly worn and hard to get working at it should, causing much trouble and delay. It can hardly be repaired and needs to be replaced with a new one. God knows, and we are sure He has a way. We are praying God to supply His printing work with these needed machines.

The model T Ford car, which was purchased in the fall of 1915, had become so old and badly worn by the year of 1926, that it seemed useless to try repairing it any more, and we were reminded of the consecration we had made when leaving the farm and launching out by faith to serve God. The enemy, in order to discourage us, had said, "Your car will wear out and you will have no money with which to buy another." We told Satan that if it should become true, we would go on foot and keep doing what we could for the Lord. It began to look like we would have to go on foot, as the car was going to pieces and we dared not get very far from home. God, who saw the confidence and faith placed in Him, did not fail, but supplied us with a 1927 Chevrolet coach. When we went to buy the car, we thought of getting another touring car, but the dealers talked and persuaded us to buy a closed-in car, which we soon found to be far better than an open car, as with the old car we had so much trouble in cold weather and at night—often taking cold in our lungs from driving in the cold. A car is a great help and almost indispensable in gospel work. If one uses a car faithfully and truly in the gospel work, he need not fear when one wears out that God will not supply another. He will have a way. We shall soon have a test along that line again. We count Him faithful.

It is sad to see the majority of cars used selfishly and for pleasure and fleshly gratification rather than in the service of God. Many a man and woman will lose their soul because they have a car to "gad" around over the country, and do not use it rather to take some old people back and forth to meeting or use it otherwise in the Lord's service.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

The Lord Sends Co-Workers

About this time we received a letter from Brother William Cramer, a young man living in Pa. He said that he felt led to come and help us in the office work; and also his sister, Julia Cramer, wrote us that the Lord made her know that she was to come with him and do what she could in the work of printing and sending forth the pure gospel. We took the matter to the Lord, and we were soon assured that this was His planning. We wrote to them at once and told them to obey the Lord. We had never seen this brother and sister, and knew very little about them, but we felt sure God would make no mistake. They were soon on their way to Guthrie, traveling in a Ford coupe, to be among strangers (fleshly speaking) and to do work that was all new to them—all because they had faith and confidence in the living God who had so clearly revealed His will to them. They arrived about eleven o'clock in the night. I was away from home, having been called 135 miles south to pray for Brother and Sister Whitley's child who was sick. When I arrived home I found the whole family had become immediately fond of them, and I could not but praise God for sending these precious young souls here to help in His printing work. They were very quiet, sober, and zealous to please God. They just fitted into the work and in with the family so preciously.

The year of 1927 was a year when God showed His great love and care for us in special ways, giving us great rest and peace with quietness. Satan, who had been raging against us and storming at us with accusations and threatenings for the last few years, seemed to be killed, for God had seen it was enough. We realized great victory in our souls with a forward move in the printing work into which He had led us. During that year He gave us a new office building next to our dwelling, out of the flood district; a good cylinder press for the printing of books and the *Faith and Victory* paper, a tract folder, a car in place of the old worn-out one, and two consecrated

young workers to help in the printing. All this was a source of great joy to my soul and it seemed the Lord was pleased for me to be more relieved from great burdens and trials of the past few years. We accepted all things as working to our soul's good and to His glory.



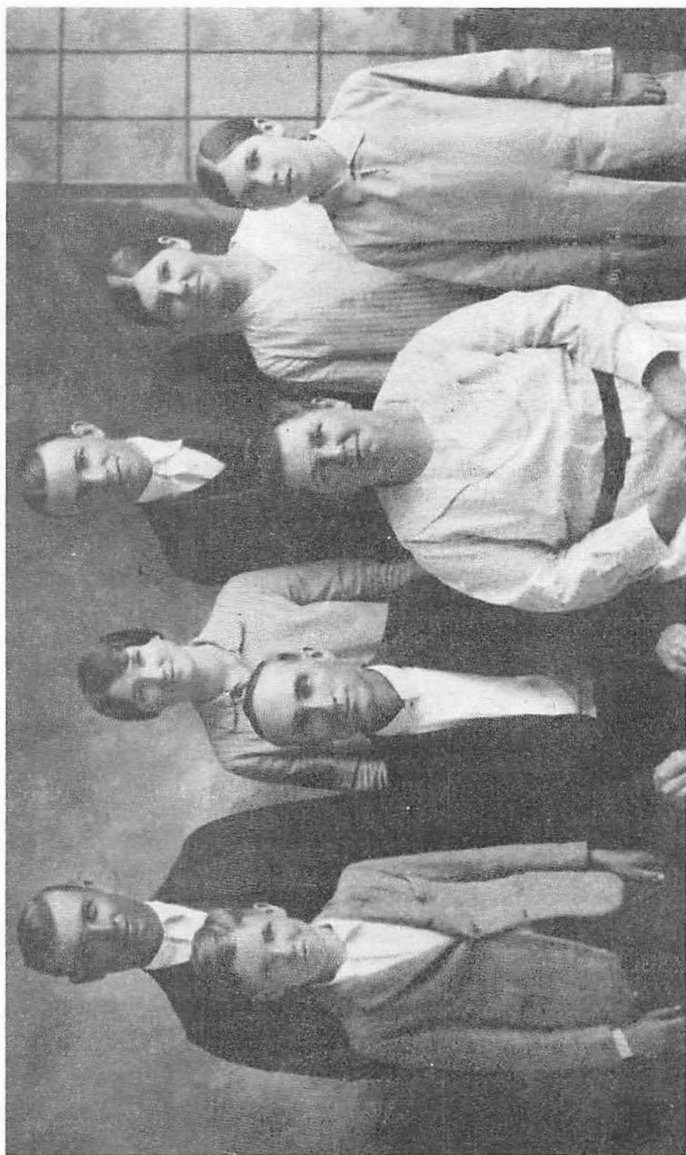
Julia and William Cramer, a brother and sister in the flesh, taken at Guthrie, Okla., in 1928.

Brother William Cramer soon learned to operate the Linotype machine and to feed the cylinder press, and Sister Julia Cramer helped wife in the office room. Both of them just fitted into the work nicely, and became so

contented and happy that they could do work directly for the Lord, and in behalf of souls for whom they had a burden. It was with great satisfaction that we saw the printing work moving on so nicely.

Heretofore, I have said nothing about our children particularly and their help in the office work. They went to the city schools nine months out of the year. They were much help in the office during vacation, after school hours, and on Saturdays. We thought to make them all printers if the Lord willed it so; at the same time taking note of their dispositions and natural inclinations, not wanting to compel them to do work which they were not called nor adapted for. The oldest boy, Andrew J., seemed to have no inclination for the printing work, but was anxious to do farm work, so we let him go to the farms to work. He married Rachel Norcutt in 1932 and lives on a farm in Kansas. (Before this went to press, Andrew's wife departed this life in 1933 to be with her Saviour.) Andrew had a good experience of salvation while in his teens and is now saved.

Lawrence D., our second boy, took much interest in the printing work, and while quite young learned to operate the Linotype machine. He graduated from the Guthrie High School, and in a very special way God provided him means to attend Business College for two short terms. Last summer, while we were in the South helping in meetings, we gave him a six weeks' course in the Linotype school at New Orleans, Louisiana. As he had been operating the Linotype off and on for six years, this six weeks instruction gave him just what he needed to know about the mechanism of the machine and the care of the same. He got saved when he was fifteen years of age and kept saved while he was going to school. At this writing he is twenty-one years of age. He realizes the hand of the Lord upon him for the printing work. We have been in the South now for four months, and he has had opportunity of assuming responsibility of the work in printing tracts, also the *Faith and Victory* paper. It rejoices my heart and causes us to thank God that He has given us a son to take our place in the



THE PRUITT FAMILY IN 1930

Back row, left to right: Andrew J., Anna Marie, Lawrence D., Mary Lola, Frank E., Fred, Mary Ann, and Frances E.

printing work, and the Lord is now letting us get out into the evangelistic work, giving us an opportunity to scatter many tracts and papers, also to take subscriptions for the paper.

The Lord is very precious to us in labouring in the evangelistic work and is adding to the Church such as should be saved, or they that believe that "Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God." The meeting we just closed at Louin, Miss., was accompanied with the mighty working power of the Holy Spirit in convicting and saving souls, stirring the people for miles around. Sometimes two hundred people would attend a single service. Thirty-seven came to the altar and claimed salvation; twenty-nine followed the Lord in baptism. We are traveling with Bro. Eugene Harmon whose home is in California. He is a minister of the gospel. His niece, Verta O'Raine, and Hope Embly of California are aiding in the singing.

Anna Marie, our oldest daughter, is eighteen years of age at this writing. At present she is in Old Mexico on a missionary tour with other parties. She is also interested in the printing work. She has graduated from High School and recently accompanied us on a three months' evangelistic trip in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. She is good help in the office room [year 1932].

Mary Lola, our second girl, is fifteen years old. She is going to school, and also helps in the office work, operating the tract folder while not engaged in her school studies.

The youngest are twins, a boy and a girl: Frank Edward and Frances Edna. They are fourteen years of age and are in school. They help in the office in various ways. The office work is now being done mostly by our family.

Sister Julia Cramer stayed with us in the work six months. She felt that she should go back to Pa. to be near her aged mother and care for her. She was a precious soul and faithful in the work, and by her Christian life won a place in the hearts of the family which made it hard to see her leave. We pray the Lord to send her back some day.

Bro. William Cramer stayed with us for a year and six months, and then felt he must go back to Pa. He had truly been a great help in the work. We all loved him very much and looked upon him as one of the family. When it came time for him to go we all knelt down and prayed, wept, and cried. We truly asked God to bless and keep him in His order. He was dear to each of us.

The reader might wonder why the Lord would let those two go when they were so useful in the work. We could not understand then, but we just said "amen" to His will. Since they left we began to see the reason for it all. Our children were getting large enough to do the work, and Lawrence was almost through school, so they just took their places and the work moved on in the will and order of God.

In the fall of 1931, Sister Verta O'Raine of Calif., helped us in the office work, being with us over the winter. She adapted herself to the work nicely and her service was much appreciated.

Wife, who was "perfectly willing" to sell out and leave her home in New Mexico, has been a great help in the printing work and has encouraged me many times in the work when things looked dark. She is interested in getting the gospel out and is faithfully working in the office room, doing most of the correspondence work, taking care of the mailing list, making out labels for tract orders, books, and pamphlets, and helping in every way she can for the furtherance of the kingdom of God in the earth. When I am away in meetings or engaged in other ministerial duties, Wife and Lawrence have the responsibility of taking care of the Lord's printing work.

Although our faith is often tried, yet God is good to supply enough so we can keep the work going. The work is kept going mostly by free-will offerings. Two years ago the Lord made us feel clear to put a small subscription price on the *Faith and Victory* paper. By this subscription price of 25 cents, we can know that those taking it really want it, and this also gives us second class mailing privileges, which saves us nearly forty dollars per month for postage. If we should put the work on a commercial

basis, we would have to put a much larger subscription price on the paper, but the work is kept supplied principally by free-will offerings from our readers who are consecrated and obey His voice to give of their substance to extend the gospel to others. We look to God daily to supply, not only for the issuing of the paper, but also for the seventy or more different gospel tracts which are printed and sent out freely to all parts of the country.

We could tell of hundreds of times when God sent means for special purposes when special prayer was offered, but shall only take the time and space for a few.

We have previously written in this book how God supplied a hundred dollars for taxes when we especially prayed for it. Several years later there was a hundred dollars due for taxes. We had been looking for the Lord to supply it. The last day had come in which we had to pay it before they advertised the property. It was Tuesday, a day on which we get very little mail. In the afternoon the postman left us one letter, and in that letter was a hundred dollar check. We went to the court house, and before they closed the doors that evening we had the taxes paid. The parties sending the money knew nothing about our special need. They were moved upon by the Spirit and did as God willed.

While in meetings in the South last summer, we left some of our clothes at the cleaners to have them cleaned and pressed. We received a letter from home, and the work at the office was in much need. We sent all the money we had home to be used in the work, and the devil said, "You will not have any money to get your clothes from the cleaners." I told him I would leave that with the Lord, and He graciously supplied and no one was told or hinted to about it. He answers our prayers and gives us those things that we need, whether it be a nickel or a dime, or whether it be fifty dollars or a hundred dollars. God is equal to all occasions and to any amount.

The expense of the printing work is very heavy and money is needed daily, which the Lord supplies in a very gracious way through His consecrated children who read the *Faith and Victory* paper. Recently the Lord has led

Bro. C. E. Orr to merge his paper, *The Path of Life*, with the *Faith and Victory* paper, and he has a portion of the paper for Sunday school lessons and for short articles. The paper has now been enlarged to twenty pages. Subscriptions for the paper are coming in all the time and the truth is spreading to many new places. Souls are getting saved through reading the papers and tracts. Our soul rejoices to be in His service and we solicit the prayers of all who read this little book that we will continue to be pliable in the hand of God, and that we will always let the Spirit of God lead us until He says, "It is enough, come up higher."

Your Blood-washed brother,

—Fred Pruitt



Original Office Building constructed in 1927 at 920 W. Mansur Ave. and "set apart" for publishing the gospel.

Supplement

Nearly all the manuscript for Part One was written in the summer of 1932, while we were in Louisiana, and Miss., in evangelistic work. In December, 1932, Bro. C. E. Orr began to edit the last six pages of the *Faith and Victory* paper and has been a staunch supporter of the work at Faith Publishing House. His writings on the Scriptures were very deep and our readers found much soul food in his short articles and Bible lessons. In the fall of 1933, just before this book was ready for the press, Bro. C. E. Orr passed on to his reward with Jesus. We cannot believe that it would be just and fair to publish this book without inserting the obituary of our dearly beloved brother who has been very faithful in the service of the Lord for so many years, and has such a wide acquaintance among the children of God. Although his earthly work is done, his works will follow him and many will continue to be blessed by his writings.

Obituary

Bro. C. E. Orr was born in Ohio on May the 5th, 1861, and passed to his heavenly reward on September 22, 1933, at the age of 72 years, 4 months, and 17 days.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Sadie E. Orr, and five children by his first wife; Mrs. Ethel Andrews of Ohio, Charles H. Orr of Washington state, Lena Belle Conrad of Stockton, California, Victor Orr of Long Beach, Calif., and Birdie Wells of Los Angeles, Calif. He also has a host of warm friends living in different parts of the United States.

For the last five years Bro. Orr has been pastor at Hammond, La., where he also edited a religious paper, *The Path of Life*, which was recently combined with the *Faith and Victory*. In August of this year, he and his wife, and Sister Alta Williamson came to Oklahoma City to the state campmeeting. Soon after the meeting ended, he took sick with hemorrhages of the lungs and was removed to our home at Guthrie, Okla., 924 W. Mansur Ave., where he lingered in sickness nearly four weeks and

then passed quietly out of this earthly tabernacle. Bro. Orr was very patient and rejoiced to think of soon departing to be with Jesus. The Lord truly "made his bed in his sickness," as He kept him from suffering to any great extent and his mind was clear up to the last. Just a few days before he departed, he was dictating the purchase of Sunday school supplies and after he was through he said, "Now let me get off to Glory."

I said, "That would be nice I know."

He said, "Won't that be wonderfull!" The "hope of glory" was bright in his soul.

Brother Orr was a pioneer minister in this Reformation and labored with Bro. D. S. Warner and other pioneer preachers. He traveled extensively in his ministerial duties, having been a minister in the Church of God for over forty years. He is the author of ten or twelve books, together with numerous pamphlets and tracts, leading a very busy and useful life in the gospel work and a multitude of souls have found Christ through his labors. His personal work and writings have won a warm place in the hearts of the saints throughout this country. Truly, his passing is a great loss to the Church; but his deep Spirit-filled life will live on in the minds and hearts of the people, for his works do follow him.

Funeral services were held in the Saints' Chapel at Guthrie, Okla., by the writer on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 24, and the body was laid to rest in the Summit View Cemetery near Guthrie. Text: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Timothy 4:7.

"Gentlest of spirits! — not for thee

Our tears are shed, our sighs are given.

Why mourn to know thou art a free

Partaker of the joys of heaven?

Finished thy work, and kept thy faith

In Christian firmness unto death;

And beautiful as sky and earth

When autumn's sun is downward going,

The blessed memory of thy worth

Around thy place of slumber glowing!"

"Our fathers to their graves have gone:
Their strife is past, — their triumph won;
But sterner trials await the race
Which rises in their honored place—
A moral warfare with the crime
And folly of an evil time.

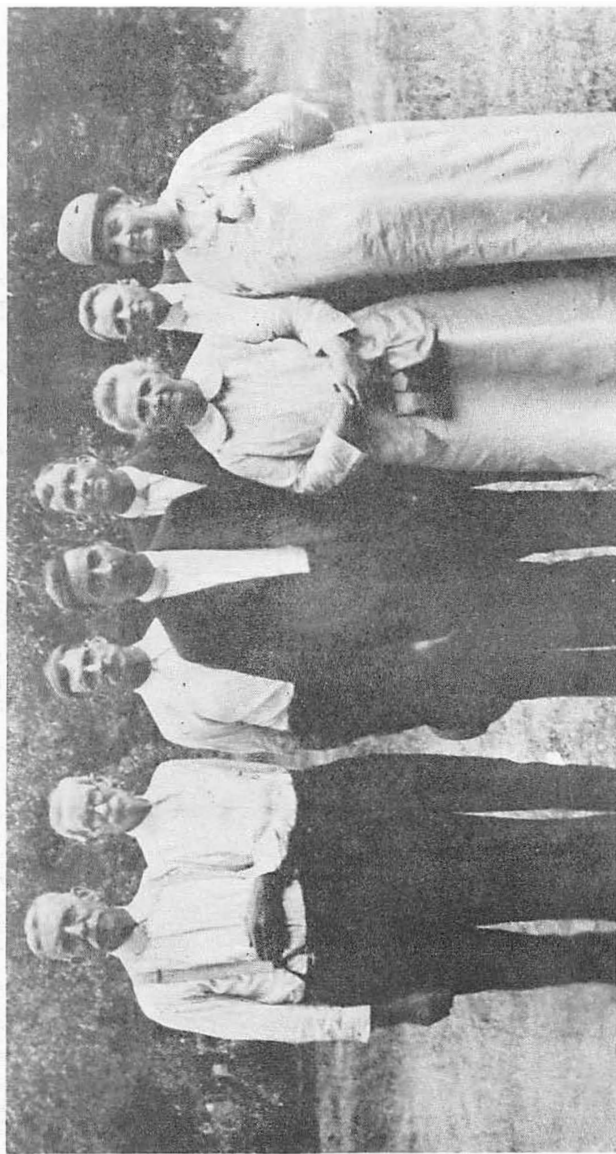
"So let it be. In God's own might
We gird us for the coming fight,
And, strong in Him whose cause is ours
In conflict with unholy powers,
We grasp the weapons He has given—
The Light, and Truth, and Love of Heaven."



Tomb of Bro. C. E. Orr at Guthrie, Okla., viewed by our beloved father Fred Pruitt in 1963 just a few days before his departure for that eternal Home.

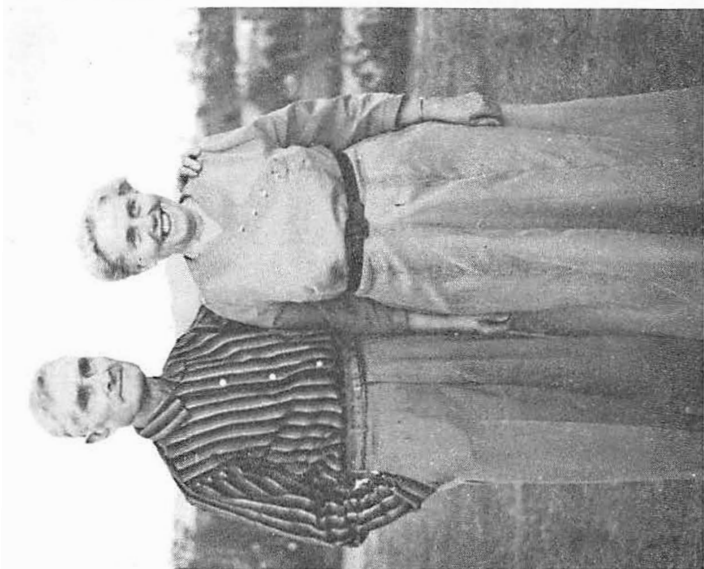


Back row, left to right: L. Y. Janes, Una Janes, Fred Pruitt, Mary Pruitt, Mathilda Paulsen, Celena Lacue, Robert Longley, Una Janes' mother, Grandma Spradling, and the three Janes' daughters, Evelyn, Edith, and Lois. Picture taken about 1922.

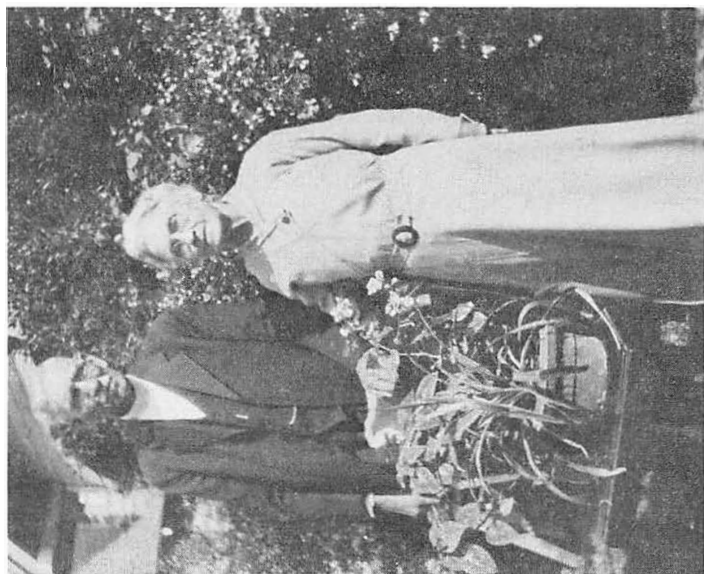


MINISTERS AT SHAWNEE, OKLA., CAMPMEETING IN 1928

From left to right: George E. Harmon, C. E. Orr, H. R. Holdcraft, Ostis B. Wilson, Sr., B. F. Davis, Mattie Wilson, W. I. Miles, and Belle Tacker.



Bro. Erle E. and Sister Vera Forbes



Bro. George E. and Sis. Vienna Harmon



**Andrew and Rachel (Norcutt) Pruitt in 1932.
Rachel departed this life in 1933.**



Lawrence D. and Maybelle (Miles) Pruitt
Wedding picture in 1933



BRO. GEORGE W. AND SISTER CARRIE WINN

Bro. George Winn, a minister, was a charter member of the Guthrie congregation when the charter was issued to the Church of God by the Territory of Oklahoma in March, 1906. The other charter members were C. N. Jones, George Oldham, James L. Glasgow and Robert Glasgow, the pastor. Bro. and Sister Winn were in the Guthrie congregation many years and there departed this life in old age. Interment was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.



Mother Mary Ann Pruitt with new 1927 Chevrolet



Original Guthrie Chapel, 6th and Warner, built in 1905

God's Gracious Dealings

Part Two

(Printed in 1939)

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

Printing and Evangelistic Work Continue

Part One of *God's Gracious Dealings*, printed by Faith Publishing House in October, 1933, had a wide circulation and the supply was soon exhausted. God has made the contents of this little book such a blessing to many souls that we feel constrained by the love of God and by His Spirit to reprint the book and add some more to its pages by relating God's precious dealings with us and the printing work during the last six years.

In the November issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper in 1933, we find in the editorials that the burden of our heart was to get the clean, plain, and simple gospel of Christ sent to the people by the printed page that they might be saved and be ready in that great day. This burden is upon us today, also the teaching of the exclusive Church of God, free from sect Babylon and separated from this old world, set apart for God to inhabit and work with and through to His own glory.

As we stated before that our children were getting large enough to handle a large part of the Print Shop work, it was not necessary for the Lord to supply us with other help. Anna Marie, our oldest daughter, was operating the Linotype while Lawrence had other duties to attend to, and the other children, after school hours and on Saturdays, had time to do much of the lighter work. Thus, everything moved on nicely in the Lord's Print Shop, and tracts, booklets, and papers were sent out continually. In the December paper of 1933, we notice a record of sixty-nine thousand tracts being printed and nine thousand booklets, which made plenty of work in the Print Shop.

The new year of 1934 was begun with much satisfaction in our souls when looking back over the activities of the past year, and our heart was greatly encouraged

with the prospects ahead. The State assembly meeting held at Guthrie during the holidays was a great encouragement to all of us. God worked mightily in the meeting and great conviction was upon the people. The altar of prayer was crowded with seekers night after night. People were getting saved and sanctified wholly. The saints greatly rejoiced in this meeting.

Since the Lord has the printing work in good shape and sufficient help to carry it on, He is giving us freedom to go out in evangelistic work more and more. In February of 1934, Brother Earl Laughlin and I were engaged in a meeting south of Lahoma, Okla., and the Lord blessed in this meeting. Quite a number of souls got saved, among whom was a little boy by the name of Leonard Wahl. He gave his heart to God then and just a few weeks ago here at the campmeeting at Guthrie, he came to the altar to be sanctified. He is a large, young man now and still loves the Lord. In a private talk with me he told me how he had got saved in the meeting, and of the tests and trials he met up with when Satan would try to overthrow his faith in God. He is determined to do the Lord's will. When children get saved, we never know how much they may mean in God's hand to the future generation. No life is a failure when lived for God; but all lives are failures when lived for any other purpose or end. God created man for His own glory and pleasure and when man fails to be a pleasure in God's hand, he is failing God in the purpose for which He created him.

In May and June of this year we received leadings from the Lord to hold some revival meetings in north Mo. Brother Earl Laughlin, who was a young minister who had been helping us in the printing work, went with us on the evangelistic trip; also Brother Ruben Hiebert, who was also helping in the printing work, went with us. We held three meetings in different points in northern Mo. These meetings were accompanied with much power and demonstration of the Spirit, and extra refreshings of the Spirit were frequent. Some were saved and some sanctified, and bodies were healed by divine power. We met with some real consecrated saints in those parts and

our fellowship was sweet. Truly, the children of God are "The salt of the earth," the element in the world that is preserving it from destruction. The devil is doing all he can to undermine the faith of God's little ones and hinder the work of God among men, and many are falling under his enticing, deceitful ways. Our hearts are stirred within us to do all we can for precious eternity-bound souls.

If our readers could see the thousands of tracts, pamphlets, and books which are continually going to all parts of the world from this publishing plant, besides the *Faith and Victory* paper which reaches several thousand homes each month, they would no doubt have a greater inspiration to co-operate in every way possible to keep this work going and increasing for His glory and the good of precious eternity-bound souls. The writer would rather live on bread and water and fill a pauper's grave than see the work go down and the pure unadulterated truth withheld from needy souls. The more falling away we see, the greater our souls are stirred against Satan's devilish work, and we can plainly see that if we are not aggressive against Satan, he will overcome, for he is always aggressive against the saints. The Lord has grace, strength, and power with wisdom for us if we will seek His face daily and practice the truth of His Word.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

Evangelistic Work In New Mexico

In September, we again launched out on an evangelistic trip. This time the Lord directed our labors to be in the state of New Mexico. There were five of us in the company on this tour—Bro. Earl Laughlin, Lavina Wahl, Selma Hiebert, Wife, and myself. The first meeting held in the state was at Clovis where Bro. Pat Huskey and his wife were pastoring the little flock. The Lord greatly blessed in this meeting from the very beginning. Bro. George Peek and wife of West Va., who were on their way to California, stopped and helped in the meeting.

The power of God was manifested in a very precious way in the meeting. Homes were visited and inmates prayed for, meetings were held on the streets, and a radio service was held and the gospel went out to the radio-land. One man living in the west part of Clovis heard the gospel on the radio, and got so under conviction, that he broke down and wept. That night he was so convicted while in bed that he awakened his wife sobbing and crying. She wanted to send and get the ministers to pray for him; but he said no, that he would go to them. He and his wife got up, dressed, and walked about a mile to where we were staying and aroused us between one and two o'clock in the morning. We all gathered in the chapel and prayed for him very earnestly until he said he was satisfied. It was a wonderful prayer meeting and the power and sweetness of heaven was indeed real. It was so good that the pastor said he had a notion to announce a midnight prayer meeting. The next night or two a man from the country brought his wife twenty-one miles from the country to be healed. She was greatly afflicted and was suffering so much that it seemed life would soon cease unless she got divine help. He arrived in the midnight hour and the pastor had his midnight prayer meeting without announcing it. The Lord graciously healed her body and she was up and around when morning came. Other bodies were healed in this meeting,

souls were saved, and believers sanctified. It was truly a blessed meeting from beginning to end.

While in this meeting we met a man whom we had not seen for fifteen years, and we were made sad at heart to see and know of his condition. Years ago, when we first got saved, we got acquainted with this man, who was supposed to be one of the saints. At that time we had such confidence in all who professed to be saints that we were willing to trust them to the utmost. (Since then we have learned that all are not saints who profess to be saints.) Before we moved from Clovis to Guthrie, this man came to us and said that he owed some money at the bank, and they would not give him anymore time, and were going to close out on him unless he paid at once. He asked me if I would let him have the money to satisfy the banker, saying that he would give it back to me in a few weeks. We wrote him out a check for \$150.00, the amount he wanted; but the few weeks passed and no money was returned. We soon moved to Guthrie, and he with his family moved to Kansas City, Missouri. We heard from his wife occasionally, but they never seemed to have any money to pay the debt. Up to this date we had not heard from them for a long, long time. They had been down in Texas and had just moved back to Clovis a short time before we came there to hold the revival meeting. When I met him he seemed to be in much trouble because he had not paid me back the money, and as it seemed to bother him so much, we told him that we would forgive him the debt and he would not need to pay it. Yet he seemed to be troubled about it and his wife told us that she feared he was losing his mind. We soon left and went several hundred miles up in the mountains to hold meeting. When we came back to Clovis, we found this man had lost his mind and they had him in the county jail for safekeeping. We visited him and when the jailer understood that we were old acquaintances of his, he turned the man in the room with us. He came hurrying up to us, threw his arms around us to love us, and began to talk in an irrational manner. He was a very pitiful case. We worked with him and prayed for him

but it seemed his case was hopeless. Soon after we left, we heard he passed away in that condition. We hope he was not in an unsaved condition. He professed to get saved in the revival meeting while we were there.

From Clovis, we went about a hundred miles northwest of Santa Fe, N. M., up into the Rocky Mountains near Park View, New Mexico, to hold a meeting. Brother H. E. Locker and family lived near there and we stayed with them while engaged in the revival meeting. There were some trials in this meeting as the neighborhood was stirred up over a "free-for-all" fight which had taken place at this schoolhouse just before we came there to hold meeting. Some stayed away on this account and others seemed to be indifferent; but over it all God worked and blessed in the preaching of the Word at times, and some very precious services were experienced. We left there not seeing many visible results from our labors; but since then we have learned that God did work, and some things were accomplished by the Lord unknown to us. The Scripture is true which reads: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isa. 55:11.

We returned home to the office work after being gone for forty days. The children had kept the work going while we were away. We settled down again in the printing work, as there was much to be done after an absence of this length. We are just as satisfied here in the office work as when out in meeting—just wherever He says, there are we contented and happy.

In the beginning of 1935, we had reason to look back over the days, weeks, and months of 1934 with pleasure and satisfaction, for the year had been filled with much activity in the office work, and also in reaching out into evangelistic work more than usual—both in the printing work and in meeting the people face to face with the glad tidings of the Gospel.

In these efforts directed by the Spirit, we had the pleasure of seeing many souls saved, believers sancti-

fied, and much divine healing done by the power of God. Some cases of divine healing have been very remarkable, looking at it from the standpoint of the weakness of men, but very common and ordinary things, when we view it from the greatness and mightiness of our God.

The past year's service was one of much joy and comfort to our soul, and we felt deeper in God and further from the world than ever. We had a deep knowledge of being sanctified wholly—all on the altar for sacrifice or service at the pleasure and will of God. By His grace and power, we were armed with the whole armour of God, ready to go forth in the name and strength of Israel's God, defying the powers of darkness in the progress of conquering the enemy and giving praise and glory to God, the great "I AM." When we look back over that year's battles and conflicts with Satan's forces, and review the victories with trophies won through the strength of our God, our heart is filled with love and praise to Him, and courage and boldness fill our souls to move on in the battle against sin and evil of every kind.

Besides the evangelistic trip into New Mexico in 1934, we also made a trip into Arkansas, accompanied by Earl Laughlin and Paul Wyatt. We stopped with Bro. Bert Steele and family, a godly man who lives near Wharton, Ark. We held the meeting in the schoolhouse at that place. It was a very successful meeting in the salvation of precious eternity-bound souls. The Lord blessed much in the preaching of the Word, and it went forth with power and authority, and heavenly light flashed upon many souls, bringing conviction. The meeting lasted two weeks and a half. We returned to the office, arriving on Thanksgiving Day.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

More Evangelistic Experiences

The Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie during the holidays of 1934 was certainly a glorious meeting. I shall give an account here of it as recorded in the January paper, *Faith and Victory*, of 1935.

Assembly Meeting Report

"The last ten days of the old year of 1934, were days of great rejoicing here at Guthrie. The holiday assembly meeting was greatly favored and blessed of God. The presence and power of God were felt and manifested at the very beginning of the meeting and gathered force as the meeting progressed. Saints began to come in from every direction and every one added fuel to the Holy Spirit flame because no discord was felt. Truly the Lord was governor and ruler in this meeting, and a number were heard to say that this reminded them of the day of Pentecost when they were all together in one place with one accord. Between thirty and forty ministers were present, besides a host of workers and Spirit-filled saints. In a condition like this, God was unhindered in His work of convicting, saving souls, sanctifying believers and healing bodies. The saving of souls was the prominent feature of the meeting. They would get saved in the early morning prayer meetings. One evening, souls began to come to the altar while the second song was being sung before the preaching, and they just kept coming until there were eight souls at the altar. As they arose from the altar, their faces would shine with heaven's glory. Another night after the Word was preached, they began coming to the altar and filled the regular altar, and altars were erected halfway back to the door, and these were filled with seekers. I cannot describe with pen the glory and rejoicing of the saints and seekers as the burden of sin and guilt was lifted by faith in Jesus. The very last night of the meeting seekers kept coming.

"If there was a discord or friction in the large assembly of saints, it escaped my knowledge or notice. It

was a lovely sight and made us think of what John saw when he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. He saw the new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven, adorned as a bride for her husband. This assembly of saints was truly a portion of that 'new Jerusalem,' being adorned with heavenly graces. The life that was in them came down from God out of heaven. One would have to be blind indeed to see and behold the working of this assembly of saints and not see the visible, heavenly organized Church of God which shone as a 'city set on an hill that cannot be hid.' Brethren, the 'church triumphant' is a visible reality in the earth today and God is calling all believers to loosen and free themselves from all man-made institutions. We are to swing out on the promises of God and to abide in the one church, which is His body. We are not able to tell you how many were saved and sanctified, as we lost count of them. Many sought and obtained the infilling of the Holy Ghost—sanctified wholly. A number of the older ministers who have been attending the assembly here for twenty years expressed themselves that this was by far the best assembly meeting that was ever known here. In humility of heart we thank God for His gracious goodness manifested in this meeting. We are looking for a mighty forward move among all the saints in power, unity, and oneness.

"The unadulterated gospel of Christ was preached in all its fullness and power and the Holy Spirit did His office work in convicting and drawing. Our soul is bubbling over with praises to God. Some ministers were here from Kansas and Missouri, and they declared that they were going to carry a large portion home with them.

"All expenses were met nicely by free-will offerings as God was working in those things as well as otherwise. We truly appreciate the body of saints that God sent in to be with us through this meeting. Our prayer is for you and with you. God bless each one."

In the early part of 1935, we had much printing to do. Besides the regular work of printing of the paper, there were books and pamphlets to print. Also, there was a need of printing over a hundred thousand tracts with

which to restock our supply, and it was needful that the machinery be in good shape for this continual work. Lawrence, my son, who was operating the Linotype at this time, informed me of the needed repairs for this machine, which would cost thirty or forty dollars; also, of the great need for another Linotype part which would cost \$100.00. There was also a need for about seventy dollars worth of paper to be purchased. We took these needs to the Lord in prayer—laid them before Him one by one, telling Him how much we desired to keep the work up in good condition and to have paper to print the messages of truth on, to be sent to needy ones. God began to work. He supplied the needs and our souls rejoiced in Him.

During this time of much labor in the office, we also had other burdens upon our hearts. For several years we had been receiving letters from different saints in the East, asking us to visit them, to hold meetings in which the people could hear the truth and be saved. At different times we had taken these matters to the Lord in prayer and had promised these dear ones that we would come whenever the Lord by His Spirit said so. During the early months of 1935 we began to have a clearness from God that a trip East was in the appointments of the summer. We began to write the saints in the different parts of the East of the clearness in our souls that God had given about an evangelistic tour during the coming summer and also were looking to the Lord to supply the ones to accompany us on the trip. We wanted preachers, singers, and workers who would be as clay in His hand and would not fail God when tests of faith were upon us, for this tour was wholly by faith in God. We never take up offerings for ourselves, neither do we tell, or hint for others to do so, and we were making this evangelistic journey by simple faith in God, as we did not have money to finance our way, neither did those who would accompany us. We wanted a company that would be ready at all times to hold meetings in homes, on the streets, in the jails and to visit and talk salvation to souls

wherever we met them. In fact, we wanted a consecrated group that had the welfare of souls at heart.

This evangelistic tour was to be made through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, and the return was by Michigan, Iowa, and Missouri.

We were led of the Lord to take a large supply of tracts, papers, pamphlets, and books along to give out and to use freely in the work of the Lord.

We rejoiced greatly over the way the Lord worked and arranged for this evangelistic tour, by burdening efficient preachers and workers to accompany us on our eastern trip to hold these meetings.

Before going on the tour through the East, the Lord burdened us to make a trip into south Mo., to hold a meeting. Our automobile, which was purchased in the year of 1927, and has been continually used in the service of the Lord ever since, was becoming so badly worn that we hesitated about going in it. After having it fixed by some repairs and some new pieces, we thought it would make the trip. Anna Marie, my oldest daughter, and Bro. Ostis Wilson, Jr., of Anthony, Kan., were to accompany us. Sister Wilson of Shawnee, Okla., (Ostis' mother), was to accompany us to Joplin, Mo., where she was to take the bus on to Lebanon, Mo., to meet her sister. They were going on to Anderson, Ind., to be with her brother, Otto Bolds, who was very sick and was not expected to live.

We first went to Anthony, Kan., to get Bro. Ostis, and east from there to Mo. After leaving Anthony far out on the highway where there were no towns, the engine of the car started to knock and we found that some connecting rods had burned out. The oil pump had ceased to work, unnoticed by us. There we were in a strange country, and were helpless as far as traveling was concerned. We tried to stop some cars but they sped right by. Finally, a man stopped and we inquired of him the nearest place we could find a garage to get the car fixed. He told us there was a place about four miles from there, two miles off the highway. We made arrangements with him to pull us down there over a rough road. The

mechanic worked on it for a long time and had to send to a large city to get a needed part.

In the meantime we were praying that God would not let him over-charge us because we knew that the money we had would not last long. Late in the afternoon he got it fixed together again. When we asked him the charges, he quoted a price so low that we were quite surprised, and knew that God had answered prayer.

We started on and soon we had more trouble with the car. It would misfire and jerk and would nearly stop, but we kept going until we came to a town where there was a garage. We had the mechanic to work on it. After paying him for his trouble, we went on, but soon found it was just as bad, or worse than before. We had it looked at and worked on time after time, but always something would be wrong. Night came and we were expecting to be in Missouri. We found that we had only made a short distance that day and had to stop at a hotel for the night. We were tired and worn, and it was with much prayer that we got all things committed to God so we could sleep and get needed rest. The next day we had car trouble and stopped at different places to get it repaired, but it was always the same thing, or something else. It was late in the afternoon when we got to Joplin where Sister Wilson took the bus to meet her sister, a day behind previous arrangements.

We went on to spend the night with Bro. W. I. Miles at Neosho, Mo. A mechanic there took the engine apart and fixed it over again. We were short on means and had to make arrangements to get some money to pay the man and have some to continue our journey. After getting out on the road, we found that the engine was not working right, so at Monett, Mo., we spent most of the morning having the engine worked on. After this man had worked it over and put on some new parts, it worked very well, and we arrived in Stone County, Mo., before night, where we were to hold the meeting. We labored there for ten days, preaching the gospel in the schoolhouse with seemingly very little results. On the last night of the meeting, the postmaster's wife came to the altar of

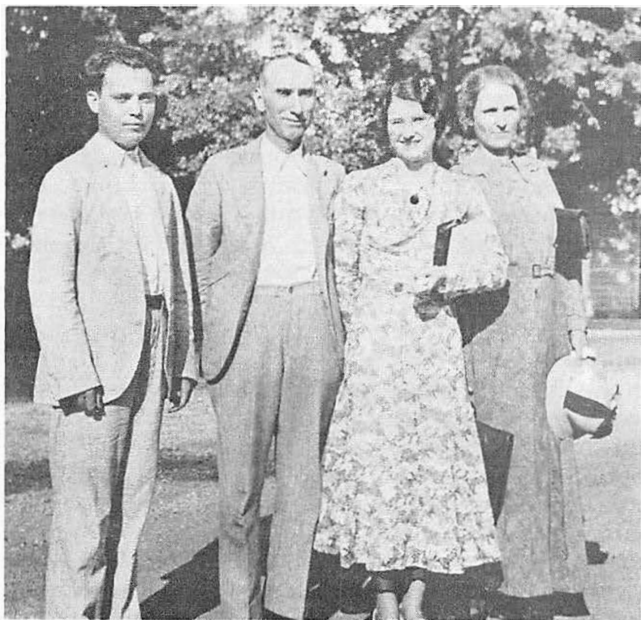
prayer seeking for salvation. We instructed and prayed for her. She confessed and asked for mercy and God saved her. Recently I heard from there and I was informed that this woman still claims salvation. Jesus taught us that a soul was worth more than the whole world, so we rejoice that this one found the Lord and consider that all the trouble and expense is not to be compared with the gain of this soul. After this meeting was over, Brother Ostis Wilson was to go to Hammond, La., to the campmeeting. Money had been sent to him to pay his fare. We took him to Harrison, Ark., where he was to take the bus or train on to La. He told us later that he had to persuade the ticket agent to take a few postage stamps he happened to have with him in order to have enough to pay his fare to Hammond. We went on up to Rogers, Ark., and when we arrived we only had sixty cents in money and were 200 miles from home. I had a friend who lived in Rogers by the name of James U. Miller. I inquired for him and found his place, borrowed five dollars from him, and came on to Tulsa, Okla., arriving there after night. While turning a corner we noticed something was wrong with the car. On examination, we found the rear wheel had gone wrong. The wheel, axle, and all were coming off. We phoned Brother Sam Barton, who came down and aroused a mechanic from bed to fix it, before we could go on to Brother Barton's house, where we stayed all night.

We came home the next day, and were surely glad to get in with the old car. We knew that God would have to supply us with another car, because this one was so badly worn that it would never be safe to try going any distance with it any more. We felt assured God would supply it in some way, for we had used the car only to His glory. He had supplied before and He would supply again. We laid all these matters before the Lord in prayer and just left the matter with Him.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

Evangelistic Company Goes Northeast

We prayed earnestly as to who should make up the company for the evangelistic trip East and Northeast and also to know from the Lord the date on which we should start. Our company left Guthrie on the eighth of July, 1935, in Sister Katherine Watson's car (she is now Sis. Key). Sister Watson of Hammond, La., Bro. Ostis Wilson of Anthony, Kansas, my oldest daughter, Anna Marie, and myself made up the party whom the Lord had chosen to carry the gospel to many souls, on a seven thousand mile evangelistic tour.



Ostis Wilson, Jr., Fred Pruitt, Anna Marie Pruitt and Katherine (Gubser) Watson.

Our first stop was at Tulsa, Okla., where we visited Bro. Sam Barton and family for a short while. We found

them very sad at heart because his brother, Will, was so sick that he was nigh unto death. Truly our hearts wept with those that wept when we beheld our brother and fellow minister in the gospel of Christ struggling with death. We tried to comfort them and to be as much of a blessing as possible, as this was the mission of our going. All of our praying seemed not to affect God, as far as his body was concerned. He passed away to be with the Lord the next morning, July 9, 1935.

We arrived at Anderson, Ind., July 11. We expected to visit Ostis' uncle, Otto Bolds, who had been sick for some time, but he had passed away the night before, on July the 10th.

The funeral services were to be held Saturday afternoon. Brother Wilson remained there with his mother, and the rest of the company went to Muncie, Ind., and visited in the home of Bro. O. E. Baker and family who received us in a saintly manner. Their hospitality and kindness made us feel that we were not among strangers. We also visited with dear old Bro. Losh and wife who lived at Muncie (he is an old-time gospel minister), and a number of other precious saints in that vicinity. On Saturday afternoon we went back to Anderson for the funeral service of Bro. Bolds, which was held in the Park Place Church of that city, with Chas. E. Brown, editor of the *Gospel Trumpet*, officiating. A large crowd assembled to pay their respects to this soldier of the cross, who had preached the gospel of Christ for 47 years. On Sunday, July 14th, through the kindness of Bro. Baker, we attended meeting at Portland, Ind., where the minister gave us liberty to proclaim God's truth. Our association with the members there was very pleasant. In the afternoon we attended a service held at Sister Baumgartner's home near Berne, Ind., and listened to Bro. Foster of Yorkshire, Ohio, bring a good message of refreshing truth, and met many dear saints whom we had longed to see. That evening we attended services at Dunkirk, Ind., where Sister Watson had the liberty to break the bread of life to a large number of people. The Lord gave us a precious service there. We returned to

Brother Baker's that night, feeling in our hearts that the day had been profitably spent to the glory of God.

Having previously received an urgent request to go to West Sonora, Ohio, and hold meeting, we drove over there on Monday, July 15, and started the meeting that same night. On the way, we stopped for awhile and visited in the home of Brother and Sister Hitchcock at Newcastle, Ind., where we were also privileged to meet and converse with Brother Lawson who is pastor there. We also visited a short time at the home of Bro. Wolford in Richmond, Ind., and then drove out to Bro. Jenkins' home near New Paris, Ohio. Bro. Jenkins went with us to visit Bro. Decker, who was seriously ill. He was anointed and the prayer of faith was prayed. When we started to leave, he followed us to the car praising God for his healing. The meeting at West Sonora continued for one week. It closed Sunday, July 21, with an all-day meeting in which two souls were saved, five were sanctified wholly, and the saints were wonderfully encouraged. While there, we stayed in the home of Bro. and Sis. Chellis who are very precious saints and made us feel perfectly welcome. That Sunday night, July 21, we began a meeting at Richmond, Ind., which continued over the next Sunday. We found a number of very earnest, sincere seekers after truth at Richmond, and the Lord blessed us wonderfully in proclaiming the truth unto them and in helping them to receive the truth. The meeting lasted for a week with good success, and the Lord is raising up a church in that place. On Sunday, July 28, we had all-day meeting under some large shade trees near a stream of water five miles out of Richmond, Ind. We had two preaching services and a baptismal service. Six persons (three men and their wives) followed the Lord in baptism. The Lord made it a very precious service, causing them to rejoice much in this obedience to His Word. That evening we returned to Richmond where we observed the ordinances of Feet-washing and the Lord's Supper. Twenty-two took part in this ordinance service, and the Lord made it precious to all of our souls. It was the first service of this kind for the most of them, and the Lord

blessed them wonderfully and helped them to realize that "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

On Monday, July 29, we drove to Dayton, Ohio, where we started meeting that same night and continued for one week. The meeting was much blessed and owned of God, and the fellowship of the saints was sweet to our souls. Quite a number of saints got in touch with one another in this meeting which will make the congregation larger in that place. Here we met Bro. Wm. McCoy and Bro. Wolcott with whom we have corresponded for several years and had desired to meet personally. Our fellowship was deepened and strengthened by our personal contact one with another, and we expect to meet these dear ones in the Glory world some day.

After a meeting at Knighstown, Ind., where we stayed at the home of Bro. and Sis. Sheffield, we met with the saints at Richmond, Ind., in prayer meeting. Then we visited a few of the saints in Ohio, and left for Pennsylvania August 8th. The Lord made the meetings and association of the saints in Indiana and Ohio very precious to us. In three other different places in these parts, they desired us to come and hold revival meetings, but having promised the saints in Pennsylvania and other states that we would be there, we could not remain longer.

We arrived at Sister Gibney's near Shermansdale, Pa., August 10th, then after a few days' meeting went to Perkasio, Pa., to hold a meeting.

At Perkasio, Pa., the sisters had rented and prepared a vacant meeting house in which to hold services. Here we met Bro. William Cramer, his sister, Julia Cramer, and Sister Rosella Slifer who have been in Oklahoma, and are acquainted with many of the saints in this state. Sister Amanda Shaffer and Edith Cramer, who live at Silverdale, welcomed us into their home to abide while holding the meeting. There we also met Bro. Chas. Houck and family. It was a great pleasure to meet with these dear saints and enjoy their fellowship in the Spirit. The Lord gave good services every night and some got more light on the truth of God's Word. A number subscribed for

the *Faith and Victory* paper and many tracts and papers were given out. While there, two carloads of us went to Philadelphia, 35 miles south, and visited a sick man by the name of Bro. Wilkel. He had been sick for a long time. We also visited other sick ones, including those in the hospital at Bally, Pa., where Sister Rosella Slifer is a nurse. She has much opportunity to do good among the sick in that hospital.

Soon it was time to leave that place, as the Lord was burdening our hearts for the next meeting, which was at Duncannon, Pa., north of the capital of the state. We held a few nights' meeting in Bro. McGuire's home with good interest and conviction on the unsaved. The Lord then directed us on the 20th of August to Watsontown, Pa., where we stopped with Bro. and Sister Campbell and held meeting in a schoolhouse nearby. The Lord gave us precious times together and in the services. One soul was at the altar. We stopped at Burnside, Pa., a few days with Bro. and Sister Wetzel, who had been holding to the old-time truth in that place. They made us feel at home in their house, and we were much refreshed in Spirit and body while there. Before leaving Bro. Campbell's at Watsontown, Sister Katherine Watson slipped on the linoleum rug, fell, and broke her arm near the hand. Prayer was continually offered and God helped her, relieving pain at different times, and it was soon well again.

Bidding goodbye to Bro. and Sister Wetzel, we drove up to Distant, Pa., and called on Bro. Stokes, who is standing against compromise in that place. Bro. and Sister Huffman of Franklin, Pa., had written us to go there for some meetings, which we did. They had a hall prepared for services and we held meeting there over Sunday, during which time we visited with Sister Wm. McKay, who lived twelve miles from Franklin. For a long time we had desired to see her, as we had heard from her through correspondence for 17 years. She is isolated from all the saints, but looks to the Lord daily, and her soul was running over with joy. She was then in her 88th

year. Her husband was a Civil War veteran who was then 88 years of age.

On the 9th of September we went to Kent, Ohio from Franklin, Pa. Bro. John Royer, who lives there, desired us to conduct some services in his city. The meeting continued until the 15th.

Our company, with Bro. Royer, motored down to North Benton, Ohio, one afternoon and viewed the statue of Chester Bedell, the atheist who said while living, "If there is a God, let my grave be infested with snakes." It is claimed they had to remove a snake from the grave before they lowered him. Many have witnessed that they have seen snakes around his tomb at different times since. I was talking with a Pilgrim Holiness preacher in Pa., who said that one of their preachers who was at this statue, captured one of the snakes, and put it in alcohol to preserve it. He used it to show while preaching. We have been publishing a tract which tells of this man Bedell, and the statue and the snakes. For this reason we were very desirous to see the monument for ourselves. We found the monument, with the statue of this atheist on top in a standing position with a scroll in his hand on which were written these words: "Universal Mental Liberty." Underneath his foot was a scroll with "Superstition" lettered on it. The statue is made of copper. I noticed two bullet holes in it. A man and his wife who live near the cemetery came in while we were looking at the statue. He said that Bedell had enemies in the country and he thought that was why the bullet holes were there. This man said he knew him personally and that he had made the above statement about the snakes. He said he willed all of his property, which consisted of hundreds of acres of land, to his youngest son, leaving his daughters out. He wanted the land to be held by a Bedell was the reason for such action. This man discredited the story about the snake's being there as reported. We looked carefully for the snakes but could not find any. Later, we heard from a brother in Indiana who visited the statue and saw a snake.

We were much encouraged in our evangelistic work, as we had the opportunity to meet so many precious brothers and sisters in the Lord. We were not permitted to hold what would be called soul-saving meetings on this tour, as our time at each place was very limited; however, a few got saved. In several places they were anxious to have some real old-fashioned revival meetings. Saints in many places were tired of compromise and fanatical hardness. The enemy is oppressing those who really want to walk in the light of God's Word.

On the morning of the last Sunday we had meeting at Kent, then all of us went to Akron, Ohio, and worshipped with the congregation where Sis. Jones is pastor. The association with the saints was enjoyed very much.

We had been hearing from Mr. Golby of Andover, Ohio, for several months by correspondence, in which he told of his great affliction and desire to get saved. On the 16th of September we visited this man, and found him in a pitiful condition, especially in his mind and soul. He said a number of years ago he had a good farm, well improved, and he turned against God and said there was no God. He talked against Him and told others there was no God. Soon his house caught fire and burned up everything. The loss and the awfulness of talking against God was borne upon his mind. We talked to him and prayed God to forgive him but he had no faith to believe God. Truly, it is an awful thing to trifle with God. Poor man!

The same day we reached Niagara Falls, New York, a little after dark, and there we spent the night just a short distance from the Niagara Falls, which is one of the "Seven Wonders of the World." As we stood looking at this vast volume of water falling 167 feet on the rocks, and sending up a great spray of mist, our hearts filled with praise to God, and with wonder we thought of the great and mighty things "our God hath done."

The next morning we crossed the Niagara River and traveled 200 miles in Canada before reaching Port Huron, Michigan. We were favorably impressed with this part of

Canada. Many varieties of fruit are grown in immense orchards which are well kept. One thing we did not see along the highway was pictures on billboards of half-naked women with cigarettes in mouth or hand.

Before leaving Shermansdale, Pa., for Perkasio, we met up with a trial of faith. From Ohio, where we had been in meetings, to Pa., was a long distance and when we arrived there we were very low on finances, but kept looking to the Lord to supply so that we could keep going on. The last Sunday of the meeting at Sister Gibney's house, Bro. and Sis. Krause of Harrisburg, Pa., came to the meeting. This was the first time I had met these dear saints. After the evening meeting I had gone out to the car and was making some arrangements about getting ready for leaving, when Bro. Krause came out to where I was and said he felt led to give us some money to help on the way. My heart was very thankful to God, for I knew the Lord was leading him to do this in answer to our prayers. The Lord had been supplying for us all along as we had need. We never asked nor hinted to anyone about our needs at any time. There was one time when the pastor in charge took an offering for us of his own choice; otherwise there was nothing said about our needs only as we told it to the Lord and the Lord talked to individuals who could hear His voice.

We arrived at Alma, Mich., awhile after dark, and found some had gathered for meeting. The Lord gave a message and we all enjoyed the blessings of God in this service. The time there was very profitably spent and encouraging to our souls. We stopped with Sister Hazel Mann and her mother. They had arranged for us to hold meeting at a Baptist meeting house in the country. There were not very many members, and as they were not able to pay the preacher his salary, they had had none for three years, as I understood it. They let us have the building and almost all of them attended the services and were blessed of God in receiving light and truth.

The meeting had just been in progress two days when Bro. Ostis Wilson, who had been sharing with us the joys and burdens of the evangelistic work in different

states, was called home to Anthony, Kansas, by telegram and telephone. It was hard for us to part with one of the company, but we humbly submitted to God's will as we know He does all things right.

As the meeting progressed more kept coming, and the Word went forth in power and demonstration of the Spirit. The fire of the Holy Ghost fell on the saints and caused them to shout and praise God. The meeting closed with much interest, and some expressed themselves in strong terms of the good which they had received and did not want the meeting to stop, but we had other appointments awaiting us.

On Monday before leaving, we motored about 70 miles north to visit Sister Laura Richards who was sick. She and her husband are old-time saints and are satisfied with only the real truth of His Word. We had a precious visit with them and expect to meet them in the Glory world.

On the 24th of September we drove to Benton Harbor, Michigan. On the way there, we stopped at Battle Creek and visited a short time with Sister Pike. We found her well and rejoicing in the Lord.

At Benton Harbor we stopped with Bro. James Morris. He had rented a hall for meeting and had it seated. The first few nights of the meeting looked discouraging as hardly any came out. We kept praying and the numbers increased and God certainly blessed in those services. Some precious healing was wrought on several and the saints shouted and praised God. Some who had not been hearing the old-time truth rejoiced greatly and declared themselves against all compromising elements. These precious souls became very dear to us. Bro. and Sis. Brandt, who live 60 miles away at Holland, Mich., attended a portion of the meeting. Bro. and Sis. Scott Baker and son of Garrett, Indiana, which is over a hundred miles southeast, came up and were with us over Sunday, the last day of the meeting.

On the 8th of October we bade farewell to the saints at Benton Harbor and started for Norwalk, Wisc., making a loop below Chicago to avoid traffic. We drove in a

northwestern direction and arrived at Sauk City, on the banks of the Wisconsin River, where we spent the night in a tourists' rooming house. The Lord gave us favor there, and we sang songs, read the Bible and had family worship in the parlor of the building. The keeper was much interested and asked many questions, also received the gospel literature with gladness. She claimed to be a Christian and was affiliated with a denomination, but was very much dissatisfied with inconsistent professing Christians with whom she was associated.

We arrived at Norwalk, Wisc., Oct. 9th and found Bro. Stanke and his sisters happy in the Lord. They were holding steady in the truth of God's Word, for they had "respect unto the recompense of reward." No place there was open for a continued meeting, but God permitted us to have two preaching services on Sunday which He owned and blessed. There were some precious saints in that town.

The next Tuesday we drove west into Minn., and then south to Iowa Falls, Ia., where we held another revival.

After the meeting closed we went to Kansas City, Kansas, and visited two nights and a day with my brother Orlin and family. While there, we visited a little congregation of saints in the northern part of Kansas City, and were favored by being in one service with them. The Word went forth with power of the Spirit and we were all much edified. The saints testified with much anointing and power of the Holy Ghost, and we all rejoiced together in the fellowship of the Spirit. Sister Hudson is the pastor of the congregation there and her labors have been very effective. A number testified how it was through her devoted life and teaching of the spiritual truth that they turned to the Lord, and they were happy and joyful in the holy way. On Wednesday, Oct. 30th, we left Kansas City and arrived home about six o'clock in the evening, after having traveled over seven thousand miles, holding meetings in seven different states, besides visiting many saints and others who were sick and afflicted. The Lord verified His promise by signs following the preaching of

the Word, and we had the privilege of seeing Him save souls, sanctify believers and heal bodies.

Our hearts were made to rejoice many times as we mingled with precious saved souls who had deep decisions to follow the Lord all the way. In our travels in the many different states, we had an opportunity of seeing the good work that the tracts and papers are doing in drawing souls to Christ, and encouraging saved men and women everywhere. Many precious souls have been settled down into the crucified way and are now rejoicing in the Saviour's love, with a determination not to drift with professors who look upon much of God's Word in a light way and presume upon His mercy. Those of our readers who have been aiding with their means and prayers will not lose their reward. God's eyes are not closed to sacrifices made in getting truth to perishing souls. Our hearts are filled with desire to feed the souls of men on the Bread of Life, and we want to keep the tracts and papers going out all the time.



Andrew and Hope (Embly) Pruitt
Who were married in 1934

CHAPTER NINETEEN

The Lord Supplies Machines and Workers

Soon after coming home from our eastern evangelistic tour, we began to be burdened and tried about the worn-out condition of the old car. We were earnestly looking to God to supply us with another car so we could continue going to our appointments, and to use otherwise in the Lord's work. God was faithful again to supply us with a car. While it was not a new one, yet it was in good condition and we were very thankful to God for supplying this need.

The machinery needed in the Lord's Print Shop was also weighing heavily upon us. We have written before in this book of the great need of a paper folder and of how the job press was practically worn out, and had been praying that the Lord would supply this needed machinery. During the early months of 1936 we began to feel that the Lord would in some way supply them. In February He supplied us with a hand paper-cutter, which was needed for the trimming of tracts, and we were encouraged that He would also supply the other machinery.

About this time we received a letter from a man in Missouri that attracted our attention. The Scriptures were brought to our mind that Jesus had spoken. "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not." Matt. 24:23. I will quote the Editorial printed in *Faith and Victory* mentioning this letter.

"The state of Missouri seems to be coming to the front, at least in some things. Your humble servant has traveled over Missouri quite a lot and has held meetings in various places. We have heretofore known there was a wide range of religion in that area of different types, shadows, cliques, and clans, that ranged from the wildest fanaticism to rank compromise, and to a "soft-soaped" and poisoned, doped gospel. Sandwiched in between all this rubbish are some real saints of God, who are continually grieved with Christ-reproaching professors. The thing we wish to write about is a recent letter,

with circulars, which we received from a man in Missouri who claims that HE is Christ. He asked us to print for him a circular declaring that he is Christ, and wants us to scatter it abroad to all the people. He thinks it will only hasten his death; but says it must be done. We have sent him tracts and a paper with a prayer that this poor man's eyes may be opened so he can see the real truth of God's Word."

In the last few years since this man has declared himself to be Christ, we have been hearing of several others making about the same claim. The Scriptures must be fulfilled and God will use those to do it who are religious, but do not have enough love for the truth to obey it.

We wish to insert another Editorial here which was printed in the May issue of *Faith and Victory* in 1936, which I believe will be of interest to many of our readers:

"In the *Gospel Trumpet* of February 29th, 1936, H. M. Riggle has an article or testimony in which he relates having a bad spell of sickness by blood poisoning, wherein he came near passing over. While in a very low ebb of life he says the Lord made him very conscious of a number of things: First, there is but one passport to heaven—the blood of Christ. He saw plainly that he could not rest his hope on labors in gospel work. The blood was the password that opened heaven's pearly gates.

Second, "For sometime I have seen a trend toward the world in many ways. The plain, saintly looking pilgrims dressed and appearing as 'women professing godliness' are becoming very few in number. The general appearance of many congregations is the same as found in the old, dead, formal, and proud churches and cannot be distinguished from the theatre goers; and the astonishing thing is that they have let down the line fence entirely and have joined the hell-bound masses in the picture shows and theatres. There is a multitude caught in the immigration away from God and whirling along so rapidly they are completely blinded and unconscious of it."

He said that he had promised God he would lift up his voice like a trumpet and cry out against the sins of the church as never before.

Editorial—"Over eighteen years ago the Lord plainly showed me that the Trumpet movement was being swallowed up with worldliness and warned me to loosen from the things, which, by His grace, I did. It may seem strange to some why the Lord did not, or could not, show this thing to H. M. Riggle years ago. The truth of the matter is this: It is hard for one who is much entangled in a thing, and has more or less love for it, to see the thing as it is, and thus he drifts with the tide. The Lord had to get him down to death's door before he could get courage enough to publicly speak a thing he said he had been seeing for some years. Now he says he has promised God that he would lift up his voice like a trumpet and cry out against these things. His labors against this will be useless unless he first clears himself from the rubbish, for he helped start the thing when he donned the tie and later endorsed and fellowshipped other things of a worldly nature. The only safe thing for this man to do is to obey the Scriptures found in Rev. 18th chapter from the first to sixth verses, which say, 'Come out of her, my people.'

"History proves to us there has never been a movement which has become adulterated with the world that has ever cleansed itself, or been reformed, and come back to a standard of purity and become again separate from the world as Holy People unto God; but on the contrary has become numbered in the 'valley of dead bones' (Ezekiel 37), and needs to be prophesied to, and not endorsed. A minister's preaching has no weight of eternal worth when he himself has on some worldly attire, endorses, or is entangled in the thing he speaks against. My prayer is that God will awaken those who are asleep or at ease in Zion."

We continued praying for God to supply us with a printing press in place of the old worn-out one, and, also to supply His Print Shop with a paper folder to fold the *Faith and Victory* paper. In June, the Lord supplied the

money so we could purchase these machines and also an 8x12 job press. This was all made possible by His consecrated servants living in different states. We are so thankful to God for these machines, as the printing work will go better in every way; much better work can be done, and more of it. The 12x18 job press is a splendid one, and we are much pleased with it. The paper folder will fold, trim, and paste the *Faith and Victory* paper, saving much extra hand work. Truly, God's blessings are upon this printing work and He is preparing us to put out a larger volume of sound gospel literature.

Our oldest daughter, Anna Marie, who had been operating the Linotype, felt it would please the Lord for her to go to California. In the Spring of 1936 she went to California, and the latter part of April, my wife, with my son Lawrence and his wife, and Sister W. I. Miles, made a trip to California by automobile. They returned May 28th, but Anna Marie did not come back with them, and we were without a Linotype operator. God, who knows all things, had been arranging for this very thing. He had been talking to a young school teacher out in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico, by the name of Geneva Bailey, about coming here to the Faith Publishing House. She arrived here just three days after my wife had returned from California. When I spoke to her about not having a Linotype operator, she said that she believed she would like that work, although she knew nothing about operating a Linotype machine. After a few instructions, she began work with the machine and soon became quite efficient with it, and also filled the office need in many other ways. God makes no mistakes, and He will place and use every soul that is yielded to Him. She operated the machine for nearly a month, then in company with Frances, my youngest daughter, and others, we attended the Hammond, La., campmeeting.

We also helped in several meetings in the South before coming back to the office. We arrived home August 13th and assumed the labors in the office at once. Sister Geneva was with us for awhile, but felt it would please the Lord for her to go back to New Mexico

and, while teaching school, to witness for Him in those parts.

The Lord was still supplying and arranging things for the office work, and a young man by the name of Willie C. Murphey of Jena, Louisiana, who was saved, sanctified, and had had some experience in a printing shop—some of which was operating a Linotype machine—felt free in the Lord to take the work, and he soon became handy with the machine. He operated the Linotype and did some of the press work for nearly a year. The Lord always has a way to keep His work going on, and the truth of the gospel going out by the printed page.

At this time we had a special stirring in our hearts to get the tracts and papers into the many jails and national institutions where great armies of men are in gross darkness and steeped in sin. Yet, they have souls that will live on somewhere. We had secured addresses of a large number of these places and put a notice in the *Faith and Victory* about the need of funds to supply these darkened souls with the truth of the Gospel. There was some response and we began to send packages of tracts and the Lord increased it. We are still sending them literature. Thank God for the opportunity of reaching these poor needy souls.

On the 23rd of June, 1937, I left Guthrie for Hammond, La., where I attended the general campmeeting and was in two revival meetings there. Soon after the first of August, in company with Brother and Sister Ray Key, I went to Ithaca, Ohio, campmeeting. This meeting was very precious and the Lord worked by saving souls, sanctifying believers, and healing bodies. I met many precious saints at this meeting that I had never seen before and had blessed fellowship with God's children.

From Ithaca, I went to New Castle, Ind., where Bro. T. Z. Lawson is pastor, and greatly enjoyed another good meeting in which we met with many more of our spiritual kinfolk. The attendance was good and the preaching was with the power of the Holy Ghost, edifying, unifying, and wholesome to the souls of men.

In these meetings I was rejoicing in spirit as many came from all parts of the United States, and quite a few in testimony told how they had received the *Faith and Victory* paper and tracts that caused them to rejoice in the old-time truth, and seeing the announcement of the campmeeting, they came to see if these were the old-time saints of God. They were very much pleased and felt quite at home among the real saints of God, who are separated from the world and its ways. It was plain to see the good work the paper and tracts have been doing for the Lord and precious souls.

In June, 1937, a ministers' meeting was held at Guthrie for the advancement of the cause of God, and for the purpose of clearing up some misunderstandings. They were in session for three days. Over forty ministers were present. It was a very satisfactory meeting, and it meant much toward the furtherance of the cause of God. The family of God, the Church of God, is increasing and moving on. Christ is the head of the Church and we that are saved are members in particular.

The true Church of God is not a sect. It is divinely given, divinely organized, divinely held together and divinely fed and nourished by the great Shepherd of the flock. Isaiah said the government shall be upon His shoulder and He should be our Counsellor and the Prince of peace; there will be no end to His government and peace, and that He would establish it with judgment and with justice. (Read Isaiah 9:6, 7). Isaiah saw the church, or kingdom, much better than men do today. Every member in this body, or Church, is a particular one, and God has placed it in the body as it pleases Him. Every member in the Church has been born from above and by continued faith and obedience retains life from heaven in the soul. Each functions in his place by the appointment and working power of God. Each member is absolutely free in God to move as He leads. It is a "glorious church," as the apostle Paul says, "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27). And again, in speaking of the Church or the household of God, Paul says, "And are

built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building, fitly framed together, groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord, in whom ye also are builded together [not apart] for an habitation of God through the spirit." (Eph. 2:20-22). Those who will loose themselves from the organizations of men and the world, together with man's cliques, clans, and strange doctrines, God will, by His Spirit, fit them into the body and function in and through each member to the gathering together and the glorifying of His name. The Church or body of Christ is not a sham, or a shadow, or mystical body as sects speak of it; but it is a reality and is just as visible in the world today as Christ and His disciples were when they were together. Praise God for this glorious, divine institution!



Carl and Anna Marie (Pruitt) Miles
Who were married in Calif. in 1936

CHAPTER TWENTY

Man In An Institution Delivered From Devils

In the early months of 1938, we became more heavily burdened than ever concerning the need of a new typesetting machine, and as we kept the matter before the Lord we began to have some assurance in our souls that God was in some way going to give us the needed machine, and we kept expecting at any time the Lord would bring this about.

In May, Sister Geneva Bailey, who had been gone from the office for eighteen months or more, returned. The enemy had worked against her. She discovered in teaching and attending Teachers' College that much of the modern educational system is being used by Satan as a tool to destroy living faith in God. She was in need of much spiritual help when she came, but through much prayer she has regained the lost spiritual strength. She has been operating the "Intertype machine" during the past year, and the Lord is making her very useful in the Print Shop.

In company with E. M. Miles of Jennings, Okla., your servant visited the State Hospital for the insane at Norman, Okla. We were called there to pray for an inmate of that place who was devil possessed. We found the man in a pitiful condition. We had been burdened for him and were fasting and looking to God for his deliverance before going to visit him. When we got there, it seemed the Lord had gone on before and had so worked that the authorities gave us permission to visit and pray with him, and had so worked on the man that he was ready for the visit.

While we had our hands upon the man and were earnestly engaged in prayer for him, one of the doctors came into the room and watched us for awhile. He came up near and wanted us to stop, saying that we were disturbing the patients, and said much more. We pleaded with him and told him how much this man needed to be delivered and he left the room, but soon

returned and talked with us again. We entreated for the man's sake and he soon left and never came back any more. We continued to pray and work with the man. After two hours of labor in prayer and working with him, the Lord delivered him from the demons and clothed him in his right mind and also spoke peace to his soul. He exclaimed with a strong voice: "Thank God, I am delivered at last!" He rejoiced and praised the Lord. He said, "I never could praise the Lord before. I could think of it, but never could say it, but now I can say it." Then he would praise the Lord again. He put his hand over his heart and said, "There is a big change in there; my heart is working good, it never did this way before." Again, he praised God. It was a clear case of deliverance. The authorities were soon convinced of the deliverance and allowed him to go home to his wife and children.

There were many in that place who were possessed. If the managers of such places would be in sympathy with prayer for them and would give freedom to Holy Ghost ministers to visit and continue in prayer with them, many could be delivered and set free. I noticed that whenever we knelt to pray for this man, many of the inmates would set up a moan and take on, which was evidence of devils.

The man for whom we prayed brought his family to the campmeeting at Guthrie in August, and remained several days. He said that he was all right after being prayed for, and they let him be a trusty, helping in the kitchen until they knew he was fully delivered and healed. (He had also been badly afflicted on one leg. It was sore and raw halfway down from the knee to the foot and would pain him much and never heal. God healed that also.) They sent word to his wife to come and get him, that he was all right. He had gained nearly forty pounds in weight and certainly did look like a different man.

All along through our ministry the Lord has used us in praying for the sick, and He would heal them; and a number of different times He has used us in casting out

demons. We find that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Read Heb. 13:8).

In speaking of the healing of bodies and other mighty deeds which Jesus is doing today, people often think them great and wonderful, and many often manifest surprise. When we look at them in the light of God's Word and compare them with His promises, we should not be surprised or think it so wonderful that God would keep His word. At the same time we do greatly appreciate His faithful love and mercy to us unworthy creatures. Has He not said that "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt 28:18)? "If we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us" (1 John 5:14). "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). "They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:18). "The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (James 5:15); and "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." (John 14:12).

Do we not believe that God will keep His promises? Do we think it a strange and wonderful thing that He does keep them? Why should we doubt God who spoke the world into existence and all things therein by His Word? Do we look upon Him to be one as weak and frail as man? Can we not have implicit faith and confidence in our Heavenly Father who has unlimited power, and is seeking our good and His glory in everything? Why should we think it a thing incredible for God to show special love and mercy to those who seek His honor only?

When Jesus was here in the flesh, people believed because they saw Him and beheld the miracles which He did. Thomas believed that He was the resurrected Christ because he saw the nail prints in His hands and feet and felt of the pierced side. Jesus said, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29.

Brethren, let us believe God and not think it strange that He keeps His promise to those who love and serve Him.

When Jesus was exhorting the disciples not to be troubled about what they should eat or drink, telling them not to be of doubtful mind, reminding them that all the nations of the world sought such things and that our Father knew that we had need of the same, He then added, "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." Luke 12:31. If we believe the words of Jesus, why should we withhold our earthly wealth or means from spreading the gospel, or why should we be careful to provide many years ahead as though we were afraid somewhere down the line God would fail to give us our needs? It saddens our heart to note that those who profess to know God and have faith in Him, and act just the opposite, are making more unbelievers, atheists, and infidels than any other class of people. Though many profess faith in God and claim to walk by faith, the majority go by feelings and sight, and the devil is the author of such. Many in these days are reasoning themselves astray. Brother, it need not be you or me. Remember that each of us is choosing his own destiny. Whatsoever we let into our heart will issue out. We are exhorted to "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23.

We have mentioned before about praying for the Lord to supply His Print Shop with a new type-setting machine, as the old Linotype was so badly worn that we were having trouble with it all the time. One day in June we received a letter from a brother in the Lord in a distant state who knew nothing about this great need, only as the Lord may have burdened his soul. In the letter he said that he had some money which he wanted to place where it could be used to the glory of God, and asked us if we knew any place. At once we felt assured that God was working and we wrote him about our burdens and prayers for a new type-setting machine. He wrote back that he would send us \$1500.00 on the machine. This was a great encouragement to us and we

were assured in our hearts that God would supply the rest.

We made mention of this matter in the paper to give the saints everywhere an opportunity to give of their substance for the purchasing of the machine, if God so led. Others began to give, and we had sufficient means to buy a good machine. We ordered an "Intertype" machine which was to be shipped from New York City. It was a factory rebuilt machine with three magazines, three moulds, and all worn parts had been replaced with new parts. We also ordered a Monomelt with it. It was equipped with the latest features of type-setting machines. The total cost was \$2400.00. It has been installed nearly a year now and is doing good work. The Lord supplied the full amount and there is no debt nor obligation to meet. We truly thank God for this machine.

As the old Linotype machine was hauled away, there was a deep thankfulness to God in our hearts for the use of that machine for so many years. It was the goodness of God that allowed us the use of the old Linotype machine for twenty years, to set type to print and send forth messages of love, truth, and light to thousands upon thousands of souls, and we thanked God for its use. Our hearts vibrate with praise to God for the Intertype machine to take its place so the work of printing and sending forth the clean, pure gospel of Christ to the people by the printed page can continue. This is more of the goodness of God, and those who have been instrumental in God's hands in placing this machine in His Print Shop will not fail to be rewarded, as God does not forget our labor of love and sacrifice shown toward His name, and in behalf of needy eternity-bound souls. Let everyone who reads give thanks to God for this much needed Intertype machine.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

National Campmeeting Begun at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri in 1938

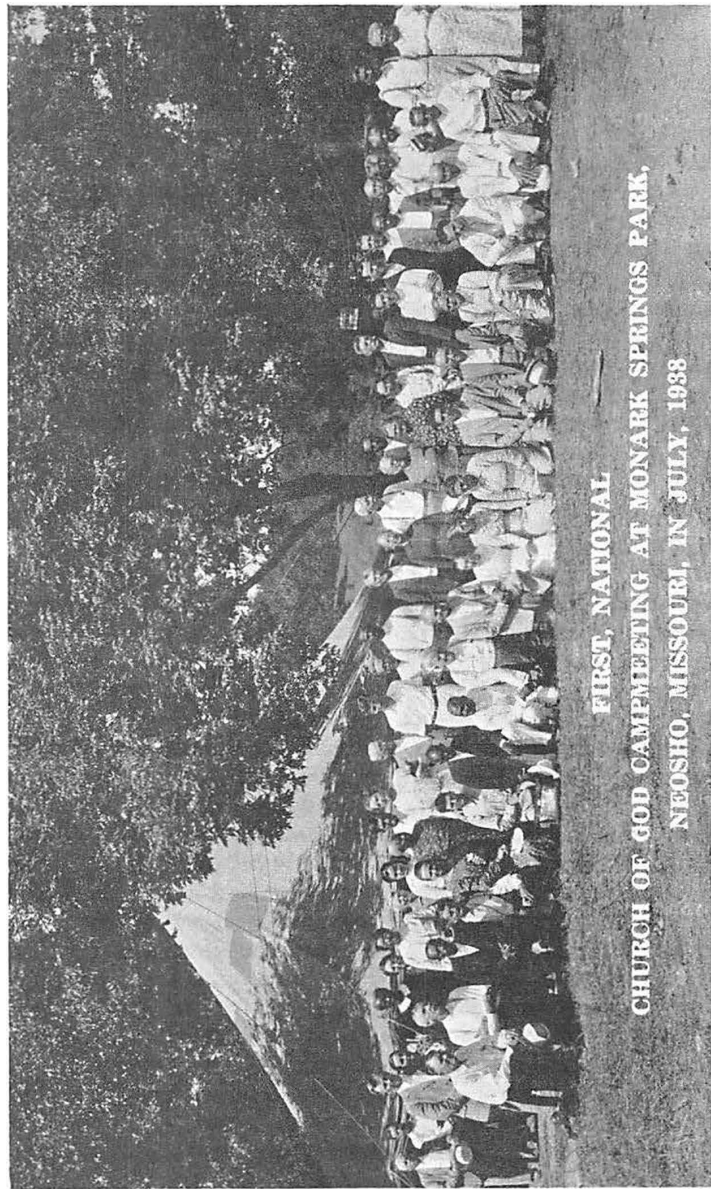
In the summer of 1937 at the Newcastle, Ind., campmeeting, mention was made of having a "National Campmeeting" each year located in some good, central location. It was decided to have the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo., as there is plenty of good water and shade in that public park. This was advertised through the *Faith and Victory* paper and the saints began to respond. Money was sent in so the saints could build a dining hall at that place. A large tent was pitched, and the first meeting was held in the summer of 1938, in July.

Following is the report of the first National Campmeeting:

The Monark Springs, Mo., Campmeeting closed on the 31st day of July. It was a meeting that will long be remembered by those who were present, as many very precious and inspiring messages were given out to those attending. The people gathered in from all parts of the country, 18 states or more being represented, and many saints met each other in blessed fellowship that had never met before. It was a time of gathering together. There were some who came that were not in harmony with all the truth, and others came who needed instruction and were looking for the "old paths." As usual, the enemy was doing all he could to hinder, but in a general sense he was defeated and the truth prevailed.

A number of souls were saved, believers were sanctified wholly, and a number of bodies were healed. Many souls testified to the great good they were receiving in this meeting. Speaking in a general sense, the meeting was very good.

The ordinances of the Bible were observed on the last Saturday of the meeting, and 150 happy saints took part in this service. The meeting was cared for nicely by free-



FIRST, NATIONAL

CHURCH OF GOD CAMPEETING AT MONARK SPRINGS PARK,

NEOSHO, MISSOURI, IN JULY, 1938

will offerings. It was agreed by those present to have the "National Campmeeting" in this park the next year, during the last two weeks in July.

We show here a picture of ministers and their wives who were present and the names of the same are as follows:

Standing, left to right: G. Buller, Bro. Carter, Bro. Foster, Ruth Murphey, Lela Robinson, Sis. Gerrick, Emma Holden, Lizzie Harper, Susie Whipple, Frances Bell, Bro. Davis, Katherine Key, Bro. Porter, Ethan Tilton, Edd Whipple, Ulysses Phillips, John Strong, Lula Strong, G. E. Harmon, Sadie E. Harmon, Jake Spears, Sis. Marvin Porter, Eliza Holdcraft, H. R. Holdcraft, Earl Brown, T. Z. Lawson, Bro. Smith, S. L. Burke, Bro. Rapp, C. M. Hicks, C. Z. Stonecypher, O. B. Wilson Sr., Mattie Wilson.

Sitting, from left to right: W. I. Miles, H. W. White, T. T. Holden, C. T. Tilton, Sister Tilton, Ray Key, W. W. Crawley, S. T. Walker, Bro. Brown, Charlie Bowers, Artie Bowers, Anna Feters, Sis. W. J. Allen, A. E. Harmon, Fred Pruitt, Sam Barton, O. B. Wilson Jr., George Peek, John P. Strech.

There is no question that God is doing much shaking in these days. (Heb. 12:26). He is not only shaking the earth (literal powers), but He is also shaking the ecclesiastical heavens and only those who cannot be shaken will remain and will constitute the real wife, or church (Rev. 19:7) that has made herself ready. These many cliques, clans, and bands are witnesses of this fact. The true Church of God will shine brighter and more powerfully as the end draws near. There will be something near and almost like the real Church of God for you to be shaken into, unless you keep hid away with Christ and continue to walk in His redeeming love, keeping yourself loose from all the world and professors who lack faith in God, together with fanatics and those who with some peculiar ideas, rise up and draw disciples away after them. An entire separation from all the world and its sinful follies is the only safe place for a saint.

Those who attended the National Campmeeting the next year in July, 1939, reported a better meeting than

the last. At the meeting they elected a board of trustees to attend to the temporal affairs of the campmeeting. The decision was to continue the National Campmeeting each year at Monark Springs, Mo. It was thought best to buy a tract of land near the park on which to build a pavilion, so it would not be necessary to pay rent on a large tent each year, and they could still use the dining hall built in the park close to the good springs of water.

At the Oklahoma campmeeting here at Guthrie this year (1939) Bro. John Strech put the proposition before the saints about buying the 4-acre tract at Monark Springs, which would cost \$500.00. It was to be laid off in lots and sold on long term lease at \$10.00 each, on which to build individual cabins. The proceeds are to be used in paying for the land or building the pavilion. The saints of the state of Oklahoma agreed to donate \$250.00 to be applied on the buying of the land. Monark Springs, Mo. will be an established place for the National Campmeeting.

In October 1938, Bro. T. Z. Lawson of Newcastle, Ind. held a revival meeting here at Guthrie in the saints' chapel. It was greatly blessed and owned of God. We shall here give the report that was in the *Faith and Victory* paper:

"The revival meeting which Brother T. Z. Lawson of Newcastle, Indiana, held here at the chapel, closed Sunday night, October 30th. It was a meeting that will long be remembered by the saints at this place. It was not necessary for him to preach a week or ten days to get the saints ready for a revival meeting, for we had all been praying for the revival and some began to go to the altar the second night after Bro. Lawson came and began to preach. There was someone at the altar nearly every night of the meeting. Some came to get saved and others for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Some in the congregation here felt the need of a deeper work of grace in their souls, came to the altar and definitely got what they desired of the Lord.

"Bro. Lawson preached the Word straight and clear with power and demonstration in the Spirit, and the Holy

Ghost did His office work by convicting and drawing souls to Christ. Some received the witness of the Holy Ghost while sitting in their seats listening to the preaching of the Word, and others cleared up with the Lord at home. Seven were at the altar the last night of the meeting, and all received their hearts' desire as the saints gathered around and continued in prayer to God for them. A number of souls received the second definite work of grace in their souls during this meeting. When the old-time gospel is preached by one whose heart is filled with the love of God, it will be weighty upon souls and the Holy Spirit will work with it, bringing souls to the blood for salvation and cleansing.



Elvin and Mary Lola (Pruitt) Embly. Married in 1937, they have two daughters and one son.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

A Sketch of Print Shop Workers

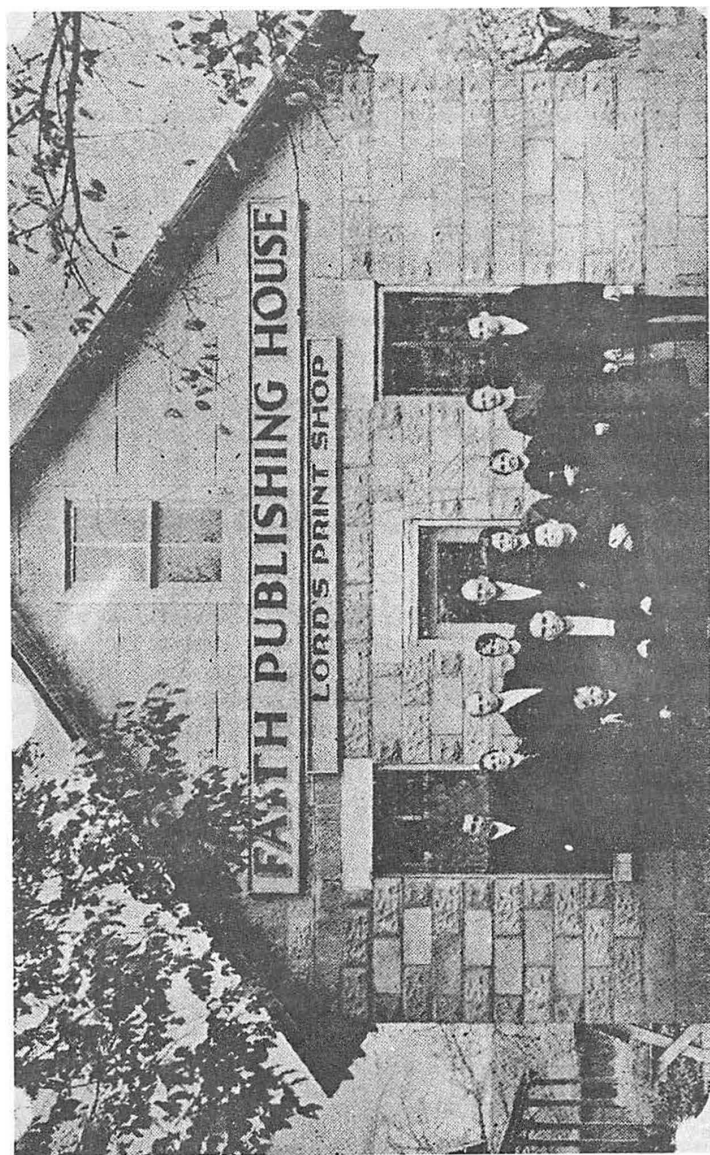
It seems to us that this book would be incomplete and less interesting if we should fail to insert a picture of the group of workers at Faith Publishing House and give you a short sketch of each one and his part in the work.

Standing, from left to right:

No. 1. Willie C. Murphey was born and reared in Louisiana. He has been associated with Faith Pub. House for several years. For a year or more he operated the Linotype machine. At present he has a position with a publishing plant here in Guthrie as a Linotype operator. He is saved and sanctified and is still much interested in the printing of the gospel. He helps with the work here in different ways.

No. 2. Frances Edna Pruitt, our youngest daughter, now 21 years of age, has been helping in the printing work since she was old enough to fold papers and tracts by hand. She is saved, sanctified and interested in the Lord's work. She operates the folding machine, writes addresses, and does other work in the "Lord's Print Shop."

No. 3. Lawrence Daniel Pruitt is 27 years of age, and has been saved since he was fourteen years of age. He began operating the Linotype when he was thirteen. Much of the time while he was in high school and college, he would do the typesetting on the machine after school hours and on Saturdays. He attended one summer term (1931) of the Mergenthaler Linotype School at New Orleans, La., and at present is Linotype operator for the Co-Operative Pub. Co. of this city. He is very much interested in the Lord's printing work and keeps the Intertype machine in working order, does some of the proofreading and edits the "Young People's Page" of the paper. Standing by his side is Maybelle (Miles), his wife, and in front of him is their small son, Byron, who says that he is going to work for Grandpa when he gets big. Maybelle helps in folding, wrapping, and mailing the



paper and other work when she is needed and can be free from household duties.

No. 4. Brother O. C. Porter and wife, who live here in Guthrie. They are devoted saints of God, and are much interested in the furtherance of the gospel. He taught school for a number of years, and at present is engaged in the retail grocery business. He edits the "Bible Lessons" each month for the *Faith and Victory* and orders charts and cards for the Sunday schools. His son, Clark, 16 years of age, is helping us now in the Print Shop, doing press work and is learning to operate the Intertype.

No. 5. Sister Mary Roethler lives here in Guthrie, and is greatly interested in the Lord's work. She is always ready to help in every way she can. She was a Catholic when God wonderfully saved her, and later sanctified her nature. She has been helping us fold and wrap the *Faith and Victory* paper each month for a number of years, and also does other office work.

No. 6. Sister Geneva Bailey, whom God has saved, sanctified and called into His work, taught school in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico for a number of years. She has left all the world to follow Jesus, and at present is the Intertype operator here in the Lord's Print Shop. She is filling a very important place in the work.

No. 7. Frank Edward Pruitt, our youngest son, is 21 years of age. For several years he operated the printing presses and did most of the printing. Since this picture was taken, he has married and lives at present in the eastern part of Guthrie. He is now unsaved and much interested in the things of time and sense. We are praying for him and his wife.

No. 8. Sitting down in front is your servant, Fred Pruitt, and his wife, Mary A. Pruitt, to whom the Lord has entrusted the care and operating of the Faith Publishing House. Years ago we covenanted with God to be true to Him unto the end and to let Him lead us by His Spirit. We need your prayers continually as the responsibilities are great and the opposition to real Bible truth is increasing.

Our eyes are on the Lord, and we mean by His grace to follow Him all the way.

Wife does a large part of the correspondence, looks after the addresses for the paper, helps with the wrapping and mailing, besides doing a large part of the housework, including the washing and ironing. She is a very busy woman. Pray for her. She loves the Lord and the cause.

We had been asking the Lord for a Metal Saw and Trimmer that was needed in His printing shop. One who was closely connected with the publishing work was moved upon by the Lord to give a free-will offering which paid most of the price of the machine. The saw was ordered from a Michigan Company and it has proved to be a good buy. It is used much in the shop, giving us much more accuracy in the work done. We are truly thankful for this machine. Since having it in the shop to use, we hardly know how we got along without it.

Other items were needed in the shop and repair work needed to be done, and the Lord sent Bro. Klokner here from Chicago to do this work. He brought his tool chest with him and stayed several weeks.

We shall insert here an Editorial printed in the May issue of *Faith and Victory*, which tells of his work here and some other items of interest that took place at that time.

"The meeting here at the saints' chapel closed on Sunday night, 16th of April, 1939. Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Bro. U. Phillips of Dover, Okla., were here doing the preaching, and the messages went forth in power and demonstration of the Spirit. The saints were encouraged by them, and the unsaved were much convicted by the Spirit of God in some of the services. Bro. Krause and wife of Pennsylvania, were here to attend part of the meeting, and enjoyed the good things from the Lord. They will be visiting here in Guthrie for two weeks before going on East. They are precious saints, and we are all enjoying their association and fellowship. Brother M. Klokner of Chicago is visiting us for several weeks also, and the saints here in the

congregation are glad to have him with us. Bro. Klokner is making himself quite at home here in the Lord's Print Shop. He has made some nice 'composing stone' tables for the shop and is doing other needed repairs. He is also having us print a 20-page booklet for him while he is here, entitled *My Life's Story*. It is very interesting. It tells how God can take a poor sinner out of a horrible pit and put a new song in his mouth, even praises unto our God. He is leaving a quantity of them here at the office to be sent to all who ask for them."

In the spring of 1939 our hearts were being stirred to get out into evangelistic work, and the call was coming from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Hence, it was pleasing to the Lord for a company of us to go to that city the first part of May. We were quite burdened about making a trip so far with the old car, as it was so badly worn that we did not think it would make the trip there and back. We went to the Lord in earnest prayer, asking Him to supply us with a car that we could depend upon. We had been using the other car wholly in the Lord's work in various ways. We have always been able to find some aged folks to take back and forth to meeting, and have used the car freely in this way, and took pleasure in doing so. The Lord helped us to trade this car in on a 1937 four-door Plymouth car, which we were satisfied would make the trip, and many more as the Lord would lead. I am persuaded after many years of experience with the buying of cars and God's tender ways toward His trusting, believing children that no one need be doubtful about God supplying them with another car when the old one wears out, if they will be careful to use the car to the glory of God.

Bro. and Sister J. N. Murphey, and Bro. Ostis Wilson Jr., accompanied us on this tour. The first meeting was held in Minneapolis, Minn. We stopped at Iowa Falls, Iowa and took Sister Chase with us so she would be in the meetings. We were kindly received and cared for in J. J. Robart's house while holding the meeting, which was in many respects very precious, although the enemy tried hard in the beginning of the meeting to keep the

Word from having the proper effect. The Lord overpowered him in his efforts and there was a breaking through and a breaking up of souls. For several nights there were some at the altar of prayer—some to be saved and others to be sanctified. We had the pleasure of witnessing again the mighty redeeming power of God to save, and the precious cleansing and infilling of the Holy Ghost. We spent some precious days there with the little band of saints. We shall not forget their co-operation in this battle against sin and for the salvation of souls.

The next meeting was to be in north Missouri, so we motored down to Forest City and stopped with Bro. Edd and Susie Whipple while we held meeting in a church building near their place. This meeting was hindered by rain; and, too, it was a community building. Others had dates to use it, for which we had to give way. The meeting did not come up to our expectations, although the Lord did richly bless and gave us some very precious services. On the last night of the meeting several were convicted and sought for prayer.

We came back to the office and found an abundance of work to do. A 200-page book was to be printed, for which Geneva Bailey had set the type while we were out in the gospel work. Also, the *Faith and Victory* was to be set up, printed, and prepared for mailing, and all this was to be done in a month, as we were impressed by the Lord to attend the Hammond, La., Campmeeting, which would begin on June 30th. The Lord certainly did help us in this month's work, for we labored early and late. We got the book printed and shipped out, and the paper in the mail before we had to leave for the meeting at Hammond, La.

On this evangelistic trip we took Frances, our daughter, Geneva Bailey, Eldora Creel, and Clark Porter Jr. along. The meeting at Hammond was real profitable, and the Lord worked from the beginning to the end. Souls were saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed. After the Hammond meeting, our company went near Loranger, La., about twelve miles from Hammond, in company with Bro. and Sister Ray Key to hold a meeting. There was good attendance, good interest, and some were saved.

During this meeting several of us stayed with Sister Anna Joiner (or Mother Joiner, as she is known there). Her home has been a stopping place for the preachers for years. She and her two daughters live together, and they certainly make the saints welcome at their home. Sister Joiner believes it is her calling of God to take care of the ministers, and she is greatly blessed of God in doing this work. There is a congregation of very precious saints in this community. Near the rural "Oak Grove" meeting house is a small cemetery in which lies the remains of three pioneer ministers: Bro. F. M. Williamson, Bro. Jackson, and Bro. Jeremiah Cole. They labored faithfully and have long since gone to their reward and their works do follow them. Others have entered into their labors and the gospel truth that they loved so dearly is still being taught and lived in that community. Bro. Oscar Williamson and family, a son of the late pioneer minister, Bro. Frank Williamson, lives in this community and is a pillar in the Church at that place. We have great confidence in all of God's dear saints there. God bless everyone.

When this meeting was over, we went to Kentwood, La., forty miles north near the Mississippi state line, and held a meeting which was greatly blessed of God. Bro. and Sister Key also helped in this meeting. The brethren had built a brush arbor, but on account of the rain, we had to use the meeting house most of the time. We had meeting in the morning at 10:30 and at night. Much interest was manifested in both morning and night services. The house was crowded every night, and much conviction rested upon the unsaved. A number were saved and some were sanctified wholly. The Lord has a nice little congregation of saints at that place, and they are zealous in the cause of God. We were all refreshed greatly with their association. While there, we stayed at Sister Lea's house, a mother in Israel, and we shall not forget her kindness. We also appreciated the hospitality of the other saints whose homes were opened to us.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

Oklahoma State Campmeeting Held at Guthrie

We arrived back at the office August 1st, just a few days before the State campmeeting began here at Guthrie, and we were soon in the midst of this meeting. God worked and saints came in from all over this state and from other states. Ninety-four took part in the ordinance services. Souls were saved, bodies healed, and believers sanctified.

In reviewing the work of the Lord in the earth among men, we are encouraged to fight on against sin of every kind, and to do all we can for the souls of men. The Lord blesses us very much in the printing work, and the many tracts, papers, books, and booklets are being circulated over the United States and reaching into many foreign countries. The Lord is also helping us to get the truth to the great number of men and women in the jails and penitentiaries throughout the land.

The Lord has been very good in supplying the office with the needed machinery. Since we wrote the first part of this book, the Lord has supplied His Print Shop with a sixteen-inch paper cutter for the tract work, a good 12 by 18 Platen Press in place of the worn-out one, an 8 by 12 Platen Press for the smaller work, a good wire stitching machine in place of the old one, a paper folding machine to fold, paste, and trim the *Faith and Victory* paper, a good Intertype machine in place of the old worn-out Linotype, and a metal saw and trimmer. The Lord saw our needs, heard our cries, and supplied from His great storehouse. By the loving kindness of God, the Faith Publishing House is better equipped for printing and sending forth the gospel than ever before. We humbly and sincerely thank God for this, and we know that some dear saints will be greatly rewarded for obeying His voice and giving of their substance to the work of the Lord.

The Kingdom of God is increasing among men in light, power, and unity, also in numbers. Many who profess to know Christ seem not to see the Kingdom of

God. Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. In looking over Christendom, we are made to wonder at the few who give evidence of really seeing the kingdom of God. Very many are like the Jews that crucified the Lord—they are looking and expecting Him to come and set up a literal kingdom. Pilate understood very plainly that Jesus was a King (John 18:37)—not going to be, but was then. In verse 36 He told Pilate that His kingdom was not of this world. In other words, the power and authority He had of being a King did not originate in this world; it was from heaven. Hence, in the Gospel and Epistles, it is spoken of as the kingdom of heaven and also the kingdom of God. The two terms are used interchangeably in the Scriptures. When Pilate was to release a prisoner, he asked the Jews if he should release the "King of the Jews"; and they cried, "Not this man, but Barabbas." They would not acknowledge that Jesus was a King. When Pilate brought Jesus forth and was in the judgment seat, he said to the Jews, "Behold your King"; and again he said, "Shall I crucify your King?" When they did crucify Him, Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross which read: "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." The Jews saw it and were displeased with the writing. They wanted him to change it and write: "He SAID, I am King of the Jews." Pilate was firm in his belief and would not change it. Many, yes, very many professed Christians today are saying by their actions and words: "I will not have this man to reign over me." (Luke 19:14); but they are looking for Him to come and set up a literal kingdom where their fleshly ambitions will be gratified, even as the Jews were and are.

One who is really "born again" and has entered into the kingdom of God is at present reigning with Christ on earth, and enjoys this peaceful, happy reign right now. John the Baptist knew that Jesus was a King, and said to the people, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 3:2. When Jesus began to preach, He told the people to "repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17. Again in Mark 1:15, when He was

preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God in Galilee, He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." The kingdom was not to be in the future some time, but He said that the time was fulfilled, and the kingdom "is at hand" now. Jesus made a very strong statement of His power as a King just before He ascended, for He said to the disciples: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." No king could have any more power than that. Why do not people act like Jesus has all power in heaven and in earth? The only reasonable answer is: they do not accept Him as King, and will not let this Man reign over them, and thus they continue under the influence and power of the air in this world.

Paul tells us that God has "delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." Col. 1:13.

When we read in the Bible today of the many idols that people worshipped in the olden times, we look upon the scene with horror, and wonder how people could be in such great darkness and superstition as to worship images made with men's hands. The Hebrews made a golden calf and worshipped and danced around it with glee, even after God had so wonderfully protected them and performed miracles time after time to give them food and to keep them from being slaughtered by their enemies. It seems to us in this enlightened age that they were very stupid, indeed. God has said in His Word: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The question comes to us: Are we free from IDOL worship today? An idol is anything that gets between us and God, and hinders us from being free to be led by His Spirit. If it were not for idol worship today, it would be easy for God to lead all truly saved people into the one Body, the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. The fact is, the whole world is cursed with idol worship. The devil has men to organize themselves into what they please to call a church—with rules, regulations, and class book—which becomes an idol to them. They dance around it with glee, thinking if they belong to

this, they will go to heaven. They become so darkened and love their idol so much that they fail to realize that God looks upon them as being stupid and rebellious like the professors of old. If the Word of God comes along and cuts their idol into pieces, or their idol falls under its own weight, they go to work at once and patch it up by making excuses and wresting the Scriptures. They set it up again as the people did "Dagon" of old, while others will set up another idol and go dancing around it, having what they call a glorious good time. No wonder that God's wrath is kindled against this people and perilous times exist.

If folks who really get saved would have enough confidence and faith in God to lean solely on Him and be led only by His Spirit, they would never get entangled in sectism, and God could easily lead them into all truth, settling and establishing them in His Holy Ghost organized Church, where He "sets the members in the body as it pleases Him." Then each one could freely function in the body to the edifying of the same and the salvation of other souls, and God Almighty would be their God and they His sons and daughters.

Hear the voice of the Scriptures calling His children out and away from idol worship, in Rev. 18:2, 4: "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying Babylon the great [sectism—men's cliques, clans, and movements] is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird . . . And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, MY PEOPLE, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Also read the sixth chapter of Second Corinthians, beginning with the fourteenth verse; and you can see very plainly that God wants you to forsake such things so you can be free to be His son or daughter and He can truly be your God.

When the Apostle John finished his epistle to the Church, he concluded by saying, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." I John 5:21. The only safe place for any saint is to be wholly separated from this old world and all worldly religious movements, no matter whether

they call themselves the Church of God or some other name.

Jesus says, "If any man [that means you] will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Luke 9:23.

The out-look for the future shining of God's Church is very good, and we look for her to gather power and brightness as time goes on.

In 1937 the saints of Oklahoma purchased three lots and house directly north across the alley from where the chapel stands here in Guthrie, and have made this property into a dining hall. The Church of God State Campmeeting is being held here each summer in August, and the State Assembly Meeting during the Christmas holidays of each year. The National Campmeeting grounds are being established at Monark Springs, Mo., and many other campmeetings are being held both in Oklahoma and in other states.

When God saved us, we promised Him to be led by His Spirit, and we have that decision today. We can look over the past and see how graciously He has led us from victory to victory. He has brought us through the many severe trials that were our lot, and today we rejoice greatly in Him who is the Beloved of the Father. We do not know how He will lead in the future, but we have it settled to follow Him in the crucified way and when life here is over, occupy that "Building of God," the House not made with hands, that glorified body. (II Cor. 5:1).

We ask the readers of this book to pray for us.

Yours in the Beloved,

—Fred Pruitt

God's Gracious Dealings

Part Three

(Printed in 1943)

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

The Church Stands Clear from Compromise

The second edition of *God's Gracious Dealings* has been out of stock for some time, and calls continue to come for the book, so it pleases the Lord for us to print and circulate more of these books to the public. We are adding Part Three to tell about some of God's dealings with us during the four years which have elapsed since the second edition was printed. In order to enable you to get better acquainted with the workers, we are inserting some pictures and comments about their work in the office and their consecration to God and His service.

God has permitted us to go through many severe tests and trials since the second edition of this book was published, but He has proven faithful and has brought us through and out of them with stronger faith and confidence in Him than ever before. Today we look into the future and see storm clouds gathering; and, according to the sacred writings of the Bible, the Church will be passing through trials and tests of faith in the near future equal to, or more severe than it did in the early morning of the gospel day when many were imprisoned and others slain for Jesus' sake. None of these threatenings move us, for we are persuaded that God is abundantly able to keep that which we have committed to Him against that day. We move on as He leads the way with heavenly joy in our souls, knowing that Satan is already a conquered enemy, for Jesus gives power to tread on serpents (poisoning spirits) and scorpions (stinging spirits) and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt us. (Luke 10:19). Those who really believe God's Word and all of His promises do not fear the future threatenings, neither do they fear Satan, but they fear God and have perfect confidence in God that He will take care of the devil and all of his imps.

In these last days God is not only shaking the earth by allowing the sinful nations to engage in a bloody war, but He is also shaking heaven—the ecclesiastical heavens. All who will not follow Him in this blazing evening light by separating from the world and bearing the reproach of the cross, will be shaken off into some clique or clan and will become fighters against the holy remnant. In the Judgment Day they will be looked upon as goats and set on the left hand. In these last, closing days, great will be the shaking, the pulling apart, and sifting out, and the coming in of the pure, and this state of affairs will increase as time is filling and closing up.

Following is an article which was printed in the January, 1940, issue of *Faith and Victory*. The Lord gave it to us then, and we believe it is pleasing to Him for us to insert it here.

The Two Gates, or Doors

Jesus told Peter, "And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. Many question what those gates are. Where are they located? Why are they of hell?

Let us first look into the Word of God and see what the door or gate to heaven is. If we can get the door or gate to heaven properly located and understood, then we ought to, by the Word, find out what the gates of hell constitute, or represent.

After Abraham had been faithful to obey God in being willing to sacrifice upon the altar the dearest that earth held for him, God blessed him; and among other things, He said, "Thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies." Genesis 22:17.

The seed He referred to was Christ. Jesus had many enemies and He was the door or gate that opened heaven to men, and those people who hated Him and were His enemies would have to come in at the gate, or door, and abide in Him, if they would get into heaven. Jesus says, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." John

10:9. The first verse says, "He that . . . climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber." The Pharisees (of whom we have many today), were trying to go to heaven on their "self-righteousness," but Jesus classed them as thieves and robbers.

When we look further concerning the gate of heaven, we find that it includes the saints of God, those who are in Christ, for we become a part of the body and are the children or seed of Abraham by faith. Paul says, "We are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones." Ephesians 5:30.

In Ephesians 1:22, 23, Paul tells us that God gave Jesus to be "the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all." We see by this that the saved people that are abiding in Him are His body, the Church. Therefore, they are the gate that leads to heaven and to God. There is only one gate that leads to heaven, and that gate is Christ and His seed, which constitute the Church of God, the seed of Abraham. Of this church, Jesus said that the gates (notice it is in the plural number) of hell shall not prevail against it (singular number). Though there be many gates of hell, they have never prevailed against the Church of God, the seed of Abraham, and never shall prevail against her.

When Jacob dreamed, he saw a ladder set up on the earth, which was a figure of the Church of God. He said the top of it reached to heaven—thank God, a part of the church is in heaven. Paul said, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." Eph. 3:14, 15. Jacob saw the "angels of God ascending and descending on it." Genesis 28:12. Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:22 that we that are saved have come unto mount Sion (a metaphor of the church), and to the city of the living God (a metaphor of the church), the heavenly Jerusalem (a metaphor of the church) and to an innumerable company of angels. Jacob saw these angels, and he also said the Lord stood above it (singular). When Jacob awakened out of his sleep, he said, "Surely the

Lord is in this place; and I knew it not." He was afraid, and said, "How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the House of God [a metaphor of the Church of God] and this is the gate [singular] of heaven." He makes it clear that the church is the gate to heaven.

Jesus says, "Enter ye in at the strait gate." Matt. 7:13. I believe that we have given sufficient proof by the Scriptures that Jesus is the gate or door leading to heaven, and we that are saved and abide in Him constitute His Body, the church; therefore all who get to heaven must enter in at the gate, the Body of Christ, become a member of the family of God by a spiritual birth, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

If the gate of heaven is set up on the earth, which we have found to be so, then we can also look for the gates of hell to be here in the earth. Jesus said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." They must be exerting much power and influence to prevail against the church, or it would have been unnecessary for Jesus to speak in this manner.

Satan has certainly cleverly organized and arranged competition in the form of churches to decoy unsuspecting souls into his gates, which are the gates of hell.

Let us read what Jesus says, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves." Matt. 23:15. Now there is no question but that in Jesus' time, the organized sects (so-called churches) were the gates of hell which he referred to that would not be able to prevail against the true church. It is also plain to see that when the sects got souls in, they were on the way to hell. Satan does his most clever fighting against God and His people under a cloak of religion. We often hear the ministers of the numerous sect churches of our day saying, "We will now open the door of the church." Large numbers are going in at the gates of the sects today, for blind, unsuspecting souls are decoyed into them by the thousands and yet they have not, and are

not, and will not prevail against the true Church of God, or the tabernacle "which the Lord pitched and not man." (Heb. 8:2).

I have heard folks say that they thought it was fine that we had so many churches of different beliefs and doctrines, for everyone can find one that suits his or her belief and join it. How clever Satan is in fixing an easy way for everyone. Old Satan has easy ways all right, and even has so-called holiness churches for them to get into; also some of them he calls "Church of God." He just has any brand and kind you want, and unsuspecting and unlearned souls do not seem to know that his churches are the gates of hell. Once you get in there, he so poisons the soul with false teaching and wresting of the Scriptures that one gets into a stupor or daze, and if the Spirit of God tries to convict him then, Satan will whisper to him, "You are all right, you belong to the church." Thus the poor soul is lulled to sleep again and travels on toward hell with a profession of religion.

The Spirit of God is in the world, and he is faithful to convict souls of their need of getting right with God, and just as soon as they become alarmed a little, Satan has his agents on hand to invite them to "join our church," promising them life and heaven in the end, when in reality it is a gateway to hell.

When the prodigal took his Father's goods and went into a far country (Luke 15:13)—a far country represents people far away from God—he soon experienced a famine in that country, and he was in want. He awoke to the fact that his soul was starving to death. In his desperate condition he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country. (These sects are citizens of this country. The citizenship of the saints, the truly saved people, is in heaven, and they are not of this world even as Christ and the disciples were not of this world.) He was sent out to feed swine (people with dirty, filthy, hoggish souls). He would fain have filled his belly with that which the swine did eat (with that which his soul preferred not). Being in this condition, he finally came to himself and began to look to the Father, and with a

repenting heart he came out of that thing, confessed his awful sin directly to the Father, and found great mercy and compassion. He came into the true Church of God in the true way, by repentance and faith in God, and the Father took him to the house, put shoes on his feet, a ring on his hand and brought forth the best robe and put it on him. He made a new creature out of him, for he said that he "was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found."

Dear soul, you who have been decoyed into some sect, there is hope for you if you will come to yourself and will hear the voice of God calling for you. Read the latter part of the sixth chapter of Second Corinthians. The voice of God through the Scriptures is calling for you to "Come out from among them," do not touch nor abide there, and He will receive you. He will be a Father unto you and you can be His son or daughter. God has never told us to join ourselves to the citizens of this country, but to join Him alone, just abide in Him.

Babylon is a symbol of confusion, and certainly these multiplied sects with their different doctrines and teachings are a mess of confusion. God is calling to souls in them, saying through John the Revelator: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become [already] the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Rev. 18:2. In the fourth verse he says, "And I heard another voice from heaven saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." If you are in there and you really love the Lord, the true God, this call is to you.

The Scriptures say, "Hell hath enlarged herself" (Isa. 5:14): and it seems so in these last days, for thousands upon thousands are going in at her gates and many that once had light and knowledge have cunningly been deceived and Satan has woven a sect around them and has them in his slimy pen. But for all this, the gates of hell are not prevailing against the true Church of the living God, for there are some who will not join the "citizens of this country," but will abide only in Him and

keep separated from this old sin-cursed world. Their life is from God out of heaven; and that life (which is the Holy Spirit in the soul), will put on a glorified body and live with God forever.

The Lord has been increasing the publishing work and leading us out into the truth concerning the Church, the Body of Christ. He has burdened us to print many articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper and circulate tracts on this subject. The world of religious professors is getting farther and farther away from Christ and the true worship, and the saints that are walking in the true evening light are getting more and more in harmony with heaven. Thus a wide breach, which is widening all the time, is separating them, one from the other, until the Church will shine so brightly, being the body of Christ, that religious professors will see the contrast and feel condemnation coming to their souls from its ever increasing glow. They will be stirred by evil spirits to say, "Away with such people, it is not fit for them to live"—even as the self-righteous professors did to Christ who was God in man. The Church, which is the body of Christ in the world, will receive the same evil treatment. When they compass them about to give them the last blow to slay His body, the church, God will send fire down from heaven to destroy them. Satan is already a conquered devil, even though God does allow him to persecute and do much evil to some of the members. The church, the body of Christ, will be victorious and will be caught up to reign with God and all the holy angels forever in a glorified state. Praise God for the hope of glory in our souls!

We often get letters from parties asking us if we are affiliated with the Gospel Trumpet Co. They say that we teach the Scriptures as they do and the church as a divine institution; and they ask, "What is the difference?"

In order to let all inquiring minds know the difference in our teaching and practice and why we cannot affiliate with them, we feel it would please the Lord to reprint "An Open Letter" which appeared in the January issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper in 1940.

AN OPEN LETTER

Dear Sister in the Lord: May God bless and comfort you in all good words and works, is my prayer. I received your letter the other day and was glad to hear from you and to know of your interest in the truth and the oneness of God's people. I have read your letter with interest and believe you to be sincere and earnest in all you write.

I note that you say, "Evidently there is something that keeps us apart"; and you want to know what it is. I say, yes, there are things that keep us apart, because the *Gospel Trumpet* people, as a body, has drifted far from the original teaching that made it a distinct people, separate from sectism. It is true that they teach many doctrines the early reformers taught; and it is also true that they teach and practice many more they did not teach nor practice. A great many of the congregations of the *Trumpet* are so worldly in dress and in participating in the things of the world, that you cannot tell them from the most formal and cold sects. To endorse the *Trumpet* movement, one is compelled to uphold such also, which is an abomination in the sight of God.

The *Trumpet* formerly taught, up to about the year of 1910, that all unnecessary articles of dress are adornment—which is correct. Since that time, they have gradually yielded to adornments and worldly attire until now there is almost no restraint on them at all. If a preacher does cry out against it, there is no weight to his talk, for he generally has some adornment on himself. They formerly taught that it was wrong to be in double marriage, but now they uphold it, and some of their preachers who are in good standing have two living wives or vice versa. They used to teach against the ministers having and owning the titles, "Rev.," "D. D.," etc. These titles were condemned as belonging to sectism and very improper for a humble minister of God to own; but now they are all "Rev." and some are "D. D.'s." They formerly preached without a stipulated salary and went where the Holy Spirit led, regardless of whether there was any money in sight or not. They, or a great many, do

not do that now, but must have a salary, and the evangelist must know that he will get so much to hold the meeting.

They used to teach against "Bible Schools" as a strong mark of sectism, which was right; but now the big thing is the Bible School where they are educated to preach and are taught just how to gesture; and when they come out, the young minister must have a place even if some proven Holy Spirit-filled minister has to step down and out. From what I have been told by parties that attended the school for several years, the spirituality in that place is at a very low ebb. The minister is likely to be worse off when he leaves than when he went there—I mean spiritually speaking, for he may have more "stuff" in his head. They have "Pulpit Committees" now, and the Holy Spirit is not allowed to put the minister in the pulpit with a message from heaven. Again, at one time they denounced the sect book where names were kept, but now they have a substitute in the way of a "year book," and unless the preacher has his name in the year book he is not allowed in the pulpit, except on rare occasions. They must be marked at Anderson to be in good standing. All these things and many more are what makes division between us and them. We are not of the world, even as Christ and His disciples were not of the world, but these folks throw their arms around nearly all manner of worldliness, and either practice, endorse, or tolerate it. To get closer to God, you will get farther from the world and be more like Christ. They teach many things that sound good, but do not practice them. I say, shame on the hireling ministry which they uphold. Another thing, they are forcing the tithing system upon their members, which if done because of force or pressure would not be accepted by the Lord. The only service that God accepts is free-will service, which is prompted by divine love in the soul. If one by his own free-will choice sets aside a tenth of his earnings, being prompted by divine love in the soul, and gives it as the Spirit directs, and not just where some covetous preacher or board may tell him, I am sure that God would bless

that soul; and he would, no doubt, give even more than that because of favors and blessings of God upon him. But to force tithing upon souls is a law spirit, which is foreign to the spirit of Jesus. Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Under the law they forced them to do under penalty of death. I have heard from good authority that one of their ministers exhorted the brethren to have them to agree to tithe while at the altar.

Dear Sister, I, being free from this *Gospel Trumpet* organization and having an opportunity to closely observe its workings, can easily see that it has been gradually molded into one of the most deceitful sects in existence today. However, there are young ministers and many lay members in this organization that are, no doubt, saved to all the light they have, but God is calling them out of her. They should flee the ruin and not take with them a "Babel stone."

We have written plainly to you, as our manner is, about these things, for we believe you to be a person of good sound judgment who will not take any issue until you have thoroughly investigated the matter and know for yourself; and that you will not take a preacher's story about it, whose affections are in the thing; for you know that Jesus said, "If the blind lead the blind, shall they not both fall into the ditch?" And He says again, "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." Matt. 6:23. It is sad to say, but observation and the Spirit make me to know that many of the leaders of this organization have deteriorated to this stage and have made themselves unfit and unsafe for saints to follow. The love and unity that Jesus prayed for in the seventeenth chapter of St. John can only exist among those who are fully separated from the old world. Their citizenship must truly be in heaven and they not of this world even as He and the disciples were not of this world. Those who join themselves to the citizens of this country will soon find themselves in the condition that the prodigal son got into. Their soul will famish for lack of the vital soul nourishment.

Dear one, I assure you that I have written these lines with divine love for souls and a heaven-born burden for the unity and oneness of God's people. May I hear from you again after you have done some personal investigating?

Yours in the Beloved,

—Fred Pruitt



Frank and Helen (Partenhiemer) Pruitt
Married in 1938, they had two sons, Gary and Dennis. Helen departed this life in 1964. Frank was united in marriage to Geraldine Richard on April 9, 1966.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Evangelistic Trip to Northeast

In the spring of 1940 we began to realize the Lord wanted us to make another evangelistic trip to the East, holding meetings in Mo., Ill., Mich., Ohio, and Ind. Consequently, according to His leadings, we left the office work with Wife and Sister Geneva Bailey, and departed on the fourth of April. The evangelistic party consisted of Bro. and Sister Ray Key of Hammond, La., my daughter, Frances, and myself. The first stop was made at Tulsa, Oklahoma, where we visited for a few hours with Bro. Sam Barton and family. After being refreshed in soul and body, we proceeded on to Springfield, Mo., where we stopped in the home of Bro. Robert Porter and family, and shared their hospitality through the evening and night. That evening the Lord gave a precious service at the chapel and we had opportunity to meet the saints in that congregation and enjoyed their fellowship.

On Friday, the fifth, we motored on to Rolla, Mo., and located Bro. Payne, with whom we had corresponded for years but had never met face to face. It was a pleasant and spirit-rejoicing meeting. Bro. Payne had the victory and was overjoyed to see all of us. He has been practically alone there for many years, working for the Lord. He has been giving out tracts and papers and talking to souls about the true way; and now, after much patient waiting on his part, the Lord is raising up a few precious souls. Some are taking their stand for God, free from sectism and all human bands. The cottage prayer meeting was a very blessed one, and the few saints who gathered in were much alive and rejoiced greatly to hear the old-time truth go forth under the anointing of the Spirit. They were very zealous for the cause of God and declared they were going to do all they could to get a place ready so when we returned in June we could hold a revival meeting for them. Our hearts were burdened for that place. It seemed to be ripe for a gathering in of God's redeemed ones.



**Bro. Ray and Sister Katherine (Gubser) Key,
Ministers of the Gospel**

On Saturday we went to Urbana, Ill., where we found a thriving spiritual congregation of saints under the care of Sister Iva Slade. We stayed with them over Sunday and had two services in which God poured out His Spirit and great rejoicing was upon all. Two souls were saved and some healed, and two declared their freedom from sectism. We also visited and prayed for sick ones in two different hospitals.

On Monday, the 8th, we went to Chicago, Ill., and received a hearty welcome in the home of Bro. and Sister Earl Brown. They had announced meeting in their hall on Division St. and the meeting began there that night with victory for the Lord. The Lord also blessed in the preaching of the Word the two nights following. The meeting started off good and the interest increased. We rejoiced to meet with these dear saints.

On Friday night, the 12th of April, after the services were over at the mission, we were called out fifteen miles to pray for a young woman who had been given up to die, and she was unsaved. We talked to her about getting saved, and she wanted to be saved. After quoting Scripture and telling her how to confess and forsake sin, we had prayer and she confessed and believed and peace came into her soul. After she was saved and was happy, we read to her out of the Bible how Jesus healed and how God through His Word had promised to heal us after anointing with oil and praying. We obeyed the Word and she claimed healing at the hand of God. It was two o'clock before we got back to our rooms to rest for the night, but our souls rejoiced in Him.

Sunday, the 14th of April, we had all-day meeting at the mission, and the Lord was so precious to bless in the preaching of the Word. At the night service the power of God was so great and the saints were in such one accord that the preaching was exceedingly gracious and went forth with much power and authority. The Holy Spirit brought heavy conviction on the listeners insomuch that when the altar call was given, eight souls came to the altar for help from God. As far as I know, everyone was satisfied in soul, and the rejoicing of the saints was heard on every hand. Truly, the saints were raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

We gave out many tracts, papers, and books at different places where we stopped, and took subscriptions for the paper all the time. We took a large number of back issues of the paper along with us and threw them out to persons along the highways. We did all we could to get the gospel to souls while out on this tour. We are His sacred property and belong to Him, soul, body, and spirit, for sacrifice or service. We ask all the dear saints to pray for us.

The meeting at Chicago was blessed of the Lord from beginning to the end. On the last night of the meeting we observed the ordinances of the Church—the Lord's Supper and Feet-washing. The saints were all very happy in this service as the Lord was very near and precious.

On April, the 20th, came the parting from the saints in Chicago, as the Lord was moving on our souls to visit other saints and have meetings in other places. In harmony with the leading of the Lord, we went from Chicago to Elkhart, Indiana, at which place we were received into the home of Bro. and Sister Rinehart Priem, who are standing firm for the truth of God's Word. They are precious saints and have deep decisions to follow the Lord in His humble ways. The winds of doctrines that are blowing do not move them from the truth, and we are sure that God will reward them for their labors of love in behalf of needy souls. While there, we had an all-day meeting at Calvin Center, Mich., in a community church building. It was a large structure, and the people attended well and gave good attention to the preaching of the Word. We feel that good seed was planted. We also had the privilege of giving out tracts, papers, and our book, *God's Gracious Dealings*, to these dear people. We do pray that God will bless those precious souls in that community.

While there, Bro. Priem took us to visit a Dunkard preacher, living south of Elkhart. In our talking to him, he informed us that he had had a debate with H. M. Riggle years ago and that he knew all about us people. We talked to him on the Scripture, but soon found that he was in gross darkness concerning the true meaning of the Scriptures. He believed in dipping sinners three times, head first into the water, and that they got saved while being baptized in this way. When I asked him if he believed God could keep us living free from sin, he answered, "I believe it is a possibility, but I sin and you do too." I would rather he would just testify for himself, and let me do my own testifying; but he was so full of talk that one could hardly have any chance to instruct him. We left that place feeling sad at heart to think a man as old as he was—wearing a long grey beard—would be in such darkness, and would soon have to give account to God for many deceived souls.

After bidding farewell to Bro. and Sister Priem on the 25th of April, we went northwest to Marshall, Mich., and

stopped at the home of Bro. and Sister VanZandt where we were received in a saintly manner by these dear ones. After being refreshed in that home overnight, we went on north and visited near Olivet, Mich., with Sister Wright and her husband. We found her to be a precious saint of God, with a sick husband on whom she had to wait continually. We tried our best to encourage her and prayed for him. We talked to him about the goodness of God. After spending a few precious hours with them, we went on north to Owasso, Mich., where we met Bro. and Sister Coleman and family, also Bro. Sands and his wife and others who loved the Lord. They arranged for a meeting that night and twenty-five or thirty of us were together in service. God was very precious to all of us that night. He sent His Word forth on the subject of being sanctified wholly. The attention and interest was good throughout the service. The next morning, we left for Marshall, Mich., where we were to have an all-day meeting on Sunday, the 28th of April. We all thanked the Lord for directing us to Owasso, for we enjoyed the hospitality of Bro. Coleman and family, also Bro. and Sister Sands. We are praying for these dear ones that God will keep them walking in the light of His Word.

The all-day meeting at Marshall, Mich., was a precious gathering. Brothers Parsons and Maurer of Merrill, Mich., came down to spend the day in the services, and our souls were refreshed by their presence. The Lord anointed liberally for the preaching of His Word, and all were encouraged who were saved, and some who had backslidden were much convicted and expressed a desire to get back to God. It seemed that many things were hindering. Brother and Sister VanZandt and their children treated us with much love and hospitality, denying themselves for our comfort. God will reward these dear ones.

On the 29th of April, we parted with these dear saints, and went south to Garrett, Indiana. There we visited for two days in the home of Bro. Scott C. Baker and family. Our bodies were much refreshed. We found his aged mother in the home. She was not well in body,

being eighty-seven years of age, but she was much interested in the things of God and seemed to be resigned to the will of God. We spent some precious moments with her and the family in prayer and reading the Word with comments. The hospitality we received in this home will not be forgotten. They would deny themselves to make us comfortable, which is a mark of heavenly love in the soul, and is characteristic of saints toward one another.

On the first day of May we went east from Garrett one hundred and fifty miles to Sandusky, Ohio, which is situated on the shore of Lake Erie. In this city we were welcomed in the home of Bro. and Sister Crooks, and began meeting that night. The meeting grew in interest. On Sunday we had all-day meeting, and several carloads of the saints came over from Akron, Ohio. The Lord poured out His Spirit upon the saints as the Word went forth under the anointing of the Spirit. Great rejoicing was in the camp and the church was built up and built together in love and unity. Some came to the altar of prayer for help to their souls. God is gleaning out a few souls here and there for His name.

The meeting closed at Sandusky on May 8th with a full house. Much interest in the truth was manifested among them. After the Word was preached on sanctification and the oneness of God's people, and the error of being in sects, several arose and confessed they had received light and were convicted of their need. Some declared they were coming out of man-made churches.

On Thursday, the 9th of May, our company went to Columbus, Ohio, which is over one hundred miles south of Sandusky. We were welcomed into the home of Bro. C. M. Miller. We shared their hospitality for two days and had a good visit with him. He has been doing some personal work, and God has been calling a number of souls out of the Nazarene sect and other sister sects. Those souls were coming home to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. They have obtained joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing, which they had while in the sects, has flown away. We had meeting with

the little flock both evenings we were there, and the Lord blessed and gave much liberty.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

False Teachings in Sectarian World

We believe and teach that all sects are unscriptural; and, being unscriptural and false, they are necessarily filled up with much false teaching which keeps the honest at heart separated from the true church, and aids Satan in hindering the prayer of Jesus that they all be one as He and the Father are one.

If honest souls would separate themselves from all sects and opinions of men and just abide in Christ alone, it would be easy for Him to teach them the truth and to fit and frame them into the true church, or tabernacle, which the Lord has pitched and not man (Heb. 8:2).

"The house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth," is an exclusive, divinely organized institution, separate from the world and all man-made organizations, and has been purchased by His innocent blood (Acts 20:28), and she is without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:27); no sinner or unclean thing is in her. No one with a lion nature or a ravenous beast nature is there (Isa. 35:9). Those with the lion-like natures, in their natural state, can be cleansed by the blood of the Lamb, and be made lamb-like to fit into the true Church. Thus the prophet has said, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them." Isa. 11:6. Read the verses before this one in the chapter, and you shall see that the prophet has reference to the work of Christ when He appeared in the flesh and began to preach the gospel of the kingdom. The man who is cleansed by the blood has lost that wolf nature and begins to rest in the kingdom of God with His lambs. Likewise, the man with a leopard or lion nature is cleansed and lies down with the lambs.

In speaking of the disciples to the Father, Jesus said, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the

world." John 17:16. In the twentieth verse He says, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word." That includes all who are saved today. I am persuaded that every saved soul who remains honest and retains the love of God in his soul, will do all in his power to answer Jesus' prayer. In the next verse, Jesus prayed: "That they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." Allowing objects or material things in this world to separate you from God's exclusive family, is a sin. Man-made organizations (called churches), lodges, worldly societies, and following the fashions and fads of the world will separate you from God's family and damn your soul.

Paul sharply rebuked this divisional spirit in its infancy, and God's wrath is upon such today. Teachers, ministers and writers who say that God's children are scattered in all these divisions, sects, or denominations, and in that state constitute the church that Jesus built, and that there is no exclusive church separate from all these divisions, are only aiding Satan in getting souls into sects which are the gates of hell. Ministers who preach Christ, the man, will succeed in getting many souls into sects, but ministers who are in full light and preach the church which is the spiritual body of Christ in this world, and show its oneness, its divine organization, and its divine government, will succeed in getting souls in the one fold, which is Christ, and into the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth, and is the gate of heaven.

While here upon earth, Christ was in a fleshly body, and it is written: "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. He also said that He was not of this world even though He was here in a fleshly body. Yet His life, strength, wisdom, and power came down from God, and Jesus, the man, was just merely a house of clay for the God-life from heaven. Just so, the true church is in fleshly bodies in this world and is a separate and visible

body of people which are heavenly born and are not of world even as Christ and the disciples were not of the world. Their life, strength, wisdom, and power come from above. There is a wide breach between them and the world, for the life of the world is ruled and governed by Satan, and the life of God in His people is ruled and governed by God. Therefore, the "Battle of Armageddon" is raging today between these two forces. Satan and his religious forces will use carnal weapons, if need be, and all kinds of trickery—lying and different forms of spiritual deceptions; such as, making a show of being pious, setting in motion great revivals, and assuming the name of the church, building great and expensive edifices to house its multitudes. On the other hand, God's subjects are innocent, harmless, and undefiled. Their weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations, and everything that exalts itself against God (II Cor. 10:4, 5). Their sword is the Word of God (Eph. 6:17), and they strike the souls of men with burning and fuel of fire (Isaiah (9:5), destroying the selfish, carnal, fleshly life of the world, laying bare their hearts before the all-piercing eye of God, helping them to see that, even though they think themselves to be something, they are nothing and are only deceiving themselves. In this way the battle of Armageddon will rage and become more fierce, close and hot, as the few remaining years come and go. Satan is now deceiving the nations and his hosts are becoming more numerous all the time, and the saints are getting less in number, but more and more together. Soon the Church will be shining more, with greater power, and persecution will be more severe from the religious hosts. When they get so numerous on the breadth of the earth and compass the camp of the saints about—the Beloved City (Revelation 20:9), the church, which is New Jerusalem, which came down from God out of heaven—then God will send fire down from heaven and devour them. God has always preserved His children when destroying the wicked. He did so when He sent the flood and destroyed all flesh, and when He sent fire and

brimstone down upon Sodom and Gomorrah. He will preserve His visible church when the wicked are burned up with the earth and all things therein.

Satan is deceiving the nations today, and saying that there will be a thousand years reign when Satan will be bound and men will revel in their fleshly lusts and at the same time be in favor with God. Such teaching is foolishness and altogether out of harmony with God's written Word, for when Jesus comes, we shall put on a glorified body, if His life is in our soul, and we shall not have these fleshly desires (I Cor. 15:51). Neither shall we marry any more, for we shall be equal to the angels in heaven (Luke 20:35). The Scriptures they use usually point to God's church and what they enjoy here as His beloved sons and daughters. God's children are reigning now over Satan while he is loose. What glory would it be to reign over a bound enemy? We are reigning now, but Satan has his subjects looking for a reign away off in the future. He is lying to them and deceiving them. He is keeping them from enjoying the kingdom now and will have them sadly disappointed in the future. Oh, thou lying devil, Jesus said you were a liar from the beginning and never did abide in the truth.

Another thing that Satan, through his agents, is making the people believe by his cunning, crafty lying, is that there will be a literal city, Jerusalem, come down from God out of heaven and set on the earth, and that Jesus will be King in it and reign literally over the earth. People are generally so spiritually blind that they cannot see and understand the truth of the Scriptures and do not seem to know that the New Jerusalem which John saw coming down from God out of heaven is none other than "the church of God," or the children of God who are born from above. You will read about this in the twenty-first chapter of Revelation, the second verse: "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." The holy City and new Jerusalem is none other than "the Church of God," the family of God, those born from above. Their life, strength, wisdom, and power comes

down from God out of heaven into their souls, and they constitute the second Adam, the Lord from heaven (I Cor. 15:45-47). They have on robes of righteousness, pure and white, ready for the Bridegroom to come and take them back to heaven (I Thess. 4:14-18). Listen to the third verse of Rev. 21st chapter, "And I heard a great voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men." (Read Hebrews 8:2). God's people here in the earth are His tabernacle. He lives in them and they are His spiritual body. He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, "and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Praise His name!

The next verse says He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. Thank God, when we get into this spiritual house, clear and clean from this old world, we shall not be grieved and shedding tears, wondering where the church is; for we shall be absolutely satisfied and have such assurance that we shall rejoice in Him. "And there shall be no more death." Praise God! Jesus says "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:26. The sting of death is taken away, for physical death will only mean stepping into a greater life with God (I Cor. 15:54, 55) — no more sorrow, crying, or pain, "for the former things have passed away." Saint Paul says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. When we get truly saved, old things pass away. We do not walk according to the course of this world, for we are a new creation, and our life is now from heaven (Eph. 2:1-3). These old things are passed away, our old life is gone. We are not of the world even as Christ and the disciples were not of the world. Our conversation is in heaven from whence we look for the Saviour, who in that day will take us unto Himself. All these good things the children of God enjoy now, when walking in full light; and they make up the visible Church of God, which is the spiritual body of the Lord Jesus Christ, functioning in the world today by divine government.

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

Profitable Trip to Florida

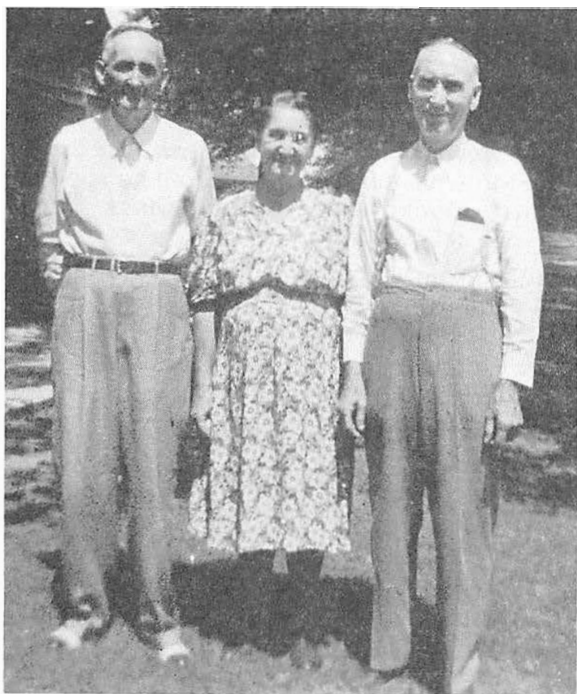
On January 2, 1941, Wife and I boarded the train for Tampa, Florida, where we were called to attend business pertaining to the kingdom of God. The Lord, through one of His consecrated servants supplied us with means to go and return, and we feel that we fulfilled the will of God in going.

We were on the train for a long time and had the opportunity of viewing the world in sin at close range. Our hearts were grieved at the levity, revelry, and dissipation which we saw before us—girls, middle-aged women, and old women with gray hair displaying short skirts, bare arms, bobbed hair, painted faces, lips and fingernails, and most of them boldly puffing cigarettes. Some boys were playing cards and gambling for money, and smoking cigarettes galore—all traveling the broad way to eternal destruction. Oh, what a sad picture it was! It seemed to us that we were surely living in Sodom. "How long, O Lord, how long?"

At times we would go through the coach and hand the passengers tracts and talk to them. Most of them were so absorbed in the things of time and sense that they were not much interested in eternal things. A few, however, were interested, and that encouraged our souls. Some would flatly refuse to take the tracts. Others would read a little and lay the tract aside and light a cigarette and act unconcerned. A Catholic priest was on the train with us for a long time. I gave him a tract or two to read, and he seemed a little interested. I opened a January paper to the illustration of the church and asked him to look at the picture of the church. He took it and began to carefully look it over. I went on to the other end of the coach handing out tracts and talking to souls. When I came back he gave it back to me and said, "That is fine." I do not know whether he understood or not, for he would not or did not comment on it; but I felt good that I had done what I could. When he left the train at

New Orleans, his parting words were, "I hope you have a pleasant trip."

While at Tampa, Florida, we stayed part of the time with my sister Nellie whom I had not seen for twenty-three years. She was interested in the things of God and invited the neighbors in. We had two preaching services while there, and several would testify. Some there are interested in the truth, and all seemed to enjoy the services. Also, my brother John lived there whom I had not seen for many years. We also had some precious seasons of prayer and visiting with Sister A. C. Krause, who has recently suffered the loss of her husband, Brother A. C. Krause.



Fred Pruitt on the right standing with his sister Nellie Johnson and brother John Pruitt

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

The Gospel for Every Soul

The burden of our heart is not only to help precious souls that are saved to keep clear from the traps and snares of Satan; but also to help the sinner to hear the truth of the gospel and be gathered into the one fold of God, delivered from the power of Satan who has had them in bondage to the elements of this world, bruising and making life miserable for them, not serving God and being without hope in the world.

When I read the Scripture in Psalms 104:4, "No man cared for my soul," I thought of the many years I lived in sin, crushed and bruised by Satan, and no one seemed to care. God forbid that any of us should get careless and indifferent to lost souls all about us. Are there souls around about us that will go into eternity and will be able to report, "No man cared for my soul?" Has your love for lost souls grown cold? If so, you have lost the Spirit of Christ and in your lukewarm state will be spewed out of His mouth. Awake unto righteousness and sin not against your fellowman.

Several years ago, while we were in the barn weeping and praying over lost souls, the thought came to us that many have never heard the truth of the gospel; and as we prayed on, the Lord spoke these comforting words to our soul: "They shall hear." We came from that place of prayer with much comfort in our souls, and since that time the Lord has helped us to get the truth to souls by the printed page and by evangelistic work to a degree beyond any thought that ever entered our heart.

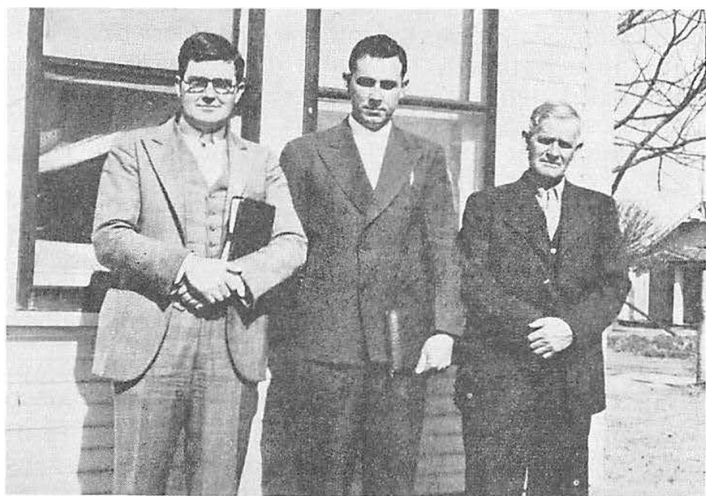
Dear soul, if you mean business with God, He will prove to you that He always means business with you. He will help you get the truth to souls in such a measure that none will be able to say at the Judgment that you cared not for their souls.

The Spirit of Christ in you should prompt you to talk to unsaved souls, hand them a tract or a paper that tells

them the way of salvation, and thereby clear your soul from the blood of all men.

To those whom you think would read it, have the *Faith and Victory* sent for a year. Stir up your soul in the work of the Lord lest that great day of God Almighty come and find you sleeping.

Just think of a poor soul in sin struggling against Satan who is a thousand times stronger than he, bruising him, crushing him, driving him on in sin, causing him to get into fights, to steal, lie, rob, getting him into jails or prisons, causing him to give way to the lust of the flesh in drinking, gambling, and using poison tobacco, making life miserable, going down to a devil's hell to torment where there is weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth. Can you hear that soul in torment crying, "No man cared for my soul?" Brethren and sisters, let us give the gospel of true holiness to the people by the printed page and in every way possible. The time is short, the night will soon come.



Ministers Ray Key, Willie Murphey and Sam Barton
with their "Swords"

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

The Garden of the Lord

In the beginning God made a beautiful garden. Everything in that garden was lovely. Everything was there that man's heart could wish to make him happy and satisfied—beautiful flowers and perfectly made trees with the finest kinds of all manner of fruits.

When God created man, it is said that "He put man in the garden," that he might enjoy all the good things at His hand and sweet communion with His heavenly Father. His loving heavenly Father just gave him one commandment. Sad to say, the man and woman with plenty, broke that commandment and God was compelled to drive them out of the beautiful garden. It was sad, indeed, a very sad day for this man and woman, but through the mercy of God He promised them that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent's head. The serpent represents Satan, who deceived them and spoiled all their joy and happiness.

In due time the seed of the woman came, which was Christ. He was tempted, too, but under much different circumstances. He was led into the wilderness (Matt. 4:1) and there naturally hard and disappointing things surrounded Him, He was tempted of the devil, but was victorious. Now, since Christ has come and is bruising old Satan under His feet, He gives us the victory over the flesh, the devil, and the sinful world.

In the beginning He "put man in the garden," but now since Christ has come, He puts the garden in man. Our souls become the garden of the Lord and He is the husbandman. He tills and tends it and causes it to bring forth the luscious fruits of the Spirit as we keep yielding ourselves to His blessed will.

In the sacred Scriptures, we often find the writers referring to our souls as the land, field, or garden of the Lord. In speaking about our hearts which were as wildernesses before we were saved, Isaiah (51:3) says, "And he will make her wildernesses like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord: joy and gladness shall

be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody." In Isaiah 58:11, we read, "And the Lord shall guide thee continually and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

In Jeremiah 31:11 we read, "For the Lord hath redeemed Jacob [which refers to us, His saved children], and ransomed him from the hand of him [Satan] that was stronger than he. Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion [the Mount of the Lord, the city of God, the church of the living God], and shall flow together to the goodness of the Lord, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil [rich spiritual food], and for the young of the flock and the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all." (They will not sorrow for wondering where the fold of the Lord is.)

In Proverbs 24:30, we see what will take place in the garden of our soul if we become careless and indifferent about always yielding to the Lord and pleasing Him. We shall be counted as one slothful and void of understanding. The garden of our soul will be all grown over with thorns and nettles and the wall of salvation will be broken down. The enemy will come right in and the beautiful flowers and fruit that would have been, will be blasted, withered, and the soil of our soul will become hard, parched, and dry. By neglect one can soon become poverty-stricken in soul. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?" Heb. 2:3.

Let each one that is saved continually yield to God's will so He can water the garden of our soul, dig in it, till it, tend it, walk in it, and rejoice in it because of its beauty and luscious fruit.

CHAPTER THIRTY

The Sin of Worldliness

A great sin among professing Christians is following the ungodly styles and fashions of the carnal, worldly-minded, unbelieving, hell-bound throng of Christ-rejecters who are so numerous in this modern Sodom age.

Many women who profess to follow Christ dress very immodestly, having the dress above the knee, short or no sleeves, and low necks, exposing the body. Many wear shorts, bob their hair, paint their faces and lips, finger and toe nails, dye their hair, wear bracelets, finger rings, ear rings, and often use the poison cigarette. What a shame for God's creation to drift so far from godliness into heathenism, and manifest such a proud and haughty spirit toward God's sacred Word which will judge them in that great Day that is coming very soon. All such dressing, undressing and wearing of adornments is disgraceful in the sight of God, and it is breaking the plain teachings of Christ and the apostles, for it is conforming to the world which is forbidden. (Rom. 12:2). The putting on of "gold, pearls and costly array" are also forbidden. (I Tim. 2:9).

Some of these same men and women at one time lived free from these things and taught against their use, but now their consciences are seared and they can indulge in them without blush or shame. They become disgraceful in the sight of God and He looks upon the scene with sorrow and grief. They feed the animal lust of the body and create adultery in the opposite sex. In the sight of the Lord they become as hateful birds. Preachers and teachers who uphold and endorse such things have become instruments in the hands of Satan, no matter how pious they may seem to be. They are blind leaders of the blind. What a weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth will take place in that great Day when the secrets of men's hearts are made known. The current of the world is strong and is carrying along a great host of "sacred

Scripture" violators. They are selling the truth in order to satisfy the fleshly lusts, please the worldly-minded atheists and the god of this world—fashion—as onward they travel to the lake of fire and brimstone where the fire is never quenched and the worm (soul) never dies. May God awaken poor souls before it is too late, that they may repent and be spared the torments of a never-ending hell.



George E. and Sadie Harmon who were married at Monark Springs, Mo., Campmeeting in 1938

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

Evangelistic Company Goes Northwest

On the 11th of September, 1941, a company of us left for the Northwest to do evangelistic work and encourage the saints with a few nights' meetings at different places along the way. The company consisted of five: Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson Sr., of Shawnee, Okla., Brother W. C. McMakin, Brother Alton Stubblefield, both of Shawnee, and the writer.

The first stop was at Anthony, Kansas, where we held four days meeting with the saints who were being pastored by O. B. Wilson, Jr. and wife. From there we went to La Junta, Colo., where we visited Sister Coral (Myers) Johnson. Our visit there was edifying and helpful, and she seemed to be much encouraged by our coming. At Loveland, Colo., we stayed all night with Sister Pixley, an isolated saint, who also was encouraged by our visit, and it encouraged us to meet her. We proceeded north to the capital of Wyoming and on north to Shawnee where we stayed overnight with Sister Reese. She, too, was isolated from the saints, and hungry to meet with the children of God. We spent a profitable evening and night there with her family, and the next morning went within fifty miles of the Yellowstone National Park. The next day we went through the park and on to Butte, Mont., arriving there in the night. Then we traveled westward through Idaho and arrived in Spokane, Washington on Saturday evening. We had a supply of tracts and papers with us and gave them out along the way. We believe much good was done in that way.

Two of my brothers lived in Spokane, whom I had not seen for nearly thirty-five years. We found Charley, the youngest brother first, who owned and operated a filling station and tourist court. He was glad to see us and gave us a double apartment tourist house to stay in, but they would have me to stay with them in their house. We stayed there Saturday and Sunday visiting them and my

other brother, Norman, who lived a short distance from Spokane. It seemed good to meet them again, also their wives and families whom I had never seen.

We talked to them quite a lot about the Lord and prayed with them. They were not so much interested as I would like for them to have been, and it did not seem that they made much profession of serving the Lord. Their condition made me feel sad in soul and sorry at heart, and we have offered many prayers for them. I was encouraged by Norman's wife, as she seemed to be much interested in the things of God. Charley's wife belonged to the Lutheran church, if I understood correctly. Charley was not the big, stout young man that I knew him to be over thirty years ago, but was broken in health. Time makes many changes. As I looked upon him, oh, how I longed for him to know God as God has revealed himself to me! It would bring such joy and happiness to his soul! On Monday we had to part with them, as the urge of service ahead for God was upon us.

From Spokane, we went south and some west of Union, Oregon, and visited in the home of Bro. and Sister O. K. Myers who were isolated saints. He was bedfast with sickness. They were all glad to see us as we were to see them, and we spent a very pleasant and refreshing time in their home. An afflicted neighbor woman who believed in God came in. We prayed for her and God touched her body. She was very happy.

From there we went northwest until we came to the Columbia River and followed it down to Portland, Oregon, where we visited some saints, then went on south to Salem, and to Scio, Oregon, and stopped at the home of Sister Emma Busch. They had a little meeting house there in which we held a short meeting which was blessed of the Lord. We met Bro. Sam Wilson and family and other saints there, and our souls were much refreshed.

The last evening of the meeting Sister O. B. Wilson, one of our party, took deathly sick from what seemed to be ptomaine poisoning. At times it seemed that life would leave the body, but earnest prayer was continually

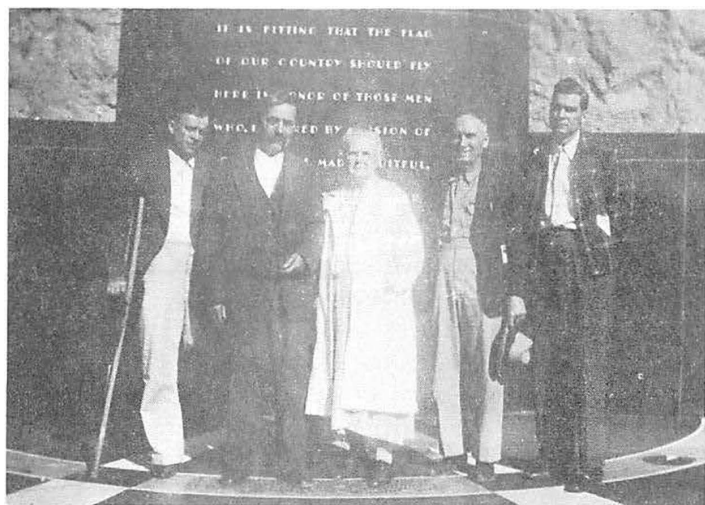
going up to God and He brought her out of the most severe trouble, but it seemed the poisoning effects stayed and she was weak and troubled in body throughout the rest of the trip. We all felt sorry that she could not be well to enjoy the meetings and fellowship with the different saints as we who were well could do. While there, part of the company went up to Chehalis, Wash., which is south of Olympia, Washington, and visited in the home of N. G. Wilson. We enjoyed their hospitality and fellowship. At Salem, Ore., we visited Bro. and Sister Robert Glasgow, who were glad to see us. They were both getting old in years, but the inner man was very much alive, which was an encouragement to our hearts. The conversation about the good things of God refreshed us. They lived here in Guthrie years ago, and were instrumental in helping to get the work of the Lord started in this city. They also helped build the original chapel in Guthrie in 1905. Sister Glasgow said she nailed the lathes on the walls while the brethren did other work. We have much respect for the dear aged saints who have worked and suffered for Jesus' sake, making it possible for others to enter into their labors for the Lord. They have our prayers.

When we left Sister Busch's, Bro. Ira Stover, who is a preacher of the gospel, joined our little company; and we resumed our journey, traveling southward toward California. At Grants' Pass, Ore., we stayed all night with a dear family of saints who were much interested in the things of God. We enjoyed their hospitality. Our course from there took us to Crescent City, Calif., from where we followed the Pacific coast line over one hundred miles south, then southeast to Redding and south to Orland, California, where we visited Sister Reese and family who were encouraged and glad that we stopped to see them. It was our desire to be as much encouragement as possible to God's children. At Richmond, Calif. (a suburb of San Francisco), we found a number of former Oklahoma people, and had meeting there that night. From there we went south to Fresno, California, where we visited my oldest son, Andrew J. Pruitt, and family.

We enjoyed being there with them very much. While there, all of us went to Strathmore to visit Bro. Robert Longley and family, and were thankful to the Lord for the privilege of seeing them again. We met with the dear saints at Glendale, Whittier, and Los Angeles, had some meetings at each place, and enjoyed the association of the saints very much. We had a precious visit with dear old Bro. Conkle and his daughter, Laura, at Ontario, Calif., and also visited Bro. J. W. Youngblood and other saints at Pomona.

Feeling that we had fulfilled our mission, we came east through Arizona and New Mexico, stopped at Clovis, and visited with Sister Stonecypher. Bro. Stonecypher had gone to the country, and because of muddy roads, we did not get to see him.

On October 17th we arrived home and settled down to the Print Shop work again. The Lord was very precious to all of us on this trip, and we are confident that lasting good was done.



Left to right: Willie McMakin, O. B. Wilson, Sr., Mattie Wilson, Fred Pruitt, and Alton Stubblefield

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

Co-Worker and Book Folder Supplied

After the Christmas assembly meeting in Guthrie, in December of 1941, Bro. Clifford Wilson of Oregon felt led of the Lord to help us in the Lord's Print Shop. He was a young man twenty years of age, giving his life, time, and talents to God's service. The work of printing and sending forth the gospel has been increasing, and help is needed to carry it on. God knew and supplied. It is wonderful how God works to keep the printing work going. He knows the right time to send help and also the kind that is needed. It is a pleasure indeed just to be His servant, a member of His body, for all the severe trials and persecutions we go through are only preparing us for heaven and the pleasant times, surprises, and exceeding joy are only foretastes of what glory will be like. Let us bear the reproach of the cross with joy, for the glory lingers near.

For some time we had been burdened because of the need of a Book Folder to fold the paper for books, and had been praying the Lord to supply one for His Print Shop. In the spring of 1942 the Lord supplied means so we could get this machine. It was a Model 'B' Cleveland Folder and is considered one of the best brands of book folders on the market. This folder cost us nearly \$700.00 delivered, set up, and ready to run. We are very much pleased with its operation, as we have been using it over a year now and it is doing good work. We are very thankful to God, as it is a blessing to have such a machine in the Lord's Print Shop which folds books so nicely.

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

Christ's Spiritual Body in Operation

In I Cor. 12:27 we read, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." Paul plainly tells us saved people who have the Spirit of Christ that we are the "Body of Christ," or members that make up His body in the world today, His church. Paul compares it to the human body. One member is not the whole body, but all the members make the whole body. Each member has his work to do. Are you functioning as a hand in the Body? Remember, the hands of Christ not only ministered unto the needy, but they were also pierced. Are you a foot in the Body? Remember, the feet of Jesus not only carried Him about, but they also became tired and weary, and finally a spike was driven through them. Are you a member of the head? Remember, the head was slapped and a crown of thorns pierced His tender brow. The back was lacerated and every member of His body suffered with anguish, pain, and humiliation. My dear brother, sister, you cannot be a member of the "Body of Christ" in this sinful world without going through sufferings. If you have no sufferings, chastisements, and humiliations, then are ye bastards and not sons and daughters. In other words, if you get along with the worldly-minded professors of religion without their persecuting and making things naturally hard for you, if they never ridicule you, revile you, speak evil of you, lie about you, and perhaps say that you are narrow-minded, ignorant or fanatic, then are ye of another spirit, not of Christ, nor a member in His body. The world will love its own. Christ will love His own and make a way for us to go through. We furnish the willingness and faith, and He furnishes the power, wisdom, and grace.

We are living in the days when it is going to be easily seen, "Who's who" in the fold of God. The Lord is making up His jewels (Malachi 3:17), and many will have to be chiseled and made to shine with much polishing before they will be ready to be caught up to meet the

Lord in the air. You can be a jewel if you continue to be willing and obedient in His hand.

Paul tells us that we are knit together and that all the members of the body have tender care one for the other. When one member suffers, all the members suffer. If all those who profess to be saints were crucified with Christ and dead to selfish interests, it would do away with relationship religion and race prejudice, and members would not be easily hurt or offended. Those who get hurt and are easily offended at their brother manifest selfishness and carnality. If you are dead to selfish interests and filled with the Spirit of God, you will look upon your brother as such and will always feel that he means no injury to you. You will continue to love him or her and see the good in them. There is a vast difference between one getting his feelings hurt and the Spirit of Christ in one being grieved.

When we understand that we are the "Body of Christ" or members that make up the body, that God sets the members in the body as it pleases Him, it ought to make us very humble and become perfectly satisfied to be a member in that Body and willing to function with all the other members of the body without murmuring or complaining. Some members of the body have more important places to fill and other members of the body are just helpers to them, but all, if faithful, fill important places; for if any member fails to work in harmony and unity, the whole body is hindered.

Consider the feet. They may have great reason to murmur against the ears, eyes, and brain. The eyes may see something and the ears hear something. They carry it to the brain. The head bids the feet to move and carry the rest of the body. In fact, the whole body is set in motion to work for the best interest of the body because the eyes have seen something and the ears have heard something—or in other words, because the important members have functioned in their proper places. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church. He is the Governor, yet He places some members in the Body which He uses to carry out His plans, causing other members of the body

to work in harmony with them, and they edify the whole body, getting glory to His name. The ones that God calls to fill the most important places in the body, if dead to selfish interest, are the most humble of all the members and do not work friction and trouble, but bear and suffer long and are kind, are not puffed up, do not vaunt themselves, and envy not. They do not behave themselves unseemly, seek not their own, are not easily provoked, think no evil. They dislike all division, do not want anyone to be under bondage to them, and are fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.

Paul exhorts us to "Awake to righteousness and sin not." I Cor. 15:34.

For a number of years after launching out by faith in this printing work, we were sorely tried and the furnace was very hot. Much of the time we felt like Job in his sore afflictions. When the Lord began to lift the burdens and the sun began to break through the clouds, which set cords of love vibrating, and the prolonged suffering of hard, strange trials began to diminish, the Lord began to reveal to us in a clearer and more distinct manner the true Church, the unbroken, undivided Body of Christ. Recently as we were thinking over these strange trials and the awful soul troubles we had passed through, the Lord brought the Scriptures to our mind found in the fifth chapter of 1st Peter, tenth verse, "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." We just thank God for all of it and know that "All things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28.

We are persuaded that no one who has a clear vision of the Church of the living God, which is the unbroken, undivided Body of Christ, can conscientiously fellowship and work with sectarians who belong to sects and man-made churches of the world. Those who do that will confuse souls and cause them to drift into sectism, and thereby, many precious souls will be lost. There is not a Scripture in the Bible, if properly understood, that upholds division among God's family. Paul says they are

joined together, framed together, raised up together, made to sit together, and will ascend to meet the Lord in the air together.

Paul compares the Church to the human body, and Peter compares it to a building. Jesus compares it to a vine. He is the true vine and saved souls are the branches. They must abide in the true vine in order to keep alive and bear fruit—no possible room for division. Paul beseeches the brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, "that ye all speak the same thing, and in the same judgment." I Cor. 1:10.

There are many vines in the world to which souls attach themselves, but there is only one TRUE VINE. Take heed that no man deceive you.

Those who have no clearer vision than to think that the Body of Christ, which is the Church, is lodged up in all the dark creeds of men make me think of a man who lived down in the valley. He stepped out of his house one morning, looked around, and said, "It is very cloudy today and there will be no sun shining." Another man high up on the mountain nearby stepped out of his house on the same morning and saw the sky clear and the sun shining brightly. He could also see the fogs and clouds hanging over those in the valley. People that are too near the world get in the fogs and they seem to think that everybody else is in the fog like themselves. Those who get upon Mount Zion will be in the light and sunshine, and will have a clear vision, and will teach the truth like Jesus and the apostles did. Jesus said, "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." John 17:11. He further said in the fourteenth verse, "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." The worldly church members in the sects will love you if you will acknowledge them as part of the church, honor their idol, never teach the truth of the Bible about the exclusive Church, the one without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing, and never teach the truth about, "Come out of her, my people."

Paul says in I Cor. 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together [not in division] in the same mind and in the same judgment." If Paul were here preaching, none of the sects would allow him to preach to their congregations. They would have him branded as a dangerous man, void of true understanding, and one who was tearing up churches, a babbler of strange doctrines. What a sad condition the professing man-made churches are in. Truly, the day must be at hand when the tares are being gathered into bundles to be burned (Matt. 13:30). The end of the harvest is certainly upon us. Brethren, let us be true reapers, even if the professed churches do hate us.



Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson, Sr., standing in front of their chapel at Shawnee, Okla., where they are the pastors. Taken on their 52nd wedding anniversary, Jan. 13, 1946.

CHAPTER THIRTY-FOUR

Attending Several Campmeetings

Sunday, March 15, 1942, was a very busy day for the writer. On Sunday morning a carload of us went into the country five or six miles and held services in a school house. The Lord was very gracious and blessed very precious in the delivering of His Word to an interested congregation of men, women, boys, and girls. In the afternoon, four carloads of saints went fourteen miles (near Crescent, Okla.), where we had a preaching service. After this service, we officiated in a baptismal service. Bro. and Sister Tucker, their son Marshall and wife, and son Jewel were baptized. The Lord made this service a blessed one by His presence. They were a happy family as they followed the Lord in water baptism. On our way home we stopped at Brother Poarch's in Crescent and had singing and prayer with them and encouraged them as the Lord led and blessed. At eight o'clock in the evening the Lord gave us a message to deliver to the congregation at Guthrie, and gave us much liberty in speaking of the great things that Christ Jesus has done for poor sinful man.

Truly, our soul doth magnify the Lord for His goodness to the children of men. When we lay down that night, we had such peace and comfort in our soul to know that the time had been fully spent for Him that day.

In the summer of 1942 we had the pleasure of attending three campmeetings. The first one was at Hammond, La., where we met the dear saints of God in the South and enjoyed the meeting and association of the saints very much. The Lord made the meeting a very precious one by working for the salvation of souls, the healing of bodies, the edifying of the saints; for the spirit of unity, oneness, and fellowship was sweet and heavenly throughout the meeting. The Word went forth in power and demonstration of the Spirit. God is truly drawing the true together, and those who hold the truth in unrighteousness are being bunched off in cliques and

clans by holiness preachers of the sect stripe. Surely, heaven and earth are being shaken, and the Judgment Day is approaching. The ungodly and the sinner will weep and wail, and the faithful saints will be rejoicing, receiving crowns that will never fade away.

The Holy Spirit is certainly doing His office work in these days. There are not very many getting saved, but a mighty work is being done by the burning of the Spirit which is like a fuel of fire; sifting and gathering are going on. We read in Matthew 3:12, "Whose fan [Holy Spirit] is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor [heart yielded to Him], and gather his wheat [the true] into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff [those who will not take His way, just having a show of religion], with unquenchable fire."

One night I had a dream that impressed me very much and may be a warning to me and others who are taking the humble way with Christ. It seemed in the dream that I was in a meeting and many of the people who were very religious had evil in their hearts toward me. They hated my preaching of oneness and coming out of sects, cliques, and clans. They became enraged.

One man said, "The Bible says, 'Every man shall stand divided as oxen in the stall.' " I asked him for the chapter and verse.

One man snarled out, "You would ask that!"

Another joined in with, "It is there all right!"

And another man got me by the throat. I could feel his fingers tightening, and I took hold of them trying to pull them loose, but he tightened his grip.

Satan is just as mean and ugly today as he was when he worked through the religious Jews and caused them to persecute Jesus and cruelly murder Him. Those who possess the humble and meek spirit of Christ today will be evilly spoken of and persecuted, for their lives will be lifting up Christ and will act as judgment and reproof to the religious spirit in the professor. The Bible says, "Speak evil of no man"; and evil surmising is condemned as sin. If you do not want to be sifted out into some clique or clan that will persecute the righteous, be

diligent to obey the Word and speak evil of no man. Resist evil surmising; draw nigh unto God, praying God to bless those who wrong you and do good to those who despitefully use you so that you may continue to be the children of your Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 5:44, 45).

The National campmeeting (1942) at Monark Springs, Mo., was well attended, considering the war-time shortage of tires and other hindering causes. The Lord worked in the meeting, and some souls were saved, some were sanctified, bodies were healed, and the saints were drawn closer together in the fellowship of the Spirit. The expenses of the meeting were taken care of nicely by free-will offerings; and, in the words of Peter, "It was good to be there."

The State Campmeeting at Guthrie was a great success in more ways than one. The attendance was good, both from home and abroad. The preaching was accompanied with Holy Ghost power and sinners trembled. The devils, crying, came out. Many sick were healed by power divine, souls were saved, believers sanctified, and the saints were much encouraged. The meeting was good from the beginning to the end. About twenty-five ministers were present: some from Oregon, California, Missouri, and a large number from this State. I think that all present were agreed that this meeting could be classed among the best. We surely did enjoy the association of the saints, and pray God to bless each and every one of you and make you a blessing to as many souls as possible. We ask you to pray for us, for we have many responsibilities. Satan often arrays his hosts against the printing work and would like to silence it. He hates to see the pure gospel going forth by the printed page. Our eyes are on the Lord, for we know He conquered the devil over nineteen centuries ago, and he is a conquered devil today to all who really believe Jesus.

While we were attending the Hammond, La., campmeeting in the summer of 1942 we met some young saints who were consecrated to the service of the Lord. They expressed their desire to come and help us in the office work. One young man by the name of Vada



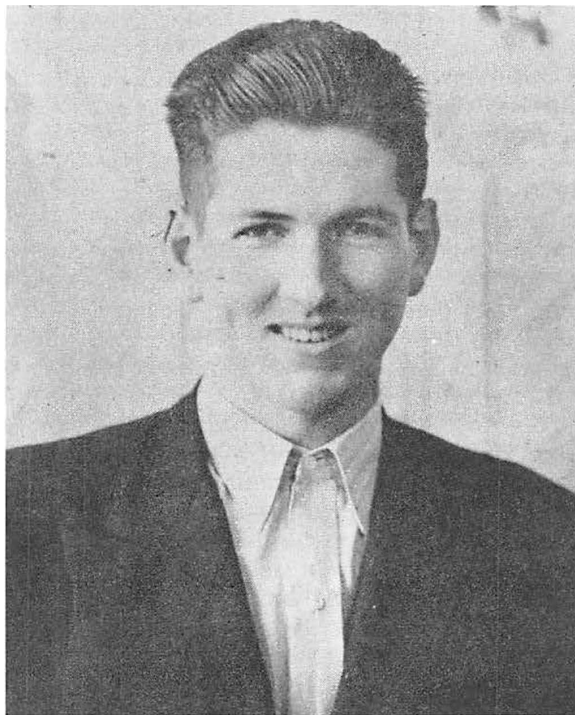
Dorothy Byers from Louisiana

McMillian from Alabama and a young sister, Dorothy Byers, of Pelican, La., came home with us to work in the Lord's Print Shop. They have been very useful in the printing work, adapting themselves to the work in a precious manner, while at the same time growing in spirituality. Brother McMillian operated the job presses and the folding machine. Dorothy Byers took care of the mailing lists, made out labels for the shipment of tracts, books, and papers, also helped with the correspondence, and is now doing a good part of the Intertype work, as she is learning to operate this machine. Bro. McMillian

has been in the work here for nine months and recently returned to where his relatives live in Georgia and Mississippi. We are thankful to God for these dear young folk who have dedicated their lives to the service of God.

About two months ago, another young sister from Pelican, La., by the name of Myrtle Grice came to help in the printing work. She has been taking hold of the work nicely and is very devoted to God and His pleasure.

Just a few days ago, Sister Rosella Slifer came from Perkasio, Pa., to help in the work. The Lord will supply help for His work. He has some who are consecrated to do His pleasure. We appreciate these young helpers very much and know that God will bless them.



Thomas Vada McMillian

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

Conscientious Objectors Meet the Challenge

In the fall of 1942, the enemy became quite enraged against the publishing work — its editors and workers. Previous to this time slanderous and lying reports had been published and sent all over the country. It seemed that the enemy was galling under the truth that was being published and sent out. He arrayed himself and his hosts to do some dark and undermining work, to destroy us if possible, and stop the printing work. He did not frighten or scare us as we had given our lives to God, and were consecrated to go to prison, or be burned at the stake for Jesus' sake. We just rested the whole matter in God's hand and calmly waited for developments; we counted again the cost of going all the way; and being in battle with the hosts of the enemy, counted Jesus as our Captain and made no peace with the enemy, but were willing to face all of his hosts. We were assured in our souls that the victory was ours. Read Luke 14:31, to the end of the chapter.

When the Government required the young men of our country to register for the draft, the young men of the office and the congregation were confronted with a problem. They believed in bearing the fruits of the Spirit and following in the footsteps of Christ, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously" (I Peter 2:22, 23). They believed they should abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thess. 5:22), so they registered as Conscientious Objectors to military service.

Some members of the local draft board were greatly incensed at me because, in filling out their questionnaires, these young men named me as their pastor and the one from whom they had received advice. They were angry because we taught that it was out of harmony with the teachings of Christ for Christian men to take up carnal weapons to injure, or slay other of God's

creatures in war or at any other time. Some of the draft board members attended services at the chapel to hear what was being taught. Also the American Legion members were stirred, and some of them came to hear what we taught. It came to our ears that some of the officials threatened to have me put so far behind the prison walls that I would never see out again. One said that he hoped if Japan got over here with their war-planes that they would "drop the first bomb on Pruitt's head."

None of these threatenings moved us, for we had our faith and confidence all in God who rules the universe, and we had no confidence in the flesh. Requests for prayer were sent to saints in different congregations that God would overrule all to His glory and to preserve the printing work so the gospel could continue to go out to the people. We appreciated very much the earnest prayers of all the saints in this time of need.

Government men (F.B.I.), who came to investigate matters here, closely questioned a number of the men of the congregation. Each one was questioned and cross-questioned for several hours, then asked to sign his name to the answers which he gave.

Bro. Hyrum Ray, Bro. Clifford Wilson, and Bro. Roy Jennings were all questioned in separate rooms of the Federal Building by F.B.I. agents one afternoon. Brother Hyrum Ray was requested to make the promise that he would tell no one about the questions and his answers. When these brethren returned from the questioning, we could see they were burdened because of the proceedings, and were feeling sorry for me, about whom they were so closely questioned.

After the boys signed their names to the information which they had given them, two of the F.B.I. agents came here to the office to investigate. I invited them into the office and made them welcome to do all the investigating that they wanted to do. They asked me many questions and took some of the literature along with them. They seemed to think that we belonged to the "Jehovah

Witness" people. Finally, one of them asked, "What do you think of the Jehovah Witness religion?" I answered that I thought they were a group of deceived people. Then I asked him what he thought of them, and he said that he thought so, too. They wrote about two pages of statements and asked me to sign them. They treated me very nice and God gave me an opportunity to get some good gospel truth to them while they were in the shop.

Two other men of the congregation were questioned, and it seemed for awhile that the questioning was over; but later they returned and questioned my son Lawrence, and my son-in-law Willie C. Murphey, who had recently been ordained as a minister of the gospel. These, like the others, were asked to sign their statements.

Bro. Hyrum Ray was sent to a C.P.S. Work Camp at Downey, Idaho, where he labored about three months, then was transferred to work at a hospital at Ypsilanti, Mich. Bros. Clifford Wilson and Roy Jennings were sent to a C.P.S. Camp at Ft. Collins, Colo. They write us that the Lord is blessing them very much and they are growing in the Lord. God will never forsake His trusting, believing children, and will bless and own those who continue to please Him.

Up to this writing, which is on May 1, 1943, there has been no action taken against us or the work, and we feel assured in our souls that God has heard the cries of His children and that the printing work is spared to His glory and the good of many precious souls.

The Lord has certainly been caring for His printing work here in Guthrie, and in spite of all the enemy can do, the Lord has blessed it and is increasing it from year to year. The subscriptions to the *Faith and Victory* paper have increased a third in the past year, and the output of tracts and books has also increased.

We feel confident that this increase is taking place because God is revealing the truth to many more souls. The testimonies of our readers which are continually coming into the office prove this statement to be true. Almost every day we receive letters from different readers telling us how they were blessed in reading the

contents of the paper. Many of them have the paper sent to one or more of their friends or neighbors, and thus the truth of the Bible is taking root in many precious souls. A company of consecrated men and women is being raised up by the Lord. They will be so grounded and settled in God that they will be able to stand and rejoice in the fiery furnaces that may come to the church. The church shines forth as a divinely organized and governed body of people, which is the body of Christ and not conformed to the world but separated unto God. The Watchmen on the walls of Zion will "cry aloud and spare not." The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, will separate and divide the clean and the pure from the vile and unclean. The saints will so completely possess the kingdom and reign in such great peace with God that Satan and his professing hosts will be enraged against them and want to destroy them. Persecution will be as in the early morning church when the kingdom of God came with power and glory. Our prayer is, "Oh, Lord, hasten the day that you may be abundantly and mightily glorified among all your saints!"

CHAPTER THIRTY-SIX

Workers at the Print Shop in 1943

On Easter Sunday, the 25th day of May, 1943, our little group of workers stood in front of the publishing house and posed for a picture. Our readers can look upon this little group of workers and realize that their hearts are filled with love divine, and they have a care and burden for all of your souls. They want to meet you in heaven above some day. Pray for all of us, and the establishing of divine truth in the hearts of men and women by the printed page.

Standing from left to right:

1, 2, and 3. Bro. Lawrence D. Pruitt; wife, Maybelle; and son, Byron. Lawrence is our second son. He edits the Young People's Page in the *Faith and Victory*, helps with the proofreading, and keeps the Intertype in repair. He and his wife are both saved and sanctified.

Maybelle often helps when the paper is to be wrapped and made ready for mailing, but is kept busy most of the time caring for her family. Part of her service for the Lord is sewing for the girls who are kept too busy here in the office to do their own sewing.

Byron, their eight-year-old son, goes to school, but helps some in the office. Just today (Saturday) he fed the book folder. Harvey, their younger son, is standing between us in the front row.

4. Sister Dorothy Byers from Pelican, La. She is saved, sanctified, devoted to God, and a precious, willing worker in the Lord's Print Shop. She has been in the work for nine months, and has proven to be very efficient, and her saintly, devoted life is an inspiration to all. She does secretarial work, helping with the heavy correspondence, and is rapidly learning to operate the Intertype. She also proofreads and helps in numerous ways.

5. Sister Myrtle Grice. She is young in years, but settled in the Lord, with a burden for souls and a desire to do all she can to further the gospel. About two months



ago she left her home state (Louisiana) to come here and labor for the Lord, and has been very useful operating the tract folder, feeding the book folder, working in the mailing room, and is now learning to operate the job press since the boys are gone. She is saved, sanctified, and loved by all the saints. She and Dorothy are cousins, and we appreciate them in the work here very much.

6 and 7. Bro. and Sister Willie C. Murphey. Sister Frances Murphey, our youngest daughter, has not helped much in the office since she was married to Bro. Murphey about a year ago; but she is consecrated to the Lord and helps her husband in the work God has called him to do.

Bro. Willie Murphey, who is saved, sanctified, and an ordained minister, has helped in the office, but spends most of his time in evangelistic work. The Lord has provided them with a trailer house in which they live while they engage in meetings in different places. God is blessing them in this service.

8. Bro. Vada McMillian from Alabama. He has been working in the Print Shop for nine months and has done good work for the Lord, operating the job presses and the paper and tract folders. He is saved, sanctified, and called to special service for the Lord. At present he is visiting his relatives in Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia, and doing personal work for the Lord.

Sitting, from left to right:

1. Sister E. E. Humphrey, a very precious saint of God from Nebraska. She is eighty-two years of age, and is deeply interested in the publishing work, loves to see the gospel go forth, and prays for us and the work continually. She is greatly loved, respected, and honored by all the saints.

2, 3, and 4. Fred Pruitt, the writer; wife, Mary A. Pruitt; and grandson, Harvey Pruitt. Harvey is four years of age. His parents live near the printing shop and he spends much time here. He is quite a favorite among all the workers.

5. Sister Mary Roethler, lives here in Guthrie, just five blocks east of the printing shop. She is saved,

sanctified, and devoted to God's cause. She helps us in the folding and wrapping of the *Faith and Victory* paper each month, and is interested in seeing the gospel go forth by the printed page.



**Willie C. and Frances E. (Pruitt) Murphey
who were married in 1942**



Clifford Wilson

The above is a picture of Bro. Clifford Wilson, son of Bro. Sam Wilson of Oregon. He is saved, sanctified, and has left all the world to follow Jesus. He did splendid service for the Lord here in the printing shop for more than a year, being alert to take hold of the work and deeply interested in seeing the gospel go out to men. He worked principally in the press room, operating the job presses, the three folding machines, also the cylinder press. Also, he learned to operate the Intertype. He is now serving in the C.P.S. Camp for Jesus' sake. All the saints in the congregation miss him, and we miss him from the office.

Bro. Ray came from Tennessee and worked in the printing shop for more than a year. He is saved, sancti-

fied, and devoted to the cause of God. Since he is draft age and opposed to fighting, he was sent to a C.P.S. camp, and is now in detached service of national importance.



Hyrum and Geneva Ray and John Hyrum

His wife, who was formerly Geneva Bailey, has been in the Lord's Print shop for many years. She is faithful in the service of the Lord and has gone through many privations and some fiery trials to see the gospel go forth. She is here in the work at present, seeking to know whether it is the will of the Lord for her to remain here or

go to Michigan where she can be near her husband. She desires to do the will of the Lord. We are indeed thankful to God for all of these dear young people who are willing to deny themselves and sacrifice, in order to get the Gospel to men by the printed page. God has all this recorded in His book and they shall not lose their reward.

We cannot find appropriate words to express our appreciation to God for His tender care throughout these many years in the printing work, and we deeply appreciate those whom God is using to send offerings to the work. We know that God has some whom He can talk to, as the offerings are all freely given; in fact, we would not care to receive any offering unless it were freely given as unto the Lord. Free-will offerings are all that is accepted by the Lord. God is graciously supplying all the needs of the work. When needs arise we tell them to Him. God supplies by moving on hearts of His consecrated servants in various parts of the earth. By His grace and help we shall move on with the printing work as He leads the way.

Remember us and the workers at the throne of Grace.

Your Blood-washed and Blood-bought servant,

—Fred Pruitt

Sister E. E. Humphrey, the aged sister in the group picture, passed to her reward in heaven in Dec., 1943. She was sitting in her chair with her head on the table and quietly went to sleep in Jesus. She lived in our home and in Guthrie for several years and always seemed like one ripened for heaven, so saintly and sweet in the trying scenes of life.

Bro. G. E. Harmon, and other pioneers of the faith, have passed to their rewards since we started this book. We are thankful for each one whose life has been an inspiration to us and others. Truly we see them here no more, but their works do follow them.

While we rejoice to know that some have been faithful unto death, our hearts are made sad to also know that many have wasted their precious, God-given

opportunities to make their lives count for God and the upbuilding of His kingdom. They have been called from this life without that hope of eternal life.

The following article, "TIME" by Ruby (Doolittle) Williamson, and poem, "TIME SPEEDS ON" by Brother Ulysses Phillips fitly describe our meditations as we think of these things:

TIME

"Behold thou hast made my days as an handbreadth and mine age is as nothing before thee."

We have twenty-four hours of time each day, and to us are given the powers to direct it. It isn't what we plan to do tomorrow that counts, but how have we spent our time today? One minute idly spent cannot be recalled, so let us be up and doing while it is day for soon the night cometh when no man can work. Our time is limited and very precious, so it behooves each of us to let each moment count for God. Life is fleeing and fast disappearing. Soon time will be swallowed up in eternity. Only in mercy has God stayed the hands of time that each of us may have another opportunity to give our heart and life to Him. This world is only a "dressing room" to put on white robes of righteousness that we may be prepared to step into the glory world.

Time is like a great wheel going its round. On and on it goes. Some are stepping on and some are stepping off. But where are these latter stepping? Into eternity. See the old man with snow-white locks and tottering step? His has been a long round but the stepping off place has come at last. It has also come to the youth who thought his would be a long round. He was just beginning to have a good time in this world when that icy hand ushered him into an endless eternity. Death is coming to each of us sooner or later, so why not prepare for it? Beyond the fading gleams of the sunset of life lies a boundless ocean called eternity. Thitherward you and I are daily traveling. Time will then be swallowed up in eternity, so take heed and use the golden minutes to prepare for that which is very near, even at our doors. —R. D.

TIME SPEEDS ON

New Years come and old years go;
And time like a river great doth flow
Into a vast and shoreless sea—
A never ending eternity.

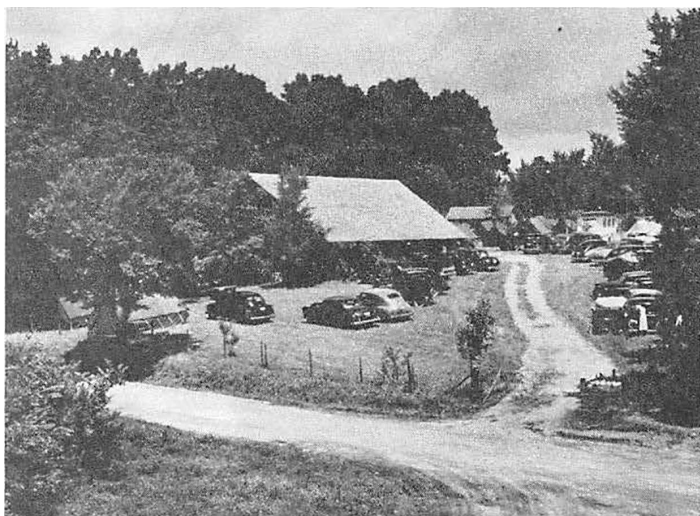
Our friends, some of them have gone.
They've played their piece, they've sung
their song.

Each year takes it's greedy toll,
While many strive to reach the goal.

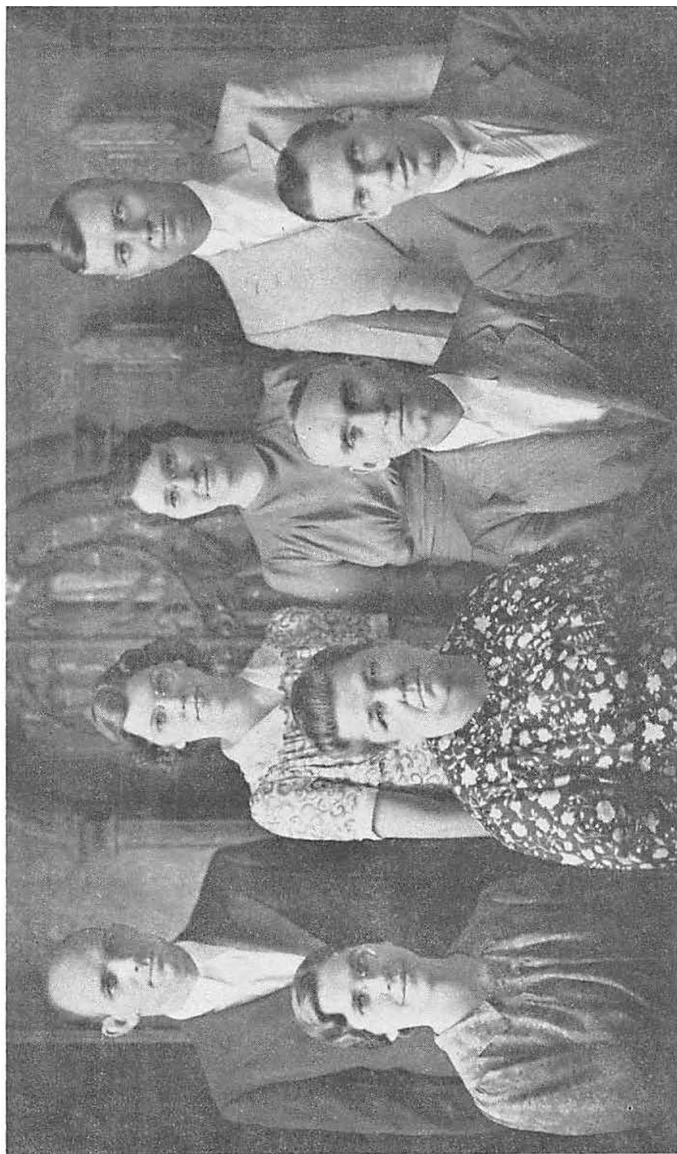
But one thing I have often found,
That with success someone is crowned,
Whose eyes have been alert to see
The present opportunity.

And went forth some seed to sow
In weary hearts that sure would grow—
Seeds of confidence and love
To blossom in the world above.

—Ulysses Phillips



**National Campground at Neosho (Monark Springs),
Missouri, in 1943.**



From left to right, back row: Lawrence, Mary Lola, Anna Marie, Andrew; front row, Frances, Mother Mary Ann, Father Fred, and Frank Pruitt. Taken in 1940 when all were married except Frances.

Part Four

Printed in 1947

CHAPTER THIRTY-SEVEN

During the War the Women Do the Print Shop Work

It has been nearly four years since we published the third edition of *God's Gracious Dealings*. The supply has been exhausted and calls continue to come for the book. We are urged in spirit to print it again to keep the light and truth of the gospel going forth. I wish all the followers of Christ could read this book and receive strength and help from God in their souls to face with courage all the trials and tests of life. Experience has taught us that God will fortify, settle, and establish every soul in Him who will be diligent to gather up every available truth, and appropriate it to his own soul's welfare, by yielding continually to Him. All the good promises in the Word of God are for His trusting, believing children, and their hearts should have "yea and amen" to all of them.

In the last pages of the third part of this book we stated that the boys working in the Print Shop had been taken to C. P. S. camps because of being conscientious objectors to war, and that the girls were learning to operate the folders and printing presses.

The girls did learn to operate this machinery, and did efficient service in this capacity while the war was on, and God kept the printing work going right on in spite of the devil's threats. Love for God and His work knows no bounds when God's love fills the soul. God's eyes see, and He finds and calls those who are willing and obedient, and will make Him first in their lives. Willing service and free-will giving is all that God will receive and be pleased with.

I often think of the Scripture that reads thus, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." II Chron. 16:9. God wants to show Himself strong in your behalf and He can only do

this as you wholly deny yourself and let Him possess and rule in your heart. If God shows Himself strong in your behalf, you will have to have an unfeigned and unshaken faith in God to obey Him in all things.

If we would pay wages for help like the world does, we could get plenty of help, but what kind would it be? Our desire is to have workers that are in touch with God, and unless they come with sacrificing spirits and hearts filled with the love of God and a burden for souls, they would be of little value in the Lord's Print Shop. When we do our work as unto the Lord, He is pleased, and we are blessed and the work is blessed and all goes smoothly. We serve God because of His love in our hearts, and labor prompted by divine love in the soul brings joy and satisfaction with contentment to the soul. David vividly expresses the kind of service that pleases God in I Chron. 29:14: "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee." King David was a man after God's own heart, and Isaiah the prophet, speaking of the kingdom of Christ, which we are in at this present time, said, "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever." Isa. 9:7. The angel of God, speaking to Mary, the mother of Jesus, said concerning the Babe to be born, "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob [Jacob denotes saved people who recognize Jesus as their King, Ruler, and Governor. Read also Heb. 3:6, which tells saved people they are the house of Christ, God's Son.] forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:32, 33.

David said they gave "willingly" unto the Lord and acknowledged that all they had was given to them of God and they only took of God's and gave to Him what was His. This free-will giving is still the rule in the kingdom

of God now while Christ is on the throne. It is not something that is forced upon us, or pulled out of us, by clever speaking or writing, neither by persuasion, but it is just in us as His people. In I Chron. 29:18 David prayed for this very thing and he said, "keep this forever in the imagination [or in the mind and thoughts] of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee." God's people have the thought of free-will giving in their hearts and will do it without continually having exhortation and persuasion pressed upon them. People who give just because they are exhorted, persuaded, or entreated with many words to do so, are far from what God would have them to be, and do not really know what manner of folk they are. Let each of us show the faith in God that worketh by love divine.

The *Faith and Victory* paper here in the Lord's Print Shop stands squarely against all division, schisms, isms, and all unsound doctrines and the teachings of men. The reason there are so many man-made religions in the world today is because so many backslide in heart and become filled with their own ways, and are not in a condition to receive the brighter, shining light from heaven, but drink out of a stagnant pond and gradually poison others whom they influence, to do the same. Self-righteousness was the great sin of the religious Pharisees in Jesus' day and time on earth, and it seems that such have multiplied a thousand fold.

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT

Meetings Held in Northeast

In the latter part of May, 1943, Wife and I joined Bro. and Sister Ray Key of Hammond, La., in a revival meeting in Chicago, leaving the office work in care of Geneva Ray, Dorothy Byers, and Myrtle Grice. Our daughter, Frances Murphey, was also there to assist them most of the time.

The meeting at Chicago was a blessed meeting, being blessed of the Lord in a very precious manner. He gave good liberty in proclaiming His Word, and the saints were graciously helped and encouraged. A number were at the altar for sanctification (which is the baptism of the Spirit), and their souls were satisfied by receiving the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (John 14:26). Some things that had been hindering the meetings in the past were cleared up and the saints were of one heart and soul, rejoicing in the Lord. We enjoyed the association and fellowship of Bro. and Sister Key, Sister Dravis, Brother Boaman, and all the other dear saints at Chicago while there in the meeting. It was good to be there.

Bro. and Sister Priem of Elkhart, Ind., had arranged for a meeting at Benton Harbor, Mich., so we had the opportunity to preach to a German congregation at that place. The Lord gave liberty and freedom and made the services heavenly and encouraging to all. Most of the congregation could understand English, and enjoyed the words of truth uttered. We also appreciate the fellowship which the Lord gave with the Priems during the few days that He permitted us to be in their home.

Bro. and Sister Scott Baker made us quite welcome in their home at Garrett, Ind., where we spent over a day and rejoiced in the fellowship and heavenly association while there. They are isolated saints. Bro. Baker is burdened about the need of souls in that place. He would be glad if some saints would move there, or if God would save some in that country. May God bless and keep them encouraged.

On June 13th, we were in an all-day meeting at Union City, Ind. Saints came in from the surrounding country until the meeting house was practically filled. It was a very precious meeting together and God blessed the assembly. He gave good liberty in preaching the gospel in the three services that day, and from the testimonies of the saints, it was easy to know that God's Spirit had worked and brought edification and help to many souls. The saints of God are nearer and dearer to us than all earthly relations. We were glad to get acquainted with some saints whom we had never met and also to have sweet fellowship with those whom we had met before while in the East. Bro. George Stephenson had cared for the work there for nine months, but left that Sunday evening for Hammond, Louisiana.

While there, we stopped in the home of Bro. and Sister Nottingham who are looking after the interests of the work in that place. We thank God for their hospitality and fellowship, and pray God's rich blessings to rest upon them in the future as in the past. We shall often think of those whom we met on this trip, and pray for them.



Fred and Mary Pruitt in the 1927 Chevrolet

CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE

1943 Guthrie Assembly Meeting

The Oklahoma State Assembly meeting held in Guthrie during the Christmas holidays of 1943 was looked upon by those who attended as one in which God showed Himself in power and demonstration of the Spirit, bringing joy, comfort, and consolation to the beloved saints of God, and helping others who sought Him at the altar of prayer.

At first the meeting was much hindered because of flu and bad weather, but the Lord worked, healed many who had the flu and cleared up the weather some. Others began to come in until it was necessary to open the Sunday school rooms to have seating capacity for those coming to the services.

It seemed the Lord gave the ministers unusual anointing and freedom in giving out the truths of His Word, and it was edifying and upbuilding to the saints. The power of God was so great that Satan was afraid to show himself to make any disturbances. Toward the last, many were saying that the Lord had blessed us with a wonderful meeting.

Those who are grumbling, complaining, and murmuring about the church being divided and going down, having sin and evils in it, ought to throw away the devil's spectacles and have a personal house-cleaning so they can see things as God sees them. It is a very common thing for professors to brand others with the realities that are in their own souls.

Bro. C. E. Orr used to tell about a woman who looked out of her window and saw her neighbor's washing on the line. It looked so dirty that she remarked about her putting out such a dirty washing, saying that she would not hang out clothes if she could not get them cleaner than that. She went out of doors and the clothes looked clean. She found that the dirt was on her own window. One can usually detect an unclean vessel by the way he (or she) picks and finds fault with others. Jesus tells

about one who wanted to pick a mote out of his brother's eye and, behold, a beam was in his own eye. You can read about that in the seventh chapter of Matthew, beginning at the first verse.

Ministers and others attended the meeting from a number of different states. Several ministers of this State were present. Everyone that came in added more fire to the blaze.

Two young men desired to follow the Lord in baptism, and Bro. Willie Murphey officiated in this service, having to break some ice out of the river to do it.

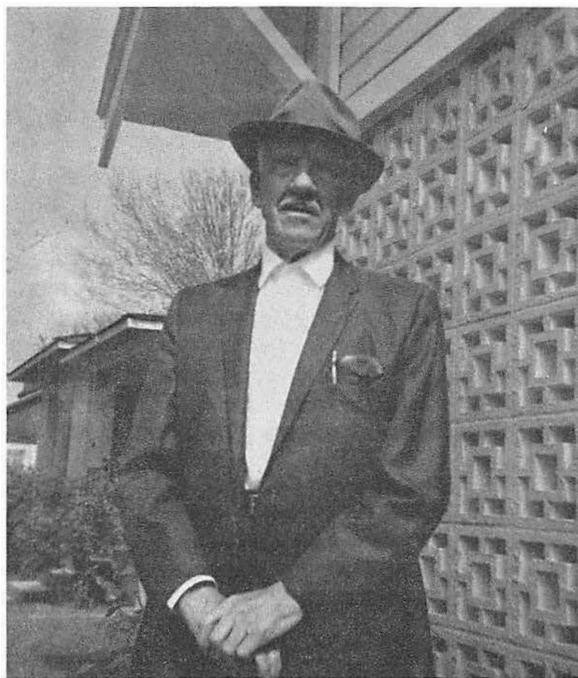
The meeting closed with the song, "Blest Be the Tie."

One who sets an alarm clock to awaken him, then fails to get up when it sounds, will soon sleep on, no matter how long and loud it may sound. Christendom has failed to heed the alarms of God's Word until their spiritual eyes have become blind and their ears deaf.

When I was a young man, scouting around over the country, I took a job of milking cows in the Puget Sound country of Washington state. I was to sleep in a room where a Swiss milker slept. He had an alarm clock fastened to the sill on the side of the wall, with a cord to it that ran to the ceiling of the room and then out to the middle of the top of the room. On this cord he had tied old cans, buckets, and pans. When the alarm went off, the string slipped loose and the cans, buckets, and pans hit the floor with a bang. I needed no such noise to awaken me, but this fellow had failed to heed the alarm, so he had to have a string, cans, buckets, pans, several of them, to make a noise worse than a clap of thunder. Oh, what a great noise it did make in the stillness of the morning hour, and yet he was just barely awakened.

Just so, when a saved man or woman begins to pass up and fail to heed even the least of the teachings and instructions of God's Word, his ears will soon become dull of hearing and his spiritual eyesight will dim, and he will soon be doing many things contrary to true holiness and righteousness. He will become so dull of hearing that he will not be able to receive the chastening of the

Lord and the checking by the Spirit. If persistent, he will become sound asleep with a high profession of religion. The alarm of God's Word to such people is, "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." Eph. 5:14.



Minister, Bro. A. E. (Gene) Harmon, the son of Bro. George Harmon, who had labored with Fred Pruitt in the gospel work. Together, they held a very successful, soul-saving meeting at Louin, Miss., in 1932. Bro. Gene Harmon and his wife Loretta are now (March, 1978) pastors at Orland, Calif., though he is 84 years of age and very frail in body.

CHAPTER FORTY

God Searches Every Soul

David prayed in Psalms 138:23, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The heart of David was certainly searched out by the Almighty God, for the Lord allowed him to get into some very severe trials and difficult places until he was thoroughly tried. In most of the hard trials and tests that God allowed, no evil or wickedness came to the surface; but a few brought out some evil. The temptation of seeing Uriah's wife brought evil and wrong to the surface. (Read II Sam. 11:2). God permitted this temptation and trial to come to David, for He was searching him out.

When David tried to cover up one wrong, more evil was committed. The presence of Uriah seemed to vex him, for it probably caused his conscience to be pricked, so he ordered his General, Joab, to put Uriah in a place in the battle so he would be slain, and it was done.

In the 27th verse we find these words written, "But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord." God had brought some things to the surface by searching him in allowing these temptations. Now, what will David do with all this evil that is in evidence? We shall read in the next chapter to find out.

God sent Nathan, the Prophet, unto David, who said unto him, "There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto

him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold because he did this thing, because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, 'Thou art the man.' " After Nathan had told David how good the Lord had been to him in exalting him and giving him rule and authority, he also told him of his evil and how God would cause this evil to be seen of all, for David had done this wrong secretly, but God would show His wrath openly against him and before all the people. David humbled his heart and acknowledged his sin and said, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Oh, what a lesson there is in this for the saints of today. Brothers and sisters, when you do your neighbor, or any person wrong, even if it be your enemy, you have sinned against the Lord. When the Lord permits you to get into a hard place and the pressure is on, and evil is showing up on the surface, do you go about trying to cover it up, blame someone else, or excuse yourself, or perhaps tell some lies to hide your sin from others rather than confess and get rid of the thing from the heart? What do you do? When the Lord allows the pressure to come, do you get all out of sorts and think evil of the instrument He may be using? Do you blame the instrument rather than see the evil that is coming to the surface and acknowledge and confess your wrong and thereby get rid of the thing in your own heart? How do you do? Tell me, my dear traveler to the judgment, are you willing for God to search out in trials, yea, in fiery trials, and when wrong comes to the surface, are you willing, by confessing and acknowledging it, to let God skim off the dirt of selfishness, pride, self-conceit, and self-righteousness rather than cover it up with excuses, lies, and self-justification and thereby retain the evil stuff in your soul? What do you do? Be honest with yourself, be honest with God, and be honest with your fellowman,

for this is the only way you will ever get into God's heaven.

The Scriptures say, "The just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Heb. 10:38. Do you draw back from following the Lord when the way seems hard? Do you complain and murmur and pity yourself, and in that way grieve the Lord and fail to get the good out of the trial? If so, your experience will be worse than it was before.

Listen, dear pilgrim, John says of Jesus, "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor [our hearts], and gather his wheat into the garner [heaven]; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." Matt. 3:12. The chaff represents those who draw back, murmur, and complain and pity themselves, perhaps lie and excuse themselves, or accuse and blame others and never acknowledge the things that God through the trial is trying to bring to the surface, that they may get rid of the element that will cause them to miss heaven in the end.

God has revealed to me that one who will not hold steady under pressure but will draw back, and will not let the Holy Spirit, who is the fan of God, burn out these wrong things, will soon become in analogy like a nut on a bolt with the threads worn out. He will be worthless to the Lord. He will be no witness at all in this sinful world for the Lord, but will just go along with a profession like the five foolish virgins, "a lamp without oil."

Many are called, but few are chosen. When we get saved, we are then called to follow the Lord through this world and witness for Him. If we prove faithful through all the fiery trials of life, He will choose us to dwell with Him in eternity. Let us be wise and allow Him to try us, purify us, and make us white, ready for the celestial heavens, being without spot or wrinkle or any such thing.

NEVER ALONE

I'm never alone in the morning
As I rise at the break of day,
For Jesus who watched through the darkness
Says, "Lo, I am with you alway."

I'm never alone through the daylight,
Though nothing but trials I see;
Though the furnace be seven times heated,
The "form of the fourth" walks with me.

I'm never alone at the twilight
When darkness around me doth creep;
And spectres press hard round my pillow,
He watches and cares while I sleep.

—Author Unknown



**Ministers at the 1948 National campmeeting held at Neosho
(Monark Springs), Missouri.**

CHAPTER FORTY-ONE

Report on Campmeetings

For many months the Lord had been talking to me about a book describing the true church in symbolic language, making plain the truth on the church subject, so honest souls could see, understand, and clear themselves from church pens of men and abide in Him alone. Before we began to write, the titles of different subjects in the book were impressed upon me by the Lord. The book is now in stock.

In the summer of 1944, your servant had the pleasure of attending three campmeetings: the Hammond, Louisiana, campmeeting, the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., and the State campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. I can truthfully say that I have only a good report to bring to you concerning all three meetings, as the Lord manifested Himself in a very precious way in saving souls, sanctifying believers, healing the sick, and feeding, strengthening, and encouraging the saints. The preaching of the Word went forth under the power and anointing of the Holy Ghost as He chose, and put in the pulpit, the minister whom He could use to the edifying of the Body in love. The unity and oneness of the saints were very precious, and on special occasions the Lord poured out His spirit in such measure it seemed the whole camp was lifted into heaven. This holy way is truly a heaven to go to heaven in. Anyone attending these meetings and failing to see the true church of God functioning in her holy ways would be much in blindness and self-conceit and would be an object of pity rather than censure.

The Guthrie campmeeting was well attended. Ministers were present from Oregon, Missouri, Louisiana, and a dozen or more from the State of Oklahoma, making a total of nearly twenty-five ministers in attendance, and the Lord used them in giving rich soul food to His children. One hundred-five took part in the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints'

feet, thus obeying the Scriptures found in the 13th chapter of St. John. It was a precious service, and the saints were happy as they lovingly obeyed the teachings of Jesus.

The State assembly meeting, which was held in Guthrie during the holidays in December, 1944, and closed on New Year's Eve, was one of those blessed meetings that was prayed down from heaven and issued out through each lively member of His body, which is the church, causing great rejoicing and the adding of members to His body, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of all the truth. The attendance was good.

The Lord richly blessed in the services, causing the saints to rejoice, sing, and testify, until there were times when it was hard to dismiss. The altar was often filled with those who desired help from the Lord. On the last night of the meeting, about fifteen were at the altar for help. Souls were saved, believers were edified and richly established in the truth which makes souls free. It did not seem that a meeting could be better. Truly, we were all raised up and made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

CHAPTER FORTY-TWO

Church Headquarters Not on Earth

The humble saints of God are the church of the living God, the Body of Christ, which is visibly working in the world. They are the humble people of God, being "born again" souls that He has purchased with His own blood. They are not of the world as Christ and His disciples were not of the world. They do not dress in the immodest, indecent, vulgar fashions as others do in the man-made churches (so-called) of the world; but are separated unto God as His sacred property, set apart for His service. They do not wear rings, gold, pearls, nor costly array; but dress in plain, modest apparel. They do not bob their hair nor use facial make-up or nail polish, nor revel with the worldly-minded in shows, movies, bridge parties, dances, picnics, and ball games; but meekly and humbly practice the truth of God's sacred Word. They are a clean people in and out. The sisters are taught to dress in modest apparel according to the Word. They do not bare their arms with short sleeves, nor their legs with short skirts and anklets, neither do they practice the vulgar habit of baring their breasts and other parts of the body to public gaze. The doers of the Word are blessed of God; hearers who do not obey the Word are cursed of God. It is not surprising that God pours out His blessings from heaven upon people who are clean within and without, who really do the Word of God and honor Him who has washed us from our sins in His own blood. The glory always lingers near the cross.

Many people do not understand God's dealings with individuals who make up His church on the earth. In 1945, I received a letter from a dear brother who was trying to get clergy rates on the railroads. He said that he had told them he was an ordained minister in the Church of God and the *Faith and Victory* Publishing Company was the headquarters. We make no such claim as that, and never have made the claim of being the headquarters for the Church of God. The real Church of

God is the family of God, which is born from above and is the Body of Christ, and the headquarters are in heaven, consisting of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We, as God's family, are just members in Christ's body, and all functioning in their proper places make up the whole working body. God sets the members as it pleases Him, and gifts each member according to the work He chooses for him to perform; and all we, as members, have to do is to become pliable in His hands at all times and look to Him for grace and wisdom to perform that which He chooses to work in and through us to His good pleasure. As we are faithful in the little that He has for us to do, we shall increase with power, wisdom, and ability to do more and greater things.

We remember when God saved us and sanctified our nature nearly thirty years ago, and how we gave ourselves entirely up to Him and made it a business of our lives to always be led by His Spirit regardless of outside influences. As we did this, the Lord blessed us in handing out gospel tracts and talking to souls in a personal way. The start was so simple, but the Lord just continued leading on and increasing our labors as we yielded to Him for Him to work in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. As He increased our work for Him, there arose a need for a greater increase of temporal things to carry on His work, wherein He was working in us. As He worked in and through us in the printing of the gospel and sending it forth by the printed page, our hearts began to cry unto Him for wisdom, power, and the literal things needed to carry on the work; and we found that God was not slack concerning His promises, even though He allowed us to be tested severely at times. It is not carnal covetousness to desire and ask God for literal things to use to accomplish work which He is using us to do that He might be glorified and that precious souls might hear the gospel and be saved. Since we have looked to God by faith for years and years, we have found that it matters not about the amount with God, but with Him it is just a matter of the need. He can and will supply a thousand dollars just as easily as one dollar, if it is

asked for with an eye single to His glory. Too many prayers are prayed wherein the applicants are mixing up selfishness along with their praying, therefore they get disappointed.

The Lord has worked in and through this vessel of clay until the work requires much, in a literal sense, in order to keep up with His working. The gospel by the printed page is going forth in large quantities and reaching those in obscure places and in the byways and hedges where very little gospel is heard. We receive letters telling of blessings received through reading the literature, and we are persuaded that the tracts, papers, and booklets from Faith Publishing House are reaching more souls with the gospel by the printed page in a short time than any evangelist could reach in a lifetime. We know it is just the Lord and we accept no credit, neither do we deserve any. As a member in His body, we are fully given up to His will, and God is giving the increase in needed literal things with helpers in the work literally and spiritually. Even though the Lord has gathered a few of His members together to print and send forth the gospel, that does not make us the headquarters of the Church of God to those who have discernment and spiritual understanding of what the true Church of God is; for we are just members of His body, and workers together with God in gathering together in one, even in Christ all souls that are born again, born from above and not of this world. The Spirit cannot gather those who are more or less of the world. It is those who loosen from the world entirely that the Spirit can gather into one, even in Him who has risen from the dead.

Almost all Christians will agree that the gift of divine love in the heart is the most essential thing for the preservation of the souls of men. Paul teaches us in I Cor. 13 of the fruits of this gift of God in the soul. In the latter part of the 12th chapter he enumerates the different gifts of the Spirit and tells the brethren to covet earnestly the best gifts; but yet, above all these gifts, he says, "shew I unto you a more excellent way," then he gives us the wonderful and much-prized 13th chapter of

1st Corinthians. The first of the chapter shows what great things men may do, yet these deeds would bring no eternal profit to them. Then is given the manifestations of divine love in the heart. Read them often and compare them with the manifestations of the life issuing from your soul and see for yourself whether yours is divine love or some other kind of love.

Divine love is not a compromising love with the world. Although it may bear with them and show kindness, yet it will not be a partaker with them. The divine love will be so true that it will reprove, exhort, and teach. Divine love will not manifest a cold, hard, legalistic attitude, but will have a warm desire to help every soul no matter how contrary they may seem to God's holy ways. The manifestations of divine love in the soul are often misunderstood by those who have selfish or impure motives, or have imbibed more or less love for the world.

I do not believe that Paul and Peter were hard, cold, and legalistic when they wrote and commanded the saints not to put on outward adornments, nor to wear gold, pearls, and costly array. I do not believe that James and John were hard and legalistic when they wrote and exhorted the brethren not to love the world, neither the things that are in the world. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." I John 2:15: "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4. I believe, when these brethren wrote these words of warning and reproof, their souls were filled with the warm, divine love of God, even though they spoke a mighty rebuke to almost all professed Christians of this present day.

At times, the divine love of God working through His true ministers will say seemingly hard, legalistic things to those who are not free from the taint of the world, selfishness, and other bodily lusts; but if they would receive the reproof or rebuke it would cause them to love God and the instrument He may have used.

For an illustration: I was in the East in evangelistic work in company with Bro. and Sister Scott Baker of Garrett, Ind. At Ft. Wayne, Ind., we went to a large garage to get the car repaired. When we drove up to the large door and sounded the horn, the door rolled up and we drove in, then it lowered again, seemingly of its own accord. While the car was being repaired, I was standing near this large door. Once while it was up, a man started to go through it just as it began to roll down. I called to him to prevent his walking under the descending door, but he, being hard of hearing, went right on. I jumped quickly and grabbed him by the arm and jerked him back just as the door came down scraping his clothes. At first, he was angry because I jerked him roughly backward, but when he realized that I had saved his life, he became humble and thanked me for that rough act.

When Jesus began to teach about suffering and self-denial to some that followed Him, they said, "This is a hard saying, who can hear it?" and they walked no more with Him. If they had heard and received it, the same would have meant eternal life and happiness to them. Even so it is with teachings that seem hard now.

Divine love in the heart will not cause you to put on adornments like other professed Christians, but will be a reproof to such. If you think that divine love in your heart is causing you to adorn your body with unnecessary articles of clothing and other things, then it would be wise for you to think again and determine what manner of love it is that works in you and causes you to act contrary to the teachings of the Bible. I fear that some are like the tree frog I hear about that changes his color according to the kind of tree on which he sits. Brothers and sisters, we should obey the teachings of the Bible no matter how hard or contrary they may seem to our natural or self life. True divine love in the soul will cause you to do this in spite of the scoffs and scorns of worldly-minded professors. We should discern between true divine love in the soul and human sympathy and self-love. True, divine love will cause you to act in harmony

with the teachings of the Bible and will not cause you to hunt up Scriptures with which to reason yourself astray.

CHAPTER FORTY-THREE

Ministers' Meeting in 1946

We believe it will please the Lord for us to insert here the report of the meeting of the ministers in Guthrie, Nov. 1946.

MINISTERS' MEETING REPORT

The national ministers' meeting is now an event of the past, and will be recorded in the minds of those who attended as one of the forward moves in the Church of the living God, and sweet memories of this time when more than sixty ministers met in heavenly counsel with God and one another, will linger in our hearts and minds.

The ministers began to arrive several days before the date set for the meeting (November 3rd), and from the beginning the chapel was well filled with holy men and women of God. Ministers came from many different states. California, Michigan, Louisiana, Missouri, Kansas, Oregon, Indiana, and other states, with Oklahoma well represented.

Many different subjects were discussed and counseled upon before God and His holy Word, as Scriptures in the Bible were used as a settlement of questions involved, and "Thus saith the Lord" was the law and gospel to all. Where the gospel was not clear and definite, the conviction of the ministers was accepted as a basis of teaching, leaving the Holy Spirit free to work in all cases. All understood that light and knowledge rates responsibility, and that love, bearing and forbearing, fills an important place in the congregations of the saints in order to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and harmony.

Some of the subjects brought before the ministers were: "The qualifications of a minister," "A pastor's duty in a congregation," "The duty of a congregation toward a pastor," and "Where there is a number of ministers in a congregation, should all be pastors or one be recognized

as a pastor with authority and responsibility?" "The need of congregations being set in order with deacons and deaconesses, also their duties and qualifications," "Marriage and divorce," "How saints and their children should dress," "Child training," and many other subjects of minor importance.

While discussing these subjects we noticed that some had very lenient views that would soon drift into compromise and others had legalistic views that would soon hobble the Holy Spirit and cause deadness in members, but the ministers as a body were so directed by the Spirit with firmness, backed up by the Scriptures, that most of the questions which were brought up were brought to a satisfactory agreement and left in such a way, that almost all could understand what the Bible teaches as sound doctrine in each particular subject.

The discussions of the ministers were, in general, heavenly and in a Christ-like spirit and manner. The few manifestations of carnality were of short duration, and the meeting progressed in a heavenly way.

A number of saints who had been at variance with one another cleared up and got together in the unity of the Spirit, which caused rejoicing among the saints and in heaven.

CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR

Buildings Constructed on Oklahoma and National Campgrounds

Since Part Three was printed in the early part of 1943, the saints have made some forward moves by the leadings of the Lord.

When it was announced that the saints would begin to build a dining hall at Guthrie and were looking to God for means and workmen for the same, the Lord began to stir hearts of consecrated saints and means came in, and working men in different parts of the country were stirred by the Spirit to offer their services. Bro. Lawrence Sneed came from New Mexico; Bro. Manly Jones from Colorado; Bro. J. H. Pierson and Bro. Trinkle from Indiana, and Bro. Clyde Stroud from Missouri, besides those of the local congregation who helped, along with some from Oklahoma City. The Lord laid the weight of managing the building and erecting of the dining hall upon L. D. Pruitt, our son, and he spent much time planning, ordering material, getting helpers together and seeing after the building in general, with the aid of others. Bro. Audney Davis also helped to sponsor this project and hauled the material. The brethren all worked hard and faithfully for several months and had it completed to the extent that it could be used for the Okla. State campmeeting in the summer of 1946. Later, more work was done toward finishing it. Bro. Eldon Rhoades from southern Mo., who is greatly interested in learning the way of the Lord more perfectly, plastered it; and Bro. Roy Harmon, a young minister and carpenter, did other finishing work.

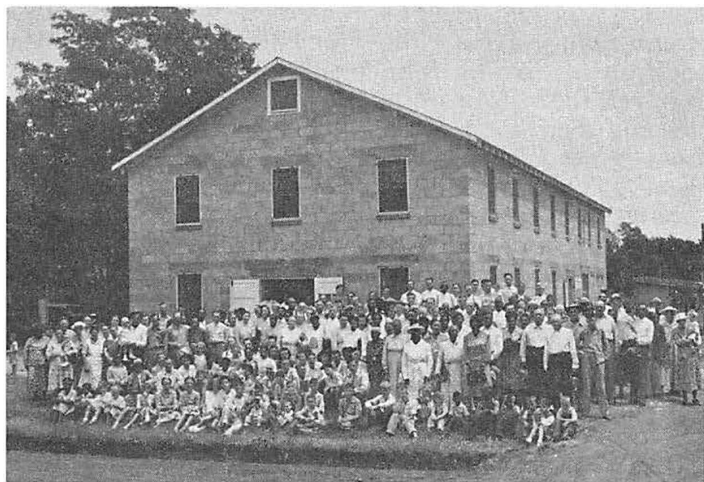
This building is made of concrete blocks, two stories high, thirty feet wide by seventy-four feet long. There is a dining room on the first floor with sleeping quarters above, and restrooms in the rear. It is a substantial building.

At present, March, 1947, the saints are beginning to build a pavilion to use for the campmeetings instead of a

tent. It is fifty feet wide by sixty feet long. It is located just east of the saints' chapel and the dining hall is just across the alley north of it and the chapel. All these buildings are in the 600 block of W. Warner Street, Guthrie, Okla. The state assembly meetings and camp-meetings are held here each year.

The saints have also begun the erection of a substantial dining hall at Monark Springs, Mo., where the National campmeeting is held each year in July. This building is only about half finished at the present writing, but they expect to finish it in time for the campmeeting in July, 1947.

The meetings here in Guthrie at the saints' chapel are good and quite well attended. The average attendance on Sundays is about sixty; and at the mid-week prayer meetings, from thirty-five to fifty. The outlook for the furtherance of God's cause in the earth is good and we are expecting to see the true Church of God shine more and more as we near the end of time.



Attendants at the 1946 Guthrie campmeeting assembled in front of the new dormitory and dining hall which was completed that year.

CHAPTER FORTY-FIVE

Addition to Print Shop Building

In December, 1944, I was considering the need of more room for the Lord's Print Shop. World War II was on and building material was hard to get; in fact, so far as I knew the government had the lumber tied up so that material could not be obtained only in connection with war purposes. In meditating on the need I thought that in the spring, if I could get material, I would build an addition to the Print Shop. The Spirit spoke, saying, "Why not do it now?"

I knew it was the Lord talking, so I went to town to see if I could get lumber with which to build, and learned there was a temporary release by the government. They let me have all the material I needed to erect the building; consequently, we added twenty-two feet to the Print Shop, making a room twenty-two feet by twenty-two feet, which was a very welcome and needed expansion for the machinery which was being added.

More than three years have passed since this addition was built, and now in harmony with the leadings of the Lord we have the foundation laid for another addition of sixteen feet, putting in a restroom and another room fourteen feet by fourteen feet for a sleeping room for brethren who work here. Our house room is occupied by the girls who work in the shop.

The Lord has supplied a power Addressing Machine, a new proof press, a 12x18 job press, an automatic feeder for it, and another Intertype. We have also ordered an automatic cylinder press for tract printing, power paper cutter with a 26-inch blade, and a new Model 31 Linotype. This machinery will be shipped to us just as soon as the manufacturers can get them made and orders filled which are ahead of us.

The Lord is preparing the Print Shop for a much greater amount of printing to be done to fulfill the continued increase of calls for the literature. We do mean, by His grace and help, to do all we can to get the clean, clear-cut gospel of Christ to the people by the

printed page. We reach more people with the gospel in this way in one month than an evangelist could reach in years. As people quietly read, the Holy Spirit has a good opportunity to bring the truth forceably to their hearts and minds and show them His righteous ways. If you could read the many letters which we receive telling us of how the Lord has blessed the reading matter to the good of souls, your heart would rejoice with us and you would have greater courage to do all possible to keep the "Little Silent Preachers" going forth to all people everywhere.



William Cramer with his Model T Ford coupe at the Oklahoma City campmeeting in 1929.

CHAPTER FORTY-SIX

Daily Routine at the Print Shop

It may be interesting to the reader to know how the work is carried on here in the Lord's Print Shop, so with the Lord's help I shall try to give you an explanation of the general routine of the work.

First, we wish to say that we look to the Lord for grace and help to keep out of His way and let Him have the preeminence in directing each member of His body in the work He wants them to do.

Most of the time I get up first in the mornings, light the fires in the house (in the wintertime) and office, then go to my office room for prayer, writing, and reading. Wife, and the girls working here who stay in our home, soon follow me in getting up and do some preparing toward breakfast, then call for the morning worship. This consists of singing several songs, reading the Bible, and then an agreement in prayer for the many calls coming in for prayer, for grace for the day, strength for the work, and any other burdens that may be upon our hearts.

After breakfast is over, each one goes to his appointed work for the day. When the mail arrives, often the whole office force is called together for prayer for special needs and for requests which come in from our many readers for healing. Sometimes I carry letters into the house where Wife and I agree in prayer and earnestly look to God to heal a sick one or lift a burden from a weary pilgrim.

The Lord is precious in giving us sweet peace and heavenly richness in the home and in the Print Shop.

At five o'clock in the evening, the office work is over unless we have rush work on hand, or some special things to do or finish. Supper is then prepared and then we gather together for evening worship.

After evening worship, unless there are meetings to attend, or calls to go pray for the sick, we spend the time in our office in prayer, in answering letters, or in the

composing room putting type in the chase for printing. Sometimes we do some printing and preparing work for the next day, retiring for the night about eleven o'clock. It is blessed just to be the Lord's and let Him guide through life.

CHAPTER FORTY-SEVEN

The Lord Calls More Workers

The Lord has blessed in a very precious way the past few years in His Print Shop, adding some new workers, and calling others who labored faithfully here out into other fields of labor, leaving behind precious memories of our labors and fellowship together.

In the fall of 1943 the Lord supplied more workers in His Print Shop. Bro. Merrill Williamson, a young man whose home is in Louisiana, was in the army stationed in a camp in Michigan. But when he became convicted of his sins and prayed through and was born from above by the Spirit of God, being made a new creature in Christ, he did not want to continue in the army where he would be required to fight and kill. He did much praying to the Lord for deliverance and requested prayer of the saints. The army doctors found a defect in the ear drum and gave him an honorable discharge from the army. Soon after that, he came here to give his services to the Lord in the great battle against sin and evil of every kind. The Lord will supply His Print Shop with workers even if He has to have the officials find something wrong so they can be loosed and freed for His service.

Bro. Merrill was reared by parents who are saints in this evening light, living near Loranger, La. They taught their children the true way. He was good help in the office work and was satisfied and happy in the Lord. Later he felt called to the ministry. In the spring, after choosing Ruby Doolittle of New Mexico, for a life companion and helpmeet, he with his bride went to New Mexico and Calif., and later returned to Louisiana.

In Part Three, we said that Rosella Slifer of Pennsylvania had come to Guthrie to help in the work. For some time after coming here she was engaged in nursing



Rosella Slifer



Merrill and Ruby (Doolittle) Williamson

duties, then in the fall of 1943 she joined the office force and began to give part time to the work, at the same time devoting part of her time (mostly at night) to nursing work at a local old people's home.

She is a precious Christian, and was glad to be helping to put out the tracts and papers. We appreciate her consecration and her labor of love which she freely gave here in this work, until the Lord made her feel clear to make a change. She was married to Bro. Richard Scott of Milan, Mo., in the early spring of 1946. We pray God's blessings upon her, and feel she is worthy of His richest blessings.

After the Guthrie campmeeting in August, 1944, the Lord added two more workers to His Print Shop. Evodna Thurman of Dallas, Texas, came first, then in a week or ten days later Genevieve Capps of Owasso, Oklahoma, came. These girls were willing workers and soon proved to be valuable help here.

We truly appreciate all of these young Christian workers, as they are all devoted to God and willing to give their time and services to God instead of seeking the big wages that so many are getting in the defense plants. Surely, by these sacrifices they are laying up much treasure in heaven and their souls are growing and prospering.

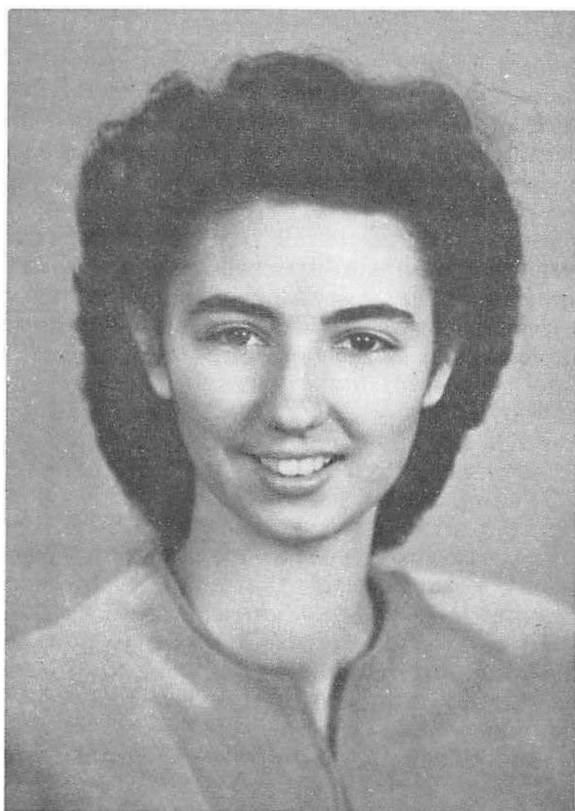
On July 30, 1944, Sister Dorothy Byers became the wife of Brother Clifford Wilson who was still detained in a C.P.S. Camp. Sister Dorothy continued her work here for the Lord until the spring of 1945. Shortly after her husband was transferred from camp to detached service on a dairy testing project, she felt it would please the Lord for her to get work where she could be near him. She had been a dependable, faithful worker and we greatly missed her when she was gone from our midst, but we humbly submit to the Lord's workings, knowing that as He sends some and permits them to leave, He can in like manner send others, that the work may go on in a way pleasing to Him.

For some time the Lord had burdened Dora Lela Sorrell of Myrtle, Mo., to come here and labor for Him.

After attending the Assembly meeting in December, 1946, she remained in Guthrie, and has been faithfully consecrating her time and talents ever since.

She, even as the other workers here, counts it more profitable to lay up treasures in heaven, than to obtain the riches of this world.

Sister Myrtle Grice felt the Lord calling her for personal and public work in His vineyard. After serving the Lord thus for a short time, He permitted her to return to His Print Shop. Then He called again, and in obedience



Evodna Thurman

to His leadings she again launched out for Him in other fields of labor. For more than a year she has been pastoring the little flock at Minneapolis, Minn.

The Lord knows the needs of this work and sends the helpers whom He can use. Sister Loraine Modglin of Chaffee, Missouri, felt the call of the Lord and came here to take Myrtle's place in the Lord's work in Dec., 1946.

In September, 1946, the Lord's Print Shop family bade farewell to another precious sister and fellow-laborer. Genevieve Capps became the wife of Arnett Carver, who is the son of Brother Cecil Carver of Shreveport, La., and she went with him back to Shreveport where they are making their home.

It is in the order of the Lord for the young people to have saved companions and establish homes of their own. Our earnest prayer for them is that they will continue to be faithful to the Lord, and that they will not be content to live solely for themselves and the temporal things of this life.

When the Lord sends helpers in the office work He makes no mistakes, which thing He has proven to us



Clifford and Dorothy (Byers) Wilson

over and over again. His Print Shop is a heavenly place where all are saved and working with one object in view, and that is to help precious souls find the Lord and glorify God in all they do and say. We have heaven in the shop and heaven in the home, as the love of God is shed abroad in each of our hearts by the Spirit which is given unto us; therefore we can count it all joy when we fall into divers temptations. Praise God for consecrated helpers in the Lord's Print Shop.



Dora Lela Sorrell

Following is a paragraph from a letter received from a Sister who had worked here faithfully for some time, then departed to another field of labor:

"Precious are the memories of the days and hours spent in the Lord's Print Shop. The recollection of the time gives me inspiration to ever live close to the Lord, to submit all to Him and keep all committed into His loving hands. We, who belong to the Lord, need to be fully persuaded that the Spirit of the Lord leads to a quiet



Arnett and Genevieve (Capps) Carver

waiting before Him at all times, just letting the Lord work out all that concerns us, for our good and His glory. I'm sure I found this spirit prevailing around the Print Shop and in the home of Bro. and Sister Pruitt. The Word of God was fully believed and resorted to for counsel and guidance, and with an earnest seeking on the part of all for Christ to have His way; life was truly precious. What a blessing that we who have been there and left, can realize strength and encouragement to remain in the service of the Lord, as we remember the time spent in the Lord's Print Shop in Guthrie."

When many who were held in reputation as being leaders in the reformation movement imbibed a compromise spirit, many of God's children were confused and scattered to some extent, and it seemed that those who remained true to the old standards of righteousness were needed here in this country to "strengthen those things that remained" more than they were needed on foreign missionary fields. But recently some have launched out in that field of service. Near the end of 1946, Bro. George Stephenson, who is zealous for the cause of God, and is well known among the saints, went to Grand Cayman, British West Indies. A few months later, in the early part of 1947, Bro. and Sister Egbert Allen went with the expectation of helping the brethren in their annual campmeeting, and to hold other meetings as the Lord opened doors of opportunity. They report that a spirit of lethargy has a strong hold upon the inhabitants of that island as well as in the different parts of the United States where they have labored; but the Lord is blessing their efforts and some souls are being stirred to seek the Lord. Since the island is small and others have charge of the work there, they feel like their labors will soon be over and they will return to the States to continue home missionary work as the Lord may lead.

CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT

Bro. and Sister C. E. Orr and Bro. Robert Longley

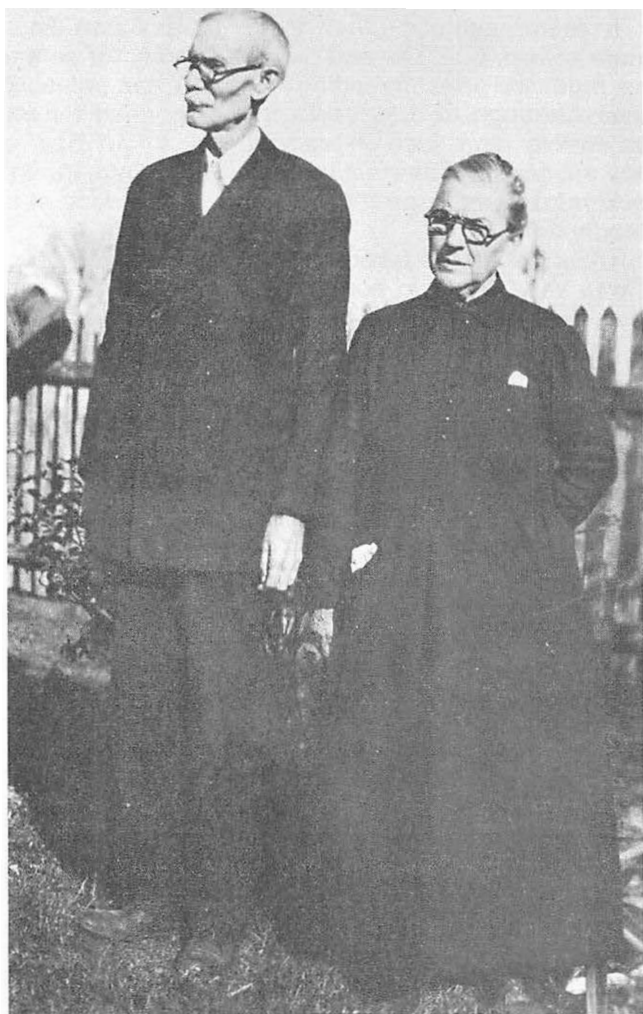
It seems good to us to insert in this Part Four a picture of Bro. C. E. Orr and his wife, Sadie, for so many have read, and are still reading his books, pamphlets, and tracts. Although he has been physically dead for more than twelve years (see obituary at end of Part One), yet many are feeding their souls upon his writings in which he expresses the inspiration of the Spirit working in and through him.

This picture was taken of him in his late years when he was very feeble in body. It does not show the spry, active man that he was in former years.

There was a blending of our spirits from the first time that I met him in this life, and that oneness and fellowship increased as years came and went. Bro. Orr was a very quiet, unassuming man and his words carried deep thought, and left impressions upon one's soul that there was more than human in the man. I feel that I have been benefited much in soul by associating with this dear man in this life.

His wife, Sadie E. Orr, is still living, and resides in Glendale, California. A few years after his death, she was united in marriage to Bro. George E. Harmon, who was also a minister of longstanding in the present truth. Bro. Harmon also passed away a few years ago. Sis. Sadie (Orr) Harmon was always much alive in spiritual things and an example of holiness in the church, a mother in Israel and a Bible wife to her husband. She is now over 80 years of age, ripening up for heaven, the glory world.

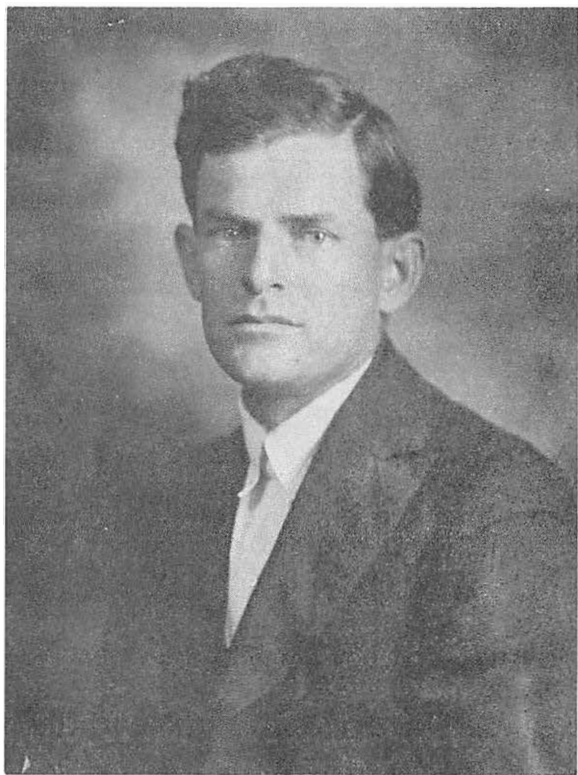
In the first part of this book, Bro. Robert Longley's name is mentioned quite frequently, as he and I were together much of the time for a number of years in our early ministry. He lived in our home and we agreed together for the salvation of souls, with heavy burdens on our hearts that would often reach into fasting and agonizing prayer for the lost. We walked the streets of Guthrie together, visiting the lowly and needy, held services in the county farm for the helpless and aged,



Bro. Charles E. and Sister Sadie Orr

took the gospel into the jails and slums, and were made happy together many times when a soul was saved.

I have always thought that Bro. Longley was the best personal worker I have ever known. It seemed he had a way of getting next to hearts that others do not have. He was exceedingly zealous for the Lord and the cause of God among men. There seemed to be no sacrifice too great or humiliating for him to make if he felt that God would be pleased with it, as he was fervent in spirit and often reached flaming heat in earnestness for the welfare of souls. He truly had the spirit of the early



Brother Robert Longley

church in having all things common. Selfishness and worldly honor had been crucified.

God called him to go as a missionary to foreign lands. He was in the Fiji Islands and other islands near Australia for five years, laboring for the salvation of souls. On his way home he went into India, Egypt, and the Holy Land, and back through England to New York. He left from San Francisco, Calif., thus making the trip around the world. Today he is living in California, with a wife and several children. His burden for the cause of God and souls is still upon him. He often aids us in the gospel work, and no doubt is a light for God in the community where he is living.

We insert his picture here without asking his consent, feeling that our readers would like to look at a man who has suffered and even hazarded his life for the sake of winning souls for Christ. I am sure that Brother Longley is sufficiently dead to self-praise and honor that he will not receive any human honor from the above writing. I felt our readers should know the facts and give honor to God who has worked in and through this brother to accomplish His plans in this life. May he live long and be useful in the hands of God until He says, "It is enough, come up higher."

Teach Me To Pray

Lord, in Thy school I'd ever be
To learn the lessons Thou hast for me;
They're all so free; yet let them cost
The things of self to all be lost.

My heart's desire though so sincere,
I'd yield to Thee in love and fear;
If found a hindrance to Thy will,
Stretch forth Thy hand—help me be still.

I ask Thy chastenings to bring relief;
So ignorant—weak with unbelief;
Thy precious promises help me to know,
Thy strength in them will ever show.

To watch, also, O, help me learn,
A light within my soul let burn;
My words and actions all to direct,
Before all men let it reflect.

In faith and trust help me increase,
As now my groanings never cease;
(But words to speak I cannot frame)
Pray, interpret them in Thine own name.

Not selfishly, my Lord, I'd pray,
But share Thy burdens every day;
The poor in body and in soul,
Help me to draw them to Thy fold.

—Robert Longley



Left to right: Maud Britt, Gladys Bock, and Leola White, members of the Guthrie congregation and the daughters of Bro. and Sister O. L. Britt of Guthrie. Taken in 1950.

CHAPTER FORTY-NINE

If a Servant Has Been Overlooked, Forgive!

Though this book is quite lengthy, we realize that it is still incomplete, for we could never put in print all of God's gracious dealings with us; but we have written what we have with only one aim, and that is to glorify God, and build up faith in Him, in the hearts of our readers. We have not intentionally mentioned the names of some who have aided in the work of the Lord and omitted others. We realize that some may have been precious helpers in the Lord's work in some way whom we have failed to mention. It is not our desire to slight anyone, but should the reader be one who has been slighted, we beg you to forgive us and be assured that it is because our minds failed to recall the service at the time we were writing this book. If your labor was done as unto the Lord, you shall not lose your reward. Those whom the Lord uses to send offerings for the upkeep of this work and for the workers, and those who distribute the literature to needy souls in different parts of the country, are performing a service as necessary as are those who have left their homes to come here and labor. We do not desire to exalt one worker above another, but encourage all to be faithful in the place where the Lord can use you best.

Led By His Spirit

Led by His Spirit—praise His dear name!
Out of sin's blight, its bondage and shame,
Into the depths of infinite love,
Filled with sweet peace from heaven above.

Led by His Spirit each day and hour,
Hid in His mercy, kept by His power,
Blest with His comfort, checked by His rod,
That I might bear the image of God.

Led by His Spirit, body and soul,
Calmly I'm resting in His control.
Powers of hell assail and oppose,
Still He gives vict'ry over all foes.

Led by His Spirit e'er would I be,
'Til from this earthly house I'm set free.
Led by His Spirit, I shall ascend
To joys immortal, life without end.

—Geneva Ray



**Sister Opal and Bro. Ostis Wilson talking to Bro. Ira Stover
on Monark National Campground.**

God's Gracious Dealings

Part Five

Printed in 1955

CHAPTER FIFTY

The Lord Adds More Workers

It has been eight years since we printed the fourth edition of this book, *God's Gracious Dealings*, and many things have taken place at Faith Publishing House since that time.

When we thought of and felt the need of writing the fifth part of the book, it seemed to be a big job before us; but as we prayed over the matter, the Lord brought the fact to me that big things with us were only small things with Him, so we have begun this writing solely depending upon Him to dictate and direct, so that the book, when it is printed, will be a blessing to many precious souls.

Following is an editorial written November, 1951: 'Twenty years ago when this writer was fifty years old, he was sick and had become very poor and thin in body, could hardly eat anything to sustain life in the body. I felt it would only be a short time until I would die, and I reasoned with the Lord about the matter in prayer, and told Him that I did not want to die. The children were not yet all grown, and it seemed to me I was just then getting to a place where I could do so much more toward getting the gospel to men by the printed page. One day, while in the kitchen with no appetite to eat, the presence of the Lord came down over me in a special manner, and the words were formed in my soul in a very impressive manner by His Spirit as follows: 'You have twenty years yet.' That was glad news to me from heaven, and from that hour I began to amend and soon was in normal health.

"I have been telling this to the saints for the past twenty years; for on the 4th of October I was seventy years old. How much longer the Lord intends to let me live, I cannot tell; but this one thing I do know, that my

health is good and I work every day in the Lord's Print Shop, and much of the time do a lot of my writing between seven and eleven o'clock at night. From the appearance of things now, He may let me live fifteen or twenty more years, but I have no assurance from Him for that.

"On the evening of the 4th of October, 1951, we received a double surprise from friends and saints. Lawrence, our son, and family; Willie Murphey, our son-in-law, and family; and a few other saints gathered in early and brought with them two freezers full of ice cream and a large cake. We enjoyed these things and their association. Later, while in the sitting room enjoying a warmth of love among us, there came marching in a large portion of the congregation of the saints here at Guthrie, singing, 'Happy Birthday to You.' They continued filing in until our rooms were filled past their sitting capacity. I hardly knew what to think or do. They piled many birthday cards on the table. I read the appreciative verses on the cards, and all seemed to enjoy this. Then I picked up a paper sack, which was among them. I opened it and pulled out two envelopes full of bills, amounting to \$49.00. All who could, went into the sitting room where we sang songs, and ended by singing my favorite song, which is also my testimony: No. 94 in the *Evening Light* song book. Then I read my favorite Psalm, which is Psalms 34, after which we all had prayer, then a large company of the saints left for their homes, wishing us many happy birthdays. It was not long until a sister who lives nearby returned, bringing me another dollar, saying that she and her daughter wanted to make the amount of the offering fifty dollars. Later I went into the dining room and picked up the paper sack from the table, intending to dispose of it, and I found twenty more dollars, which I had overlooked, because it was not in the two envelopes. That made seventy dollars, one dollar for each year of my age. Then I picked up an envelope which was on the table, and found a twenty-five cent piece, which made good measure. Then a birthday present of \$7.50 from a Brother of Livingston,

Calif., made the measure pressed down and running over. All praise be to the Lord of Hosts. I shall not go into detail as to other presents that loved ones gave and sent, though they were much appreciated; but will close by saying that our love for God and the saints has been increased and my soul is provoked by this love and interest in one so unworthy as I, that I mean, by His grace, to show more sympathy, love, and compassion for others than ever, and watch to find opportunities to reveal Christ to souls in charity work to further the interests of God and be a true representative of heavenly things to the men of this world. May God bless and reward every saint and friend. I love the Lord because He first loved me. I love the saints because they first loved me and prayed for me while I was yet in sin. True holiness in the heart will cause a sweet heavenly fellowship to flow from soul to soul. May that sweet fellowship of His true holiness people forever live!"

The new machinery mentioned in the fourth edition as being ordered arrived in due time and has been doing good work. The Lord has made us able also to install an automatic tract and booklet folder, which folds the tracts and booklets at the rate of from three to five thousand per hour. This machine is a great blessing to the work.

The workers who labored here in the Print Shop when the last edition was printed and put out, have either married and have homes of their own, or are in other fields of labor, with the exception of Sister Geneva Ray, who is steady in the work and much needed.

I will try to give the different names of those who have worked in the Print Shop since the last printing. Some were here only a short time and others for several years.

Sister Nova Jo Short of Louisiana had a desire to help in the work and came in 1948, but was called to her home in Louisiana after a few weeks.

Sister Ruthe Byers of Louisiana, a sister to Dorothy, came in the fall of 1948 and labored faithfully here for more than a year. She was very efficient and all of her labors were appreciated; but one outstanding service

which the Lord enabled her to render was helping to compile the songs for the *Evening Light Songs*, the book the saints in general had prayed and labored for a number of years. In the early part of 1950 Sis. Ruthe felt the Lord was permitting her to return to her former job in Shreveport, La. After a few months of labor there, she became the wife of Brother Lawrence Taylor of Dinuba, Calif., where they now make their home.

Space will not permit the mention of all the gracious dealings of the Lord and His blessings in the different revival meetings and campmeetings which He has permitted us to attend and labor for Him in them. We have many precious memories of the different meetings at Langdon, Mo. We mention this to bring to our readers'



Ruthe Byers

attention how the Lord works through His different servants to glean out souls here and there for Him. Results may not seem so great at times, but our part is to labor for Him, and He will give the increase. One soul is very precious in His sight. At the end of one of the camp-meetings at Langdon, some of the ministers felt burdened to continue the meeting, which they did. On one of these nights God's mercy to sinners was being extended and a young girl, Lois Whipple of Forest City, Mo., went to the altar and the Lord saved her. She soon felt the Lord was calling her to labor for Him in His Print Shop,



Lois Whipple

which call she obeyed, arriving here in one of the first months of 1950. She was not only qualified spiritually to work here, but also she had learned to operate the Linotype in her high school work, which was a good qualification for this printing work. She was steady and efficient, and labored here faithfully for four and one-half years. She is still interested in the work and helps out sometimes at night and on Saturdays. She just recently told me that she has never, and never will regret the years she put in here, helping the printing work along. At present she has a position with a printing company in this city as proofreader.

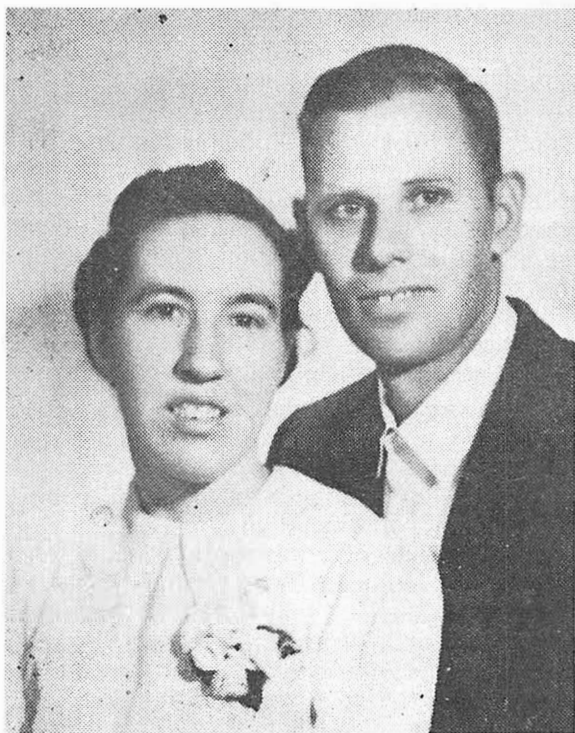
In the summer of 1948, two young men were added to the staff of workers: Harvey Johnson and Kenneth Flynn.

Harvey had experienced many hardships in his early life and could tell many interesting things about how the Lord delivered him from a school in Alabama where he had been placed when a young child. His attention was turned to this truth by reading the *Faith and Victory* paper and tracts. He spent a short time with the saints of the Hammond, La., congregation, and after the camp-meeting there in 1948, the Lord granted his heart's desire of working in the Lord's Print Shop at Guthrie. He remained here until he married May Ola Casto in 1951, and moved to Missouri to make his home.

His wife was a faithful young saint, and we expected a happy life for them together, but the Lord saw fit to take her. She passed away suddenly one night while at the National campmeeting as the minister in the pulpit was being richly anointed of the Lord to preach a message on the subject of the shortness of time and the uncertainty of our lives upon this earth. As a result of her death, many souls were awakened to their need and went to the altar. This was in July, 1954. She had witnessed to others that all was clear between her and the Lord. God in His goodness and mercy to lost souls, reached down and suddenly took one that was ready to go, in order to warn those not ready. The Lord has

different ways of using His consecrated children to His glory. His ways are always best.

For some time the Lord had been talking to Kenneth Flynn about helping in the printing work, so he remained in Guthrie after attending the campmeeting in August. His work was very satisfactory, and he was dependable, faithful, and very conscientious. The enemy of souls worked hard against him, causing him to have some very severe struggles which, it seemed, would wreck his body and soul; but through it all Kenneth looked to the Lord for deliverance, in agreement with the many prayers that ascended to the throne of God in his behalf. We believe



Wedding picture of Harvey and May Ola Johnson

the Lord has a special work for him in the future if he will continue to lift up the shield of faith. Being of draft age, he was required to leave here and spend two years in work assigned to him as a conscientious objector. He has recently completed this service, and is at present with his parents near Loranger, La.

The Lord seemed to see fit to make or permit a number of changes in workers in 1950. Evodna Thurman had returned to her home in Dallas, Texas; Lois Whipple



Kenneth Flynn

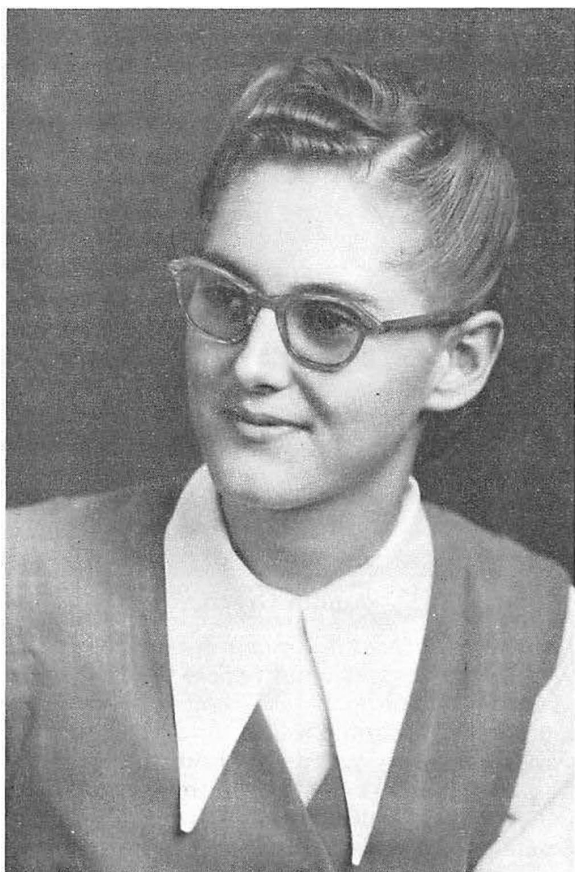
came, Ruthe Byers left, and Dora Lela Sorrell was planning to leave in December, so we looked to the Lord to supply someone to learn the work and fill the vacancy which Dora Lela's leaving would cause. The Lord was again faithful to help in this way and sent Virginia Blais of Oregon here in the fall, in time to take over Dora Lela's work. Sister Virginia was a humble saint and a capable and willing worker; but it seemed the Lord only meant to loan her to us a little while, for in a few months she left, having become the wife of Brother Clyde Lea of La. She labored with him in the gospel work a short time and then the Lord saw fit to call her to her eternal reward.

Different ones through the years have come here, got married and left, until the rumor got around that the young people's purpose in coming here was to get a companion. It seems that people who started such rumors did not realize that it is in the Lord's order for young people to marry and establish homes of their own, and that they did marry through the ages before this work was in existence; and others marry who have no connection with this work. This rumor caused quite a burden here among the workers, and also caused some to draw back whom the Lord wanted to send here, for fear people would think they were just coming here for the purpose of finding a companion and getting married.

Some time before this, the Lord had saved Clarice Nichols of Loranger, La., and talked to her about coming here, but because of this rumor she drew back and backslid. But she felt that she could not get along without the Lord in her life and knew that she must obey Him, so she returned to Him and became willing to come here and work regardless of what people would say or think. She came in the spring of 1951 and worked faithfully for more than four years, then returned to her home in Louisiana. It is truly wonderful how the Lord works to overcome the works of the enemy in behalf of His printing work, and individuals who serve Him elsewhere.

Aquila Green of Jena, La., served the Lord a number of years at home and proved faithful in a number of severe trials. The Lord spoke to her about the work here,

and she came with the consecration to faithfully serve and obey her Lord and Master even if He would ask her to give the remainder of her life in this service. She came in the fall of 1953 and in the summer of 1954 she became the wife of Robert Benson, who at that time was working as a conscientious objector at Larned, Kansas. They now live on a farm near Guthrie.



Clarice Nichols

**Aquila Green**

CHAPTER FIFTY-ONE

Beloved Mary Ann Pruitt Goes Home, and More Workers Come

For some time my wife had not been well and in the summer of 1954 she began to fail fast. She was relieved of much of her work. Finally she was unable to stay up, and she realized that her time here was short. Following is an editorial which appeared in the November *Faith and Victory* concerning her sickness and passing:

"She took down sick and went to bed on the 22nd of September, and was almost helpless eighteen days before passing. The neighbors and saints in and around Guthrie were very kind and good to us in the time of her sickness. Sister Lillian Meek was at our house when she took her bed, and she asked Sister Meek not to leave her as she felt her time had come to go. Sister Meek was with her all through her sickness, sitting up with her night after night. It was needful for two or three to sit up with her as she was helpless and wanted to be turned over in bed every little while. Others of the saints came in and sat up, and soon after she took down, Anna Marie Miles, our daughter in California, left her family and came to help. She was so kind and good and waited on her in such a precious way. Sister Meek waited on her as though she were her own mother, and neither one could hardly be persuaded to take needed rest. Oh, that the world had more people in it like the different ones who denied self and its comforts to help others in this time of need, then Jesus would be seen and heard more. All who could, helped or offered to help, in this sorrow. The neighbors and saints brought in pies, cakes, butter, eggs, chicken, and many other things while my wife was sick in bed. They showed their love and concern continually. We feel so unworthy of such a manifestation of divine love and interest. We truly feel greatly indebted to all these precious souls. God alone can reward them.

'The Lord was very good to Wife when she was sick and showed His love and care to her many, many times.

When she would suffer pain and prayer was offered, He would ease the pain and often give her some sleep. He truly made her bed in her sickness (Psa. 41:3).

"She gave us a clear witness that her soul was accepted of God, for when in prayer one day when she was very weak, the Lord poured a blessing upon her, and she clapped her hands for the joy that was within, and praised the Lord for some time. It is a great comfort to my soul to know that she was ready to go and met the Lord in peace. She passed away quietly and was conscious up to the last. Anna Marie asked her a few hours before she went, if she had any pain or suffering and she said no. She slipped away without any struggle, just seemingly went to sleep in the arms of Jesus.

"Now I go into the house and she is not there; all the things I look at remind me of her. I go into the Print Shop and I think of the many times I needed her help and how she would drop her work and come to help me. I think of how she had stood by me in dark hours and severe trials. For over forty-eight years she had to put up with me, and we shared our joys and sorrows together; and now she is gone away. The Lord has allowed it, and He alone can heal the wound and make the heart whole. Dear saints, pray for us and the work He has laid upon our hearts in getting the gospel to men by the printed page. We mean by His grace and strength to press the battle to the gates and never falter nor give down until He says, 'It is enough; come up higher.' "

OBITUARY

Mary Ann Balla was born near Walnut, Kansas, July 9, 1890 to Edward and Polly Balla. She was united in marriage to Fred Pruitt on April 9, 1906, and they lived together over 48½ years. To this union ten children were born—four dying in infancy.

She departed this life October 11, 1954, at the age of 64 years, three months and two days, leaving to mourn her passing, her husband, Fred Pruitt, and six children: Andrew J. Pruitt, Fresno, Calif.; Lawrence D. Pruitt, Guthrie; Mrs. Anna Marie Miles and Mrs. Mary

Lola Embly, Chino, Calif.; Mrs. Frances E. Murphey, Guthrie; and Frank E. Pruitt, Albuquerque, N. M.; also thirteen grandchildren, and two brothers, Jim Balla, Dodge City, Kansas, and George Balla of Los Angeles, Calif.

She was converted to the Lord in the fall of 1915, embracing the truth of the Church of God, and passed away triumphantly in the faith. Just a few days before she passed, the Lord so blessed her soul that she clapped



Fred and Mary Pruitt at Jefferson, Ore., campmeeting in 1953, about one year prior to her departure for that heavenly Home.

her hands with joy and praised the Lord for the great joy she felt within. She not only was ready to lend a helping hand to others in temporal needs, but in spiritual needs also, carrying a heavy correspondence with others in all parts of the country. She passed away quietly, just went to sleep.

She will be greatly missed by the family, friends, and church associates.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. O. C. Porter, assisted by Bro. Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla. Text used was 1 Peter 1:3. The body was laid to rest in the Summit View Cemetery at Guthrie, Okla.

Following is an editorial from the December paper:

"As I write this editorial, it has been just one month ago today since my dear wife left us to be an occupant of the Glory world. While we miss her very much, yet the Lord is healing the wound and we know she is far better off than we, as she has finished her course and gained the prize and we have to fight on and keep the victory over the enemy in order to be ready to join her in that forever blissful state. The Lord brought the Scripture to me found in Revelation 2:10, which reads thus: 'Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.' By His grace and help I mean to be faithful and win that crown which Peter says 'will never fade away.' Wife was so patient while on her bed in sickness, and when she suffered pain, prayer would be offered and the Lord would relieve her, although sometimes we would have quite a battle, and would have to pray again and again before the victory came. But God was faithful. Just a few hours before she passed, Anna Marie, my daughter, asked her if she suffered anywhere and she answered no. She went so easily and quietly—just slipped away to be with Jesus, and left her house of clay, exchanged it for a crown in glory, her coveted prize. It would only be selfishness in me to want her back here in this world of sin and sorrow. The witness that the Lord gave us of her being accepted by Him will always be a bright spot in my memory of her. So we will labor on and look to God for grace to fight a good fight as Paul did, and

win that blessed crown which Paul says is for everyone that loves His appearing. Blessed be the name of Jesus, who gave His prepared body and blood for us as a sacrifice on Calvary's cross, appeasing the wrath of God, which wrath we justly deserved, and brought joy and peace to our souls in knowing that our dear heavenly Father receives us as His blood-washed children—Glory be to His name!"

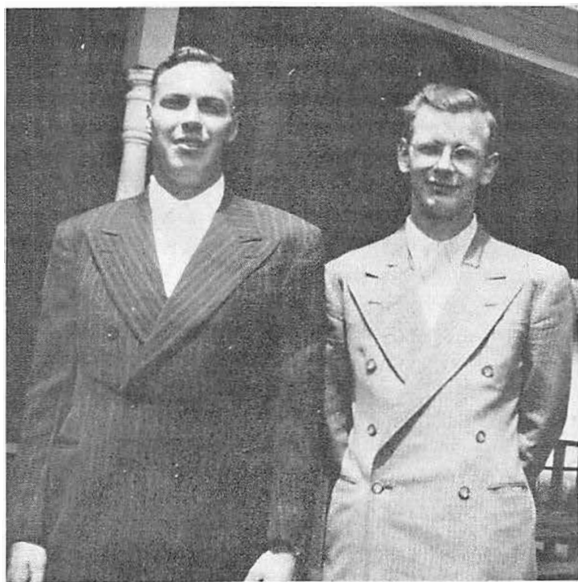
At present there are six workers here, and the printing work is moving along nicely, and the gospel by the printed page is reaching more souls than ever before as subscriptions are steadily coming in day by day. We are much pleased with the way the Lord is keeping things up and directing by His Spirit. It certainly is a pleasure to see the Lord work and care for all phases of the work. Besides the six who are here, there are two sisters, Sister Lillian Meek and Sister Leola White, who live near the publishing house, whom we call upon and depend upon, to help in the work much of the time. We believe the Lord has them numbered among the faithful workers in His Print Shop.

Bro. William Weir of Raton, New Mexico, was drafted for army service and being a conscientious objector he refused induction and was sentenced to two years in the Federal Penitentiary at Florence, Arizona. Because he was a trusty and of good behavior, he was released on parole, after serving nine months there, and came here to work in the Lord's Print Shop. He is quite active in the service, having learned to operate the cylinder press, has operated the Linotype some, and does other office work. He is an honest and upright young man and loves the Lord with all of his heart, preferring the Lord's ways more than his own, willing to bear and suffer persecution rather than to displease the Lord. He came in July, 1954. He is the young man to the left in the picture below.

In Nov., 1954, a young man came into the Faith Publishing House and gave his name as Gerald E. Davis (right in picture). He had come from Calif., and his parents

were missionaries in Alaska. He said that the Spirit of God had directed him here to the printing work. Since he was a perfect stranger to me and I had never heard from him nor his parents, I looked to the Lord to know what to say. I told him to stay around here for awhile and see how he liked things. We showed him a room where he could stay at night. It has been five months now since he came, and he has shown a great interest in the work. He has learned to operate the cylinder press and also does a large part of the typesetting on the Intertype machine. He feels a call to the ministry and does some preaching wherever a door opens. Gerald had been affiliated with the Gospel Trumpet movement, but he was sick of the compromising methods that have a major place in so much of their religious work.

Soon after my wife's passing, the Lord put a heavy burden on my daughter, Anna Marie Miles, who lived with her husband and two boys near Pomona, California,



William Weir and Gerald Davis

to come here and bear the cross for Jesus in the printing work. Her husband was willing; consequently, as soon as they could make arrangements and get their business in shape, they came and moved into the corner house here. She began her work for the Lord in the publishing work. It is needless to say that it was not only a surprise, but a great comfort to me, to know that the Lord was so graciously caring for the printing work. She is quite qualified, having been called into the ministry and



Anna Marie (Pruitt) Miles

pastoring the flock at Pomona for some time, also editing the "Beautiful Way" paper for children, which has been going out from this office for five years or more. She has fitted into the work splendidly, and I could not ask the Lord to please me better in providing one to answer letters, and consult with, in regards to the management of the many phases of the work, and to be in agreement of prayer for the sick and many other requests which continually come to the office. In this, as in many times before, we find that the Lord had things planned for the work long before He revealed it to us.

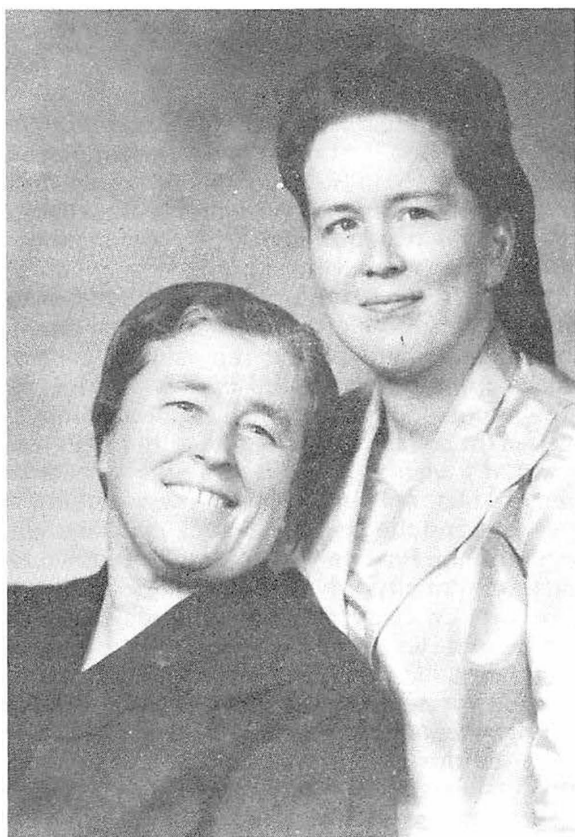
Sister Viola Atnip (right, in picture) felt a burden to work for the Lord in His Print Shop, so immediately following the 1954 Guthrie Assembly meeting, she took up her labors here in the Lord's Print Shop and proved to be very efficient and was conscientious, working faithfully for several years.

About eight months after Viola had come here, her mother, Sister Cassie Irwin (left, in picture) felt led to come and help in the Lord's work. She took over the housework and cooking for the workers, which is an essential work to be done. She served the Lord in this capacity quite faithfully for several years, until she felt that her mother needed her as she was not very well. Sister Cassie Irwin was a precious saint of God and was loved by all the saints in the congregation, and the entire Faith Publishing House family.

Sister Viola (Atnip) Weir and her mother are missed from the Lord's Print Shop. We pray God's blessings to be upon them.

I'm never alone at my table,
Though loved ones no longer I see;
For dearer than all who have vanished,
Is Jesus who breaks bread with me.

I'm walking and talking with Jesus,
Each day as I journey along;
I'm never alone, Hallelujah!
The joy of the Lord is my song.



Cassie Irwin and Viola Atnip

CHAPTER FIFTY-TWO

Doctrines of the New Testament

The Lord is opening up our understanding more and more to the doctrines of the new covenant which Jesus began to preach when He said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:15. In His recording of events, and in His parables and illustrations, He was continually showing the difference between the doctrines of the old covenant and the new covenant, the difference between the law and **grace**. Different characters He used would represent the law or old covenant with its results, and then other characters would represent the new covenant, its doctrines, and results of the same.

One happening recorded makes the teachings of the new covenant so plain and clear, together with results so perfect, that I wish to relate it. We find it in the seventh chapter of Luke. A Pharisee, who knew nothing but the old covenant and the law, invited Jesus to dine with him. He went into the Pharisee's house and sat down to meat. A woman of that city, when she knew that He was there, came in with an alabaster box of ointment and stood at His feet behind Him weeping, and began to wash His feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head and kissed His feet and anointed them with the ointment. This sinner woman represented a penitent Gentile (like we were before we got saved). She was broken up because of her sins and had a contrite spirit. (Webster says, "Broken down with sorrow for sin.") The Pharisee said, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known what manner of woman this is, for she is a sinner." You can see that he was acting like a self-righteous Jew under the law. After the Lord had put some questions to the Pharisee and reminded him of what this penitent woman had done, He then said to him, "Her sins which are many are forgiven; for she loved much." And He said unto the woman: "Thy sins are forgiven." Those who sat at meat with Him were surprised and said within themselves: "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?" His

new covenant doctrines were something new to them. Then Jesus said unto the woman: "Thy FAITH hath saved thee, go in peace."

She got saved just like we get saved at the present time. Hear what Paul said in Rom. 5:1, "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Jesus said, "Thy faith hath saved thee, go in peace." When she repented and the Lord forgave her of her sins, she was born again, or justified before God as we are today. The Spirit of truth was with her (John 14:17), and she had peace by believing and repenting of her sins. Under the new covenant, this is the only way that one can get saved. Under the new covenant an impenitent heart will never get saved. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance" (II Cor. 7:10). We read in Acts 17:30, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

As Satan is ever working the same old tricks on people, we wish to insert here an editorial taken from the *May Faith and Victory*, issued in 1947. We believe it is needed, and always will be needed, to show honest-hearted souls the slimy and deceitful works of Satan, and the way out and how to stay out.

'The crafty, sly, and cunning spirit that Satan has out in these days of lethargy and indifference, is a compromising spirit. This spirit really lulls to sleep precious souls who otherwise would be wide awake, causing them to rock along with a cold profession and mix up with dead sectism. If you trace back on these compromise preachers, you will find they are supping of Babylon's wine and have become somewhat spiritually intoxicated. Occasionally, they commit fornication with some of the numerous harlot daughters who charmingly overcome them with their religious outward show and glittering manifestations of great things done for the Lord (???). In considering the earthly greatness of the harlot daughters of Mystery Babylon the Great, we find them compassing land and sea. They have a worked-up zeal in spreading themselves like a green bay tree until they

would put to shame the glittering power and show of old King Nebuchadnezzar. What the world needs today is a few men like Daniel, and a company of real full-blood Hebrew children who will stand before literal kings and spiritual kings and say to them in word and practice: 'Let it be known unto you that our God whom we serve is able to keep us free from your influence and bribery, and by His grace we shall not bow to your earthly ways and human arrangements, nor fear and worship your idols, for our God is able to preserve us free from the world that we be not of the world even as Christ and His disciples were not of the world.' And after they have done all and said all that would please God, then to stand, having their loins girded about with truth, holding up the shield of faith, warding off all the fiery darts of the enemy, holding on to the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God. Being steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain in Him; for the crown that never fades is sure to all the thoroughbred Hebrew children."

The Lord is encouraging us in the printing work, and our heart is delighted to do His will. The prospects are good for moving forward and getting out a greater volume of pure, clean literature to those in the byways and hedges among those tied up in the dark creeds of men, and to others who are under the influence of compromising spirits. Our heart goes out to every hungry soul and to all others who know not the love of God in the heart. The world is cursed with head religion. Barabbas' followers are numerous in the world, for they in deeds and words crucify Jesus in the heart and let Barabbas live with head religion. What a sad state men are in, as a whole! Oh, that we were able to be in more than one place at a time! The world is lost in sin and professors are sleeping on. The Bridegroom will come some day, and they will awaken and find they have no oil in their vessels.

Those who teach a sin-you-must religion are, by such teaching, acknowledging that Satan is stronger, and has more power than God, and that God is so weak that

He cannot keep one living free from sin in this life. There is positively no one in Christ who is not living free from sin in this world. To teach otherwise is belittling God, the Creator of the universe, and this teaching originates from an anti-Christ spirit. There are only two families in this world. One is the family of God (born-again souls); and the other is the family of Satan. There is no neutral ground on which to stand. A person is either a saint and lives free from sin, or he is a subject of Satan and sins more or less all the time. This truth is brought out very clearly in the first part of the third chapter of 1 John. Why do men want to listen to Satan's preachers and be lost when God has the genuine free-from-sin experience for every soul? Let us not drag the Almighty God down to the extent of portraying Him to have less power than Satan, the enemy of mankind. That would prove we fear the devil more than we fear the Lord, and in that way make us his subjects. A profession of religion will only be a disappointment in the judgment day. You must have the Lord with His power and grace in your soul, and be living free from sin in order to be accepted of Him on that crowning day.

The Meek and Lowly Jesus



In Matt. 11:28-30, we read, "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."

To the weary sin-sick soul, there could not be words spoken that would carry more weight and meaning, or consolation and comfort than the above Scripture, which at one time fell from the lips of Jesus our Lord. To the haughty and proud, they are as idle words. To find the comfort, peace, and joy with soul rest, one will have to humble down in confession of guilt and sin, repent, and become like Jesus in meekness and lowliness of mind and soul, then obey Colossians 2:6: "As ye have

therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him."

There were a few people who loved and honored Christ when He walked upon the earth among men. The meek and lowly in heart found great comfort and were blessed with His presence and works; but the majority followed Him for the loaves and fishes, and a great many of the Jewish rulers despised and hated Him, and sought to take His life.

Any person who will truly follow the Lord today in meek and lowly ways will be treated by the religious worldly-minded people quite similar to the way Jesus was treated. A few will want to kiss your feet, while others will want to bruise your heel, and many will ignore you and act like they are not moved or interested in one so dull and stupid who does not take great interest in the affairs of this world.

In Philippians 2:5, Paul tells us, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." In the 7th verse he says, "But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." In the 12th verse we are exhorted by the sainted Paul to be humble also, and obedient, "Wherefore, my beloved as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

It is our business to yield in meekness and lowliness unto God, and His business to work in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure. He can only freely work in a heart that is made meek and lowly and continues to recognize His ways. God's ways are so far different from the ways of the world, but they are the best and the only way to walk.

We wish to relate some of the lowly and humble ways of Christ while He was in the world, that our eyes might be enlightened and our minds drawn out to behold

the simplicity and lowliness of Christ our Lord. We are to follow His steps while in this sinful world and learn to rejoice while we are counted by religious professors as the offscouring of all things, and looked down upon as stupid and dull. "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are; That no flesh should glory in his presence." I Cor. 1:27-29. God wants all the glory and cannot use any vessel that seeks and receives praise and honor of men. Jesus was so meek and humble that He would not receive any praise of men, neither would He receive any dishonor of them.

In Zechariah 9:9 is a prophecy of Christ: "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." This was prophesied of Jesus over 500 years before He was born into the world. In the 21st chapter of Matthew, we read the fulfillment of that prophecy. It is written that Jesus sent two of His disciples to a certain place where an ass and a colt were tied. He told them to loose them and bring them unto Him. Mark 11:3 reads, "The Lord hath need of him." (Dear soul, the Lord hath need of you, if you are willing to become an humble, lowly, despised servant of the Lord's among the wicked and proud people of the world.) Webster's dictionary says that an ass is "A patient, slow, sure-footed, long-eared animal, a donkey. It has become the type of any one that is obstinate, stubborn, dull, and stupid."

When Jesus rode upon the lowly animal, called an ass, on His way to Jerusalem, the people made a great commotion of crying out and spreading their garments in the way. They cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David." The prophet called Him our King, and truly He is to every lowly and humble child of God. He did not come to

Jerusalem riding in a fine chariot drawn by fine horses, as the kings of the world would do in those days, but He rested upon the lowly donkey.

Today, people who have the characteristics of a donkey are the ones whom Jesus, by His Spirit, is resting upon; for they sow to the Spirit and not to the flesh to receive praise of men. Are you willing to bear the reproach of the cross? To be counted as one of the despised few, that Christ by His Spirit may rest upon you? Are you willing to take the lowly and humble way through life that you may wear a crown in glory? If so, then you will find righteousness, peace, and joy in your soul in this life, with favors and blessings from God at the great Judgment Day.

In Isaiah 32:17-18 the prophet, speaking of the work of the Lord upon our souls, said, "And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever. And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." In the 20th verse, we read, "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass." In this verse we understand that God's ministers are typified by an ox or an ass, and those who support them with their means and other substance (in order to get the gospel to men), are blessed people. Dear soul, are you willing to be a slow, steady ox or a peculiar ass for the Lord, that He, by His Spirit, may rest upon you and carry the glad tidings of a risen Christ to the people?

The donkey has been used by the Lord's people from the beginning of time. Abraham, who was a type of Christ, when called upon by the Lord to sacrifice his only son Isaac, as a burnt offering, obeyed God. He arose early and saddled his ass or donkey, and set out to do the will of God. He bound his only son Isaac, and laid him upon the wood on the altar. He stretched forth his hand with the knife to slay his son when an angel of God called and told him not to slay Isaac. God spared Abraham's son to him, but went farther with His own Son and allowed Him

to be slain, that we might be saved and have the power and Spirit of God resting upon us.

Again Moses, who was a type of Christ, when returning to Egypt to lead the children of Israel out of bondage to freedom, took his wife and sons and set them upon an ass to make the journey. It is also written of Solomon, who was a type of Christ, that when going to Jerusalem to be anointed king, he rode upon a mule.

In I Timothy 5:6 we read, "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." This is true of all pleasure-loving people whether they profess Christ or not. It is also true that all who live for God are dead while they live, only in a different sense. The worldly-minded person is dead to God while he lives; and the heavenly-minded person is dead to the world, its spirit of pleasure, graft, and greed. Paul says to the Christian in Col. 3:2, 2 "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

We do not find where Christ and the apostles took any particular interest in politics or in worldly matters, for He knew that His heavenly Father was ruling over and above all these things, and that all the world and all things pertaining thereto would perish with the using, but He was interested in things that were of eternal profit.

We have a prophecy given by Isaiah (42:19-20) referring to Jesus in this respect. It reads: "Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant? Seeing many things but thou observest not [no interest to him]; opening the ears, but he heareth not."

We can easily see by the above Scriptures that the Lord Jesus was blind, and dead to the world, and was wholly given to the Father's will. He testified of Himself and said, "I do always those things that please Him." John 8:29. Dear brethren, we are to follow in His steps who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. Let us manifest the characteristics of an ox or an ass to this

world and just let God work in us, both to will and do of His good pleasure.

In Gen. 49:10-11 we read concerning the Lord Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah, Shiloh, the rest giver, "The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a law giver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass's colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes."

In this prophecy we see where Jesus is pictured as the one unto whom the people will be gathered, and He will bind His foal unto the vine. A foal is the young of the horse family; which would include the donkey. In John 15:1, Jesus declares that, "I am the true vine." Those who are born again, born from above, are likened as unto His foal, and He binds them by His Spirit unto Christ, the true vine. He is the choice vine. Even before Jesus came, His people Israel was termed a vine. In Psalms 80:8, we read, "Thou hast brought a vine out of Egypt: thou hast cast out the heathen, and planted it."

The definition of an ass is, "A slow, sure-footed, long-eared animal, a donkey." It is a characteristic of a child of God to be slow and sure. They are not hasty to make decisions and often you will hear them say, "Wait until I pray about the matter." They want to be sure and have the mind of the Lord before speaking or stepping, and that makes them sure-footed. Spiritually speaking, their ears are long and they reach to heaven and hear what the Lord will say unto them. They get things from above, and not just from around them by seeing and hearing the spirits of Satan, who is "the prince of the power of the air." Eph. 2:2. In having spiritually long ears, they have the characteristics of a long-eared donkey.

The dictionary also says that the ass or donkey has become the type of anyone who is obstinate, stubborn, dull, and stupid. When the world looks upon a real child of God they think of someone who is obstinate, set in his ways, determined and contrary to the course of this world. They look upon him as stubborn because he will

not take medicine but trusts the Lord for his healing. He will not join the lodges or unions of the world, will not take part in the world's religious gatherings (which the world claims promotes the religion of the Lord). Thus they say that we, the children of God, are stubborn. They also call us dull and stupid because we will not attend the picture shows, basketball and baseball games, or car and horse racing. They say the sisters are so dull and stupid that they do not know when the styles in dress change, for they just keep on wearing long dresses and long sleeves and long hair. Oh, they say how dull and stupid we are concerning politics, wars, and the advancement of civilization in general! The men do not adorn themselves with the necktie, hence cannot be popular with the world and gain the better class for Christ—"Oh, what queer and stupid people," they say; "always want to talk about the Bible," etc. Many things that God's children do seem foolish and childish to the worldly-wise and great men of the earth. Yes, the true child of God has all the characteristics of the ox and the ass, and is determined to let God work in him, both to will and to do of His good pleasure, no matter how queer, dull, and stupid the worldly minded may think he is; for his eyes are upon the Lord and he is living in this world in a way so he can live again with God in glory. I would to God there were more in the world today who would really love the Lord, and be willing to bear the cross and wear a crown.

Redemption Through His Blood

In Hebrews 7:25 we read, "Wherefore he [Christ] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

The word "uttermost" carries the meaning of the highest and greatest degree, giving us the knowledge that the man who is fully saved need have no doubt about it in the least, for he has come unto God through Christ who gave Himself up into the hands of sinners as a perfect sacrifice before God and man, and has brought

to every believer a perfect salvation or deliverance from sin.

In Col. 1:14 we read, "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." You will find nearly the same words in Eph. 1:7.

Redemption means, in a Biblical sense, deliverance from sin and evil; for, as Paul says in Romans 7:14, speaking of his condition when under the law in sin, said he was "carnal, sold under sin." A man in sin has sold himself to Satan by giving way to the lusts of the flesh in selfishness, greed, and worldly conformity, and often lying, stealing, drinking, gambling, committing adultery, practicing witchcraft (fortune telling and superstitions), together with open rebellion against light and knowledge of what God doth require of him in this life. People in this way sell out to the devil and become slaves to their master (Satan) and are in a state where it is impossible for them to save themselves from this condition of servitude. In this condition, their souls are lost and the wrath of God is upon them. The penalty of sin hanging over their heads is eternal death and destruction. For the wages of sin is death and destruction to the one who continues to abide therein; but the gift of God (Christ and salvation) is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Read Romans 6:23. According to Isaiah 59:1, 2, his iniquities have separated him from God, and his sins have hid the face of God from him and God will not hear him nor favor him in that state.

What must a man do when he has himself separated from God in this sinful condition? The Bible plainly gives the answer. We shall give you the written Word of God that will give you a clear understanding of how to get saved and be a possessor of this uttermost salvation which Christ has brought to man by His spotless and blameless blood sacrifice on Calvary's cross.

In Prov. 28:13, we read, "He that covereth his sins [will not confess them] shall not prosper [not be favored of God]: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh [quits] them shall have mercy." God will have mercy on one who

confesses his sins and forsakes them, and He will forgive him.

In Isaiah 55:6, we read, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near." He is near when He is convicting you of your sins. When you have knowledge in your soul that you are doing wrong and ought to turn from your sins and do right, then God is near. Call upon Him then in confession and repentance. He also says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." To abundantly pardon would be in harmony with having an uttermost salvation as you go on to perfection.

In II Cor. 7:10 Paul tells us that godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. Godly sorrow is upon you when you become sorry and sad because you have sinned and rebelled against a just God and thereby have grieved Him away from you. In this state you could easily confess, repent, and ask God to forgive you. He says in His Word that He is faithful and just to forgive you and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness, I John 1:9. As you look to Jesus and believe on the blood sacrifice that He has made for you, the wrath of God will be lifted from you. Your sins and iniquities will be taken away and you will have peace with God through believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Romans 10:9, we read, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." In Eph. 2:8, we read, "For by grace are ye saved through faith [faith in the work that Christ has accomplished for you through the sacrifice of His blood and His death]; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." You cannot save yourself; it is the gift of God (Christ) that saves your soul.

In conclusion, let us read the record given of the thief on the cross, and see how he found favor with God. You will find it in Luke 23:39. It reads: "And one of the malefactors [a malefactor is a sinner and a criminal]

which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us." This man wanted to be saved, but did not humble his heart and confess his guilt, therefore Christ answered him not. Now listen to the one that found favor with the Lord in that agonizing hour. "But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?" When one will not humble down before God in repentance and confession, he manifests a lack of reverence and godly fear. Notice now in verse 41, "And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds." Do you see the humility? Notice this man's belief in Christ as an innocent man. The just was dying for the guilty and His blood being innocent He could atone for, and save the guilty, for He had done no sin, but was bleeding and dying for us sinners who are absolutely unable to save ourselves. Hear the last words of this thief (sinner): "But he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." The Lord forgave him and saved his soul right there. He said, "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

Sinner friend, you can have the same assurance in your soul today, if you will humble before God in confession and repentance, and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus, by His blood sacrifice atoned for your sins, and now you can be free from guilt and condemnation because Christ died in your stead and appeased the wrath of God which was upon you. Christ has brought you and God, your heavenly Father, together. By His blood, you can have redemption from all your sins and be at peace with God, and ready for heaven and immortal glory.

The Bride of Christ

Marriage is ordained of God. When He joins two together they become one flesh. The apostle Paul likens the church as a bride joined to her husband. Speaking of the church, he said, "For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man

leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Eph. 5:30-32. The Scriptures teach us that the saints, the truly saved people, are married to Christ, spiritually speaking. Christ is the bridegroom (Matt. 9:15) and the saints are the bride. Isaiah, who is termed the New Testament or gospel prophet, spoke and wrote of these truths. Let us read Isaiah 62:3, "Thou shalt also be a crown of glory [meaning the children of God in this gospel day] in the hand of the Lord [The hand of the Lord has reference to people whose hearts are fully given over to God.], and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God." This verse of Scripture is very much in harmony with what Peter says when writing of the saints: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

The prophet continues by saying, "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah [meaning His delight is in her], and thy land Beulah [meaning married]: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." Isa. 62:4-5. This is certainly plain and clear language in letting us know what manner of folks we, the children of God, are in this gospel day.

Paul affirms this same thing in Romans 7:4, "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also have become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God."

Brethren and sisters, it is really necessary for us to be married to Christ in order to bring forth fruit unto God. We should have real knowledge of this being true in our lives. How disgraceful and dishonoring to Christ our

husband, if His bride be found flirting with the corrupt, humanly organized religions which are of the world.

In Revelation 21:9, 10, we read, "And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain [God's clean people are on the mountain of Holiness], and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem [God's clean people here in the world constitute the holy Jerusalem], descending out of heaven from God." John saw the multitude of souls being born of the Spirit from above. The life of God came into their hearts from heaven above, and by retaining that life in the soul, they are not of this world even while in the world. They are termed "Holy Jerusalem" because the Spirit and life of God coming from heaven into their souls make them holy, for they are cleansed and purified by the blood of the Lamb. Oh, how precious it is to be married to the Lord and know it! The New Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven took place in a pronounced way on the day of Pentecost.

In the second verse of this twenty-first chapter, we read again of this holy city or New Jerusalem, "And I John saw the holy city [born again ones], new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men." This agrees with Heb. 3:6, which reads, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Again the 8th chapter and 2nd verse, which reads thus (speaking of Christ), "A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true [not the false one] tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man."

Man has nothing to do with the erecting of the true tabernacle, because the Lord adds the members to the body as it pleases Him. I Cor. 12:18. Paul, speaking of Apollos and himself, said, "So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that

giveth the increase . . . For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." I Cor. 3:7, 9.

By these Scriptures it is easy to see that the true saints are God's building or tabernacle here in the earth or world. Read also the last few verses of the second chapter of Ephesians. "And he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God." Rev. 21:3.

Yes, it is a fact, dear souls, that those who are in "true holiness," the true saints, are married to the Lord, and their life, spirit, power, wisdom, and grace all come down from God out of heaven, making them "not of this world," although in the world. This is a glorious truth and a blessed reality to all truly sanctified men and women.

John also saw (or he was shown) the corrupt and humanly organized religions of the world, which we read about in the 17th chapter of Revelation. Babylon is pictured as sitting upon many waters. Waters refer to people (Read the 15th verse). These worldly, corrupt religions, spoken of here as an unclean woman, are resting upon the people. They hold her up with their means and by partaking of her abominations and filthiness. You will notice that the kings of the earth (spiritual kings) are committing fornication with her. Also notice in the third verse that John, instead of being carried away to a high mountain to see the true church (or tabernacle), was carried into the wilderness (a place of sin, forsaken of God). He called this false, deceiving religion a woman that in outward appearance looked great and beautiful. The sight was so great that John himself said, "When I saw her, I wondered with great admiration." In the fifth verse she is called "MYSTERY BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." Sectism, or all these religious denominations humanly organized, and many others who hold the truth in unrighteousness are called by His name to take away their reproach if possible. Read Isaiah 4:1. These false religious systems are not from God out of heaven, but are of the earth and of Satan.

Brother, sister, if you are married to Christ and realize that He has given you a robe clean and white, do not get spotted by mixing with and committing fornication with the religions of men. Continue in true holiness and honor Christ, your Husband, all the time. If you are married to Him, you have solemnly promised to forsake all others to be His and His alone.

It may be a mystery to you why false religions can make such a show of being the Lord's and perform many miracles, but you must remember that we are living in the last days, and the devil is at work as never before to deceive, if possible, the very elect of God. Read in the 16th chapter of Revelation beginning with verse 12, about his unclean work, and you will see that these unclean, religious spirits are working miracles and deceiving even the kings of the earth, which means great spiritual men who have large numbers to follow them.

Let us keep our garments spotless and be ready at His coming, for the world today is cursed with false religions and false holiness, and many of them take the name, "Church of God" to deceive. God says to the ministry, "Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord." Isaiah 52:11.



George Stephenson and Erle Forbes at Guthrie in 1957

CHAPTER FIFTY-THREE

Editor Works Long Hours at 73

In the closing of Part Five, we wish to say that we have prayed much before writing the different things that have come to pass in our short life and of the many different tests of faith and of how God so graciously gave victory and caused us to triumph over the powers of darkness that assailed us many times.

The beginning of this printing work was with much fasting, weeping, and praying, which, as you have read, was quite prolonged. While in those days, the Lord assured us, as He did some in past ages, and also gave us the comforting Scripture (II Cor. 9:8), "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." The Lord has certainly fulfilled this promise to us, and the work of God is abounding more and more, and the poor are having the gospel preached to them by the printed page. The subscription price of the *Faith and Victory* paper remains the same, which is only thirty-five cents per year, and by this low price the poor and needy can have the gospel, and those with meager means can have it sent to friends and loved ones without much expense to them. We are still being led by His Spirit, and the work is on a faith basis. We do not cunningly urge, nor beg for finances, but tell our needs to the Lord, and He graciously supplies through His consecrated children. It is a common thing for us to receive money by mail from someone who gives no name nor address. Of course, we cannot answer those letters, but we can, and do, pray God's rich blessings to be upon them; for by their giving, we know their hearts are right with God, or at least they have a love for the truth and want to see the truth printed and sent forth.

This is the fifth edition of this book. Since it has been printed, we have received many letters telling us how God made the contents a blessing to their souls. Just recently, one Brother wrote us that as he read the book he would both laugh and cry, for his soul was so greatly uplifted and

his faith increased to follow the Lamb of God wheresoever He leads. Some have written that they got saved while reading this book. One soul saved is worth more than all of our labor and effort in getting this book to the public.

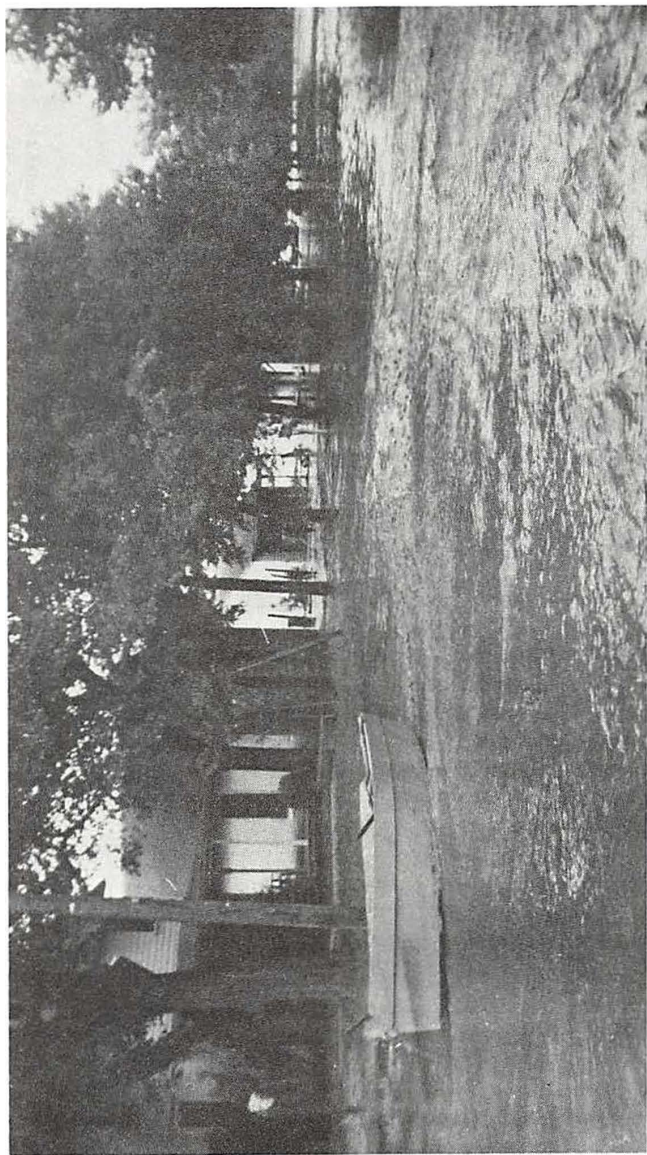
At this writing (1955) I am seventy-three years of age. The Lord is preserving me in health insomuch that I am working from ten to fourteen hours per day, and travel to different places for appointments and all-day meetings nearly every Sunday.

Oh, dear readers, I beg of you to keep all on the altar for God and let Him lead you and use your means and time as He pleases; for truly He has purchased us with His own blood and we are not our own. We pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled unto God. His thoughts and ways are not our ways, but they are higher than our ways and thoughts as the heavens are above the earth. Your thoughts and ways will lead you astray and bring you to hardness of heart and self-righteousness. Jesus says in Matt. 5:20, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

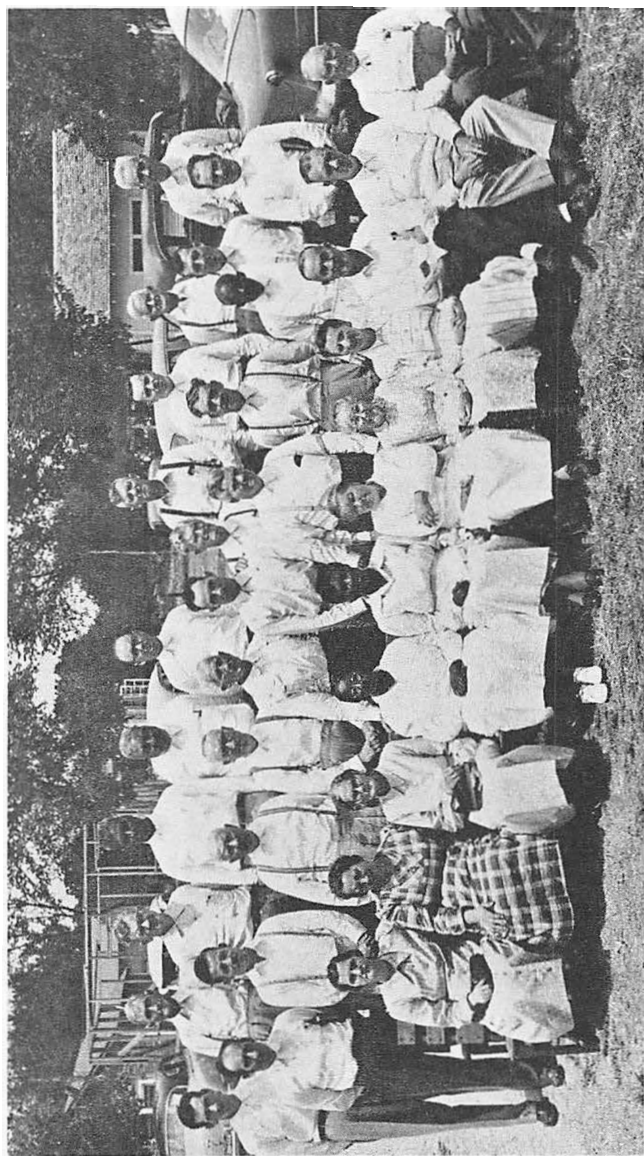
Dear reader, we pray that God's blessings will rest upon you. If the Lord makes the contents of this little book a blessing to your soul, why not let us know about it so we can rejoice together?

May the Lord bless thee and give thee grace through all the tests of life.

Your servant, washed in His blood,
—Fred Pruitt



May 19, 1949, flood in Guthrie, taken at the intersection of Ninth and W. Mansur, showing the Print Shop and Workers' Residence on the corner.



Ministers who were attending the annual National Campmeeting at Monark Springs near Neosho, Mo., in July, 1954.

Part Six

Printed in 1962

CHAPTER FIFTY-FOUR

Major Addition to Print Shop Building and Work Force

In May, 1962, it will be seven years since we printed the fifth edition of this book, and we can truly say that since then God has done great things here in the Faith Publishing House work, not only in sending a larger amount of the true gospel forth to the world, but also in building us up in spiritual things. He has also added two front office rooms (1961) to the office building, and the prospect is good now of adding more rooms for workers' quarters; also room to house additional printing machinery to meet the increased demand for the present truth to go forth. We trust many more people will be saved and gathered unto Him who gave His life on Calvary's cross as a blood sacrifice which, by our faith, atones for our sins and cleanses us from that sin principle of the first Adam which had passed upon all men, "for that all have sinned." Romans 5:22.

Here is a picture of the Faith Publishing House as it stands today (Feb., 1962), with a group of the workers who labor in the Print Shop. Some of the workers were not present when this picture was taken. The two rooms (to the right in picture) were built in 1961 and extend out twenty feet from the original building. One room contains our office desks and the other is used as the stencil room where the subscription list is kept, and the machine which is used to address the papers and wrappers. Malinda Penner's desk is situated in this room also, where she takes care of the subscriptions, and the mailing of the tracts, papers, and books.

Back of these two rooms, we are now building an addition which will be used to house machinery and printing equipment. Also, rooms will be built for sleeping quarters. This addition is twenty feet wide and extends 79 feet back to the end of the original building. At the time of this writing nearly half of the cement blocks are laid and if the Lord permits a few more days of warm weather, the



Feb., 1962, showing part of the consecrated workers,
and at right a part of new addition to office.

walls will be completed and ready for the roof. We thank God for helping us along so well.

We ask the prayers of all the readers that God will give the needed grace and wisdom to carry on for Him. We also expect this building to be standing here when He comes and the Gospel of Christ being published and sent out to the people of this world. We do feel that we are now living in the last of the last days in which God will permit this evil generation to be destroyed and the people will be divided, the sheep on the right hand and the goats on the left; the roll will be called and every man and woman be ordered to their eternal abode. Surely you and I want to be among that number when the saints go marching in.

We have been continually asking the Lord for heavenly wisdom to know how to carry on here for Him, and thus we are endeavoring to follow the leadings of His Spirit that His approval may be upon our souls continually and the truth by the printed page may find its way to the hearts of many precious souls.

We have placed the January, 1962, issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper in the post office today, which consisted of nearly 13,000 copies. Before taking these papers to the post office, when they were all sacked up, the workers and I gathered around and laid our hands upon the sacks of papers and prayed earnestly to God that He would work with every soul who reads them and impress the truth upon them to the increase of their faith in God and to the salvation of souls. The need of the gospel is great, for there is a host of men, women, boys, and girls on the broad way that leads to destruction.

While I was operating the automatic job press the other week, I picked up the New Testament and asked God to give me a good, helpful Scripture. The first verse I laid my eyes upon was this: "Men ought always to pray, and not to faint." Luke 18:1. We need to keep praying for these dear souls who are lost in sin and for those who have become entangled in the pens of men through a lack of proper teaching. This publishing work is for the purpose of enlightening men with the truth; therefore, we know that Satan desires to destroy this work, and has brought

pressure against it in many ways. He uses some to criticize and find fault with those whom God has called to lead in His work but hitherto God has frustrated all of his plans and has given victory again and again. We feel, as the Apostle Paul did, and are fully persuaded that God is able to keep that which we have committed into His hand. Bless His name!

I am now (1962) 80 years of age, and the Lord keeps me in fairly good health so that I work every day. Much of the time I am up at six o'clock in the morning and on the go for God until ten o'clock at night, with the exception of an hour or two of rest and sleep after the noon day meal. I realize that at my age I cannot expect the Lord to keep me going for many more years and He is apt to silence my voice at anytime. I have prayed much about the continuation of the work after I am gone and I feel that it is God's will for Lawrence D. Pruitt and Anna Marie Miles to carry it on for the glory of God and the salvation of souls, and as a servant or auxiliary of the Church. We have the papers drawn up and notarized that Lawrence D. Pruitt and Anna Marie Miles, my son and daughter who are now taking care of most of the work in the Print Shop, will carry it on after my departure just as it has been used for the Lord. It is always to be a faith work and never to be placed on a commercial basis. The other four children, who are heirs, have agreed to relinquish all rights to the Faith Publishing House work in consideration of a small sum to be paid to each of them at my passing. Each has signed notarized statements to this effect. I have no other property, as all gifts that are sent to the work are used in the printing work to further the cause of God in the salvation of souls and to get the truth established in the hearts of men. When God first called me into the gospel work, He had prospered me to some extent financially, and I forsook all, sold it off and used it in the work of God. I still have all in the work of the Lord, and when I am gone it will still be all in His work.

If God would see fit to let this publishing work be destroyed, I would not consider it my loss but His loss. Even though I might not have as much as a pillow to lay

my head on, I feel in my heart that I could say as Jesus said in the garden, "Not my will, but Thine be done." I feel so free and glad to have it all in His hands. Glory, hallelujah!

Sister Lillian Meek, who is a member of the Church here at Guthrie, has been doing the housekeeping and cooking for the Print Shop workers for several years. The Lord is greatly pleased with her doing this work for Him and His children and she enjoys this service. She took the



Lillian Meek

place of Sister Cassie Irwin who served in this capacity for a number of years and was a blessed servant of the Lord. While most all people are given over to the getting and keeping of material things, yet God has a few among the many who go deep enough in consecration to freely give all into the hands of God; and they work for Him without any thought of remuneration, and are perfectly contented with whatsoever He gives them in material things. A life of this kind is a blessed happy life. Paul says in I Tim. 6:6 and 7, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content."



Malinda Penner

Here is a picture of Malinda Penner, a precious young saint who has given up a position with the Telephone Co. to come here and give her time and talent freely in the Lord's Print Shop so that precious souls may get the gospel by the printed page. She took the place that Viola Atnip so faithfully filled for many years. Viola was married to William Weir last fall (1961) and they now live in Mo. Malinda is now doing good work in the Print Shop office and is happy in the Lord. The workers here get their board and room and a small allowance each week, and sometimes an extra allowance as the Lord provides. This work is not run on a commercial basis, but is a faith work. If the Lord did not provide for the work through His consecrated children, it would soon have to close. But the Lord has been taking care of it in this way for the last forty years and our faith is strong that He will continue to do so. Bless His name! We do not beg for anyone's money or material things, neither in the paper or by letter or in any personal way. When we have a need, we tell it to the Lord in a direct way, and He in His own good way supplies the necessary amount. Last spring He supplied us with means to build two more office rooms on the plant and remodel the wrapping and mailing room which was badly needed.

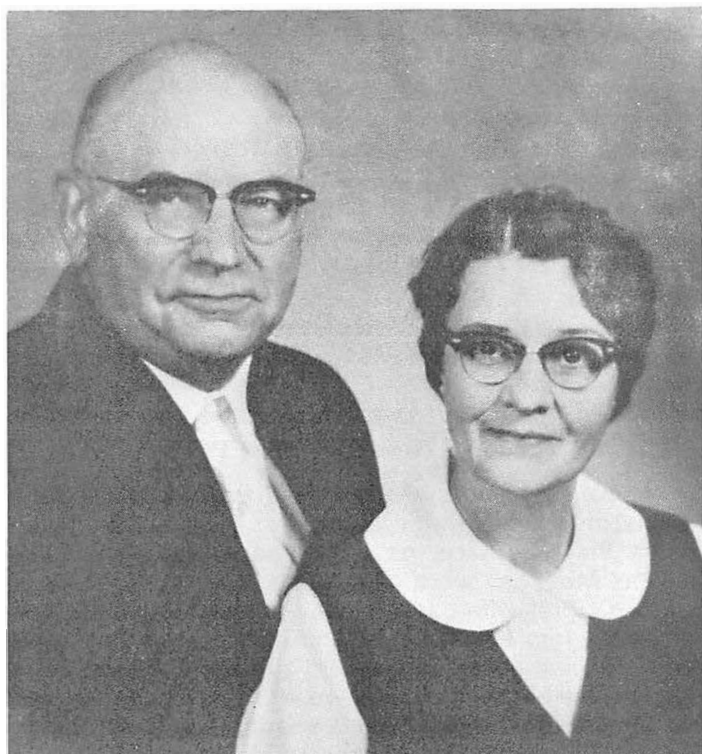
Sister Sylvia Forbes (picture following), a young girl from Pacoima, Calif., resigned a good paying position in August, 1956, and came here to give her time and talents freely in the service of the Lord, and labored faithfully for four years. She was very efficient and apt in the Print Shop work, learning to operate the Linotype machine and do other work very nicely. She fit into the family of saints here and was much appreciated and loved by all. On July 17, 1960, she was married to Bro. Leslie Busbee who is a young minister. They are now doing pastoral work at Anthony, Kans. We certainly do wish them well and pray that God's blessings and favor will remain upon them through life. Oh, for many more consecrated young people who will yield their lives completely to God and let Him in His infinite wisdom mold them into vessels of honor for His glory!

On the following page is a photo of Lawrence D. and Maybelle (Miles) Pruitt, taken in Nov., 1970. Their two sons are grown, married and in homes of their own. Lawrence, my son, is vice-president and Maybelle is secretary and bookkeeper. Lawrence has worked in the Print Shop very frequently ever since he was a boy in school. While he attended high school and took a short business course, he did most all the typesetting for the presses. Even while he held a position as Linotype operator and printer at the Co-Operative Pub. Co. in



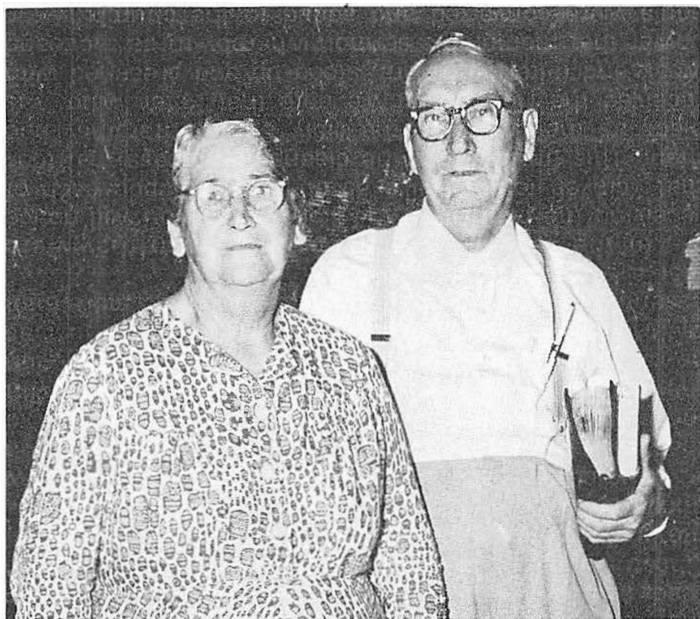
Leslie and Sylvia (Forbes) Busbee

Guthrie, he also did all our machinist's work on our typesetting machines and other machinery. In October, 1958, he resigned his position as foreman of the composing room at the Co-Operative plant, and has given practically his full time to the Faith Publishing House work. They, and Anna Marie Miles, my daughter, will be expected to operate the Lord's publishing work after the Lord stills my voice in this life. The work is to be carried on by faith in God as it has heretofore. Maybelle, his wife, is a ready assistant in his life's work for God and they work nicely together. We surely do thank the Lord



**Lawrence and Maybelle (Miles) Pruitt, taken in 1970
on our 37th wedding anniversary**

for laying a burden upon our children to carry on the gospel publishing work that precious souls may hear the Word of God and be saved from sin. We pray that their life's motto may be: "To know the will of God is to do it."



Fred and Nettie (Sample) Pruitt

Above is a photo of Elder Fred Pruitt and his wife, who is the former Nettie Sample of Tulsa, Okla., taken beside the tabernacle on the National campground at Neosho, Mo. They were married six years ago in March, 1956. His first wife passed away in October, 1954. She has made him a good wife and housekeeper, and has been a willing helper in the Lord's Print Shop. She often watches the automatic press while it is running, printing tracts to see that everything is operating properly and to shut off the power if anything should go wrong, while he is nearby operating the automatic tract folder or doing other work. She and Leola White also operate the power

wire stitcher which stitches the booklets and books. They also compile book sections for binding, and help with the folding and wrapping of the *Faith and Victory* papers each month. She has made herself quite useful in the Print Shop.

A GREAT NEED IN THE CHURCH TODAY

The crying need in the Church of God today is revival of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that the church may with power witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The justified men and women who composed the church that Jesus built were commanded in Acts 1:4 not to depart from Jerusalem, "but wait for the promise of the Father." In the next verse we read that John baptized with water, "but ye [justified men] shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." In Acts 1:8 we read, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

It is clearly seen by these Scriptures that God knew that this body of believers was not fully qualified to go forth into the world and be able to witness with power to the resurrection of the Lord until they were endued with power from on high, or in other words, be baptized with the Holy Ghost. This second work of grace is just as essential today as it was then, and it must be more than just a mere claim of having it.

In the second chapter of Acts, when they were receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, you will notice that "cloven tongues like as of fire" sat upon each of them. This fire denotes the cleansing process that took place as they received the Holy Spirit. After they had received the Holy Ghost we note that Peter, who was weak and faltering before, stood up and preached with power that memorable sermon whereby three thousand souls were converted and added to the church.

There was another infilling of the Holy Ghost recorded in Acts 4:31 which reads in part: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of

God with boldness." In the 33rd verse we read that "with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all." We read in Acts 5:32 that God gives the Holy Ghost to them that obey Him. Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ unto them. In reading the 8th chapter of Acts, beginning at the 14th verse, we see that the apostles were eager for the new converts under Philip's ministry to receive the Holy Ghost. Peter and John were sent down to Samaria and prayed for the believers that they might receive the Holy Ghost, for He had not fallen on any of them. The Scripture says that the apostles "laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

We read in the 10th chapter of Acts how that Cornelius, a devout, justified man, and his household were baptized with the Holy Ghost. Beginning at the 34th verse Peter speaks to Cornelius and those gathered at his house: "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Cornelius, his household and friends, being Gentiles, also received the baptism of the Holy Ghost just as the Jews did on the day of Pentecost, for we hear Peter testify to this fact in Acts 15:8, "And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them purifying their hearts by faith." When Paul found believers who had not been baptized with the Holy Ghost, he immediately taught this doctrine unto them, laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost.

According to the Scriptures recorded in I Thess. 5:23, when one is filled or baptized with the Spirit, he is sanctified wholly. Paul says, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; [it is also a preserving grace] and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." It takes in the whole man. One could have no greater experience than this. The next verse reads thus,

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." God will do these things for everyone who will give Him a surrendered heart.

In Romans 12:1 we read what it means for one to qualify for the baptism of the Holy Ghost or be sanctified wholly. Let us read what Paul says to the justified brethren: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Then he tells them not to be conformed to this world. Paul was deeply interested in believers being baptized with the Holy Ghost. In other places he urges them to "go on to perfection." The other apostles also taught the need of being sanctified.

In the 17th chapter of John's gospel there is much said by the Lord in His prayer for the disciples that they be sanctified. Also, in I John, first chapter, the writer teaches the young converts the need of not only having their sins forgiven but also to be cleansed from all unrighteousness. That sin nature is an unrighteous element and needs to be cleansed from your being by faith in His atoning, cleansing blood.

The Apostle Jude was stirred in his heart and burdened that the ministers would not let up or cease to teach the faith that was given to the saints on the day of Pentecost for the reception of the Holy Ghost. He insisted that they would "earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Note the introduction to this epistle: "Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, the brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called." You notice here that Jude addressed his epistle to the sanctified ones. No doubt some at that time were ceasing to preach and teach the need of being sanctified or filled with the Holy Ghost, and he was giving some strict instructions to keep on earnestly contending for this faith. He also said that it was needful. In the 4th verse he says that certain men had "crept in unawares." The word *crept* means to slowly move into a thing, and in that way be undetected. Did you ever see a snake charming a

bird, how slowly he moves with his eye on the bird? There are two ways by which men creep into positions in the church and are hardly detected. One way is by gradually drawing back from their former consecration or baptism and still using the word in a charming way to cover themselves from being detected and at the same time holding the confidence of unsuspecting souls. In time they lose God out of their souls, then go on deceiving and being deceived. Another way is by one who has been reared in the doctrines of the church and has a good, clean moral record. He makes a profession and claims to get sanctified or baptized with the Spirit, but fails to go deep enough to really get the experience, while at the same time claiming a call to the ministry, and in that condition very few seem to detect him. When he loses his justified experience, he becomes an ungodly man, and of course, in that condition he is not much interested in seeing others go on to perfection. He never preaches a message on the baptism of the Holy Ghost or to earnestly contend for the faith given to the church on the day of Pentecost for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Brethren, let us keep the fact in mind that God has no grandsons, and He is no grandfather to any man. All of His children are merely sons and daughters, being born from above, having a definite personal experience with God through complete consecration unto Him. If they watch and pray, and keep all on the altar, there will be no creeping in to something else and thereby deceiving themselves and many others. That creeping in has taken place in many a congregation, and thereby we see the dead state existing, with much worldliness and no definite experiences of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. God is calling on men to acknowledge their condition and repent and do their first works over that the first love may appear a demonstration of fervency.

We read in Rev. 3:14 what God says about the Laodicean Church. They were lukewarm—neither cold nor hot, and He said He would spew them out of His mouth. They thought they were doing fine—were rich,

increased and had need of nothing, but God's judgment was that they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. His counsel was for them to buy of Him gold tried in the fire that they might be rich, and white raiment that they might be clothed, and that the shame of their nakedness do not appear; and anoint their eyes with eyesalve, that they may see. He says, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Let us read what Paul says in I Tim. 6:6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life . . ."

—By Fred Pruitt

THIS IS THE END of the foregoing Six Parts which were written by Bro. Fred Pruitt, and published in March, 1962.



Sister Leola (Britt) White of Guthrie congregation who helped part-time in the office work many years, and departed this life in 1973.



This Oct. 1959 flood surrounding the Home and Print Shop at Ninth Street and W. Mansur reached the highest level of any flood since 1918.



Bro. and Sister Simon Post on their 70th wedding anniversary, April 25, 1956.

The Posts were converted in 1892 at a meeting held at the Oak View Schoolhouse in northwestern Logan County by George and Mary Cole. The following summer, they with Jeremiah Cole held the first campmeeting of the Church of God in Oklahoma on the Posts' homestead located about ten miles north of Crescent, Okla., on the Skeleton Creek. That campmeeting was advertised in the *Gospel Trumpet* paper in 1893. Bro. Post could tell of many answers to prayer, and many interesting and trying experiences in the early day gospel work in Oklahoma which was a new territory for settlement.

In their last years they lived in Guthrie, Okla., and attended the services of the Church here. During the singing Bro. Post would lift up both hands, instead of one, in praise to God because the Scripture said to lift up holy hands (plural).

Bro. and Sister Post departed this life just four days apart — she on July 6, 1956, at the age of 87, and he on July 10, 1956, at the age of 95 years.



Faith Publishing House under a blanket of snow.



Frances Murphey with her two daughters on the porch of the Guthrie chapel soon after the disastrous flood of 1959 — the worst in 60 years. The front of the wood-framed chapel was moved about six inches on the sandstone foundation. Note the debris and hole washed through the foundation.

**This Part Seven
Was Written and Compiled
by Lawrence D. Pruitt**

God's Gracious Dealings

Part Seven

by Lawrence Pruitt

(Printed in 1978)



CHAPTER FIFTY-FIVE

Answering the Call of God

With heartfelt gratitude to our gracious heavenly Father, this writer, your servant, undertakes to continue the graphic account of the Lord's blessings upon His gospel publishing work. The Lord has permitted this writer to be involved in the work and closely associated with the activities of the Faith Publishing House for more than fifty-five years. Ever since 1958—twenty years ago—your servant has worked full-time in this gospel publishing plant, having felt the call of the Lord to dedicate the remainder of his life to this phase of God's great cause in the salvation of precious souls.

At the passing of my beloved father, Fred Pruitt, in June, 1963, the responsibility of the editorial duties and the management of the publishing work was left to this writer and his sister, A. Marie Miles, who has been personally involved in the work since 1954. This was our father's request and we accepted the responsibility in the fear of the Lord. Therefore, it becomes our duty and happy privilege to pen these added pages of our Lord's gracious dealings over the past sixteen years since the sixth edition of this book was published.

With the addition in the year of 1962 of a room 20 feet by 79 feet to the shop area, the total floor space of the print shop building is approximately 4,000 square feet. The editor, Fred Pruitt, wrote at the end of 1962: "The need of more room for the housing of printing machinery has been taken care of in a very gracious manner by the Lord and His loving saints." A new Little Giant letterpress was also installed that same year by the favor of the Lord and His saints.

In 1962, my father was very happy when he learned that Bro. Clifford and Sis. Dorothy Wilson felt burdened to come again to work in the office. In the fall of 1962 they moved here from Iowa with their five children. We fixed an apartment for them in the rear of the office.

Bro. Clifford Wilson was very efficient and dependable in the printing work. He was always on time at work and encouraged the other workers to do so, as he felt he was doing the work as unto the Lord. That is certainly the right attitude for every worker. Bro. Clifford was not only a printer-pressman, but also a good machinist and carpenter. With metal and wood he built new machines and fixtures for the shop and office, most of which we are still using. Sister Dorothy also operated the Linotype machine very efficiently, setting most of the type for the publications in addition to caring for her home and family.

In 1965, Marie and her husband moved out of the large workers' home next door west of the print shop to a house they had purchased, as their sons had married and were gone. Marie, however, continued to work at the office. The Wilson family then moved into the workers' home on the corner. They were pillars in the work, and reluctantly we bid them good-bye when they felt the Lord was through with them here. They came in 1962 and left in June, 1971, to take the pastorate of the Church of God in Nowata, Okla. Their son, Eddie Wilson, helped a short time in the shop.

In March, 1963, Sister Dorothy Wilson wrote in the *Faith and Victory* paper: ". . . In July 1942, I was invited to attend a campmeeting at Hammond, Louisiana, something I had never heard of before. At the meeting I met Bro. Fred Pruitt and he asked me if I'd like to help publish the *Faith and Victory* paper, something else I had never heard of before. I did not know much about how the Lord led His children, or even that He did lead them, but I decided to cast my lot with 'these people called saints' and left the campmeeting with Bro. Pruitt and his company of workers and went to Guthrie, Oklahoma. There I was introduced to an entirely dif-

ferent way of life where people trusted the Lord with everything concerning them. Sister Pruitt was a mother to me in every way and taught me many things of the spiritual and temporal life, and Bro. Pruitt was a faithful counselor and guide. I lived in their home and worked in the print shop almost three years. Because I had confidence in the saints, in the work, and the congregation at Guthrie, I accepted without question the doctrine they taught as being the Bible way, although it was new to me.

"Clifford, one of the workers at the print shop, and I were married and then left the printing work to establish our home. We lived in Iowa, away from the saints for a number of years and there I learned to depend on the Lord alone for guidance. As I met the tests and trials of life, and looked to Jesus for help, He re-established in my heart the truths and doctrines I had been taught at the print shop. I found that the truths printed at Faith Publishing House were not the doctrines of men, but are the doctrines of the God of heaven, practiced and printed by God-fearing saints.

"In the year of 1962 the Lord again led Clifford and me to work at Faith Publishing House. We find the same clean work here now as we did twenty years ago. We are glad to have our children under the same godly influence that was such a help to us when we were young. Truly we feel the work is the Lord's and those who work here are only instruments in His hands. May it remain so until the Lord comes, is our prayer."

In 1962, Sister Sharon Watkins of Jefferson, Oregon, felt the call to come and help us in the publishing work. She was efficient in her work, but left us when she married Kedron Ellis in 1966.

Sister Malinda Penner, who had faithfully worked here in the office for some time, felt led to engage in personal gospel work. She left in June, 1962.

My father, Fred Pruitt, observed his 81st birthday on Oct. 4, 1962, still active in preaching, editing the *Faith and Victory* paper and printing tracts on the Little Giant letterpress.

CHAPTER FIFTY-SIX

Fortieth Anniversary of the Paper

The publishing work continued with the blessings of the Lord in 1963. My father was still actively editing the paper, carrying on a heavy correspondence and managing the daily operations of the plant. The gospel literature was mailed out daily in all directions.

In January, our stepmother, Nettie Pruitt, whose home with my father was next door east of the Print Shop, took very ill with uremic poisoning and it seemed for several days that the Lord was going to call her away. But in answer to the earnest prayers of the church, the Lord touched her and raised her up again, though her strength was slow in returning at her age of 79 years.

Just prior to the month of March, plans were made for a special 20-page edition of the *Faith and Victory* paper to observe its 40th anniversary of publication with my father, Fred Pruitt, as editor all those four decades. A number of former co-workers here at The Lord's Print Shop and longtime readers wrote letters of comment about the work, many of which were published in this March anniversary issue. Included in that list whose writings were published were Bro. Robert Longley, the co-laborer with my father in the founding days of this work, Sister Julia (Cramer) Llewellyn, Bro. William Cramer, Sister Grace Jones, Bro. Wm. McCoy, Bro. Oscar Williamson, Sister Vera Forbes, Sister Katherine Key, Sister Viola Weir, Bro. Ulysses Phillips, Bro. Harvey Johnson, Bro. Thomas V. McMillian, Sister Sylvia (Forbes) Busbee, Bro. Clifford and Sister Dorothy Wilson, Bro. Kenneth Flynn, Sister Dora Lela (Sorrell) Beisly, Sister Geneva Ray, Sister Cassie Irwin, Bro. Merrill Williamson, Sister Lois (Whipple) Sharp, Sister Lillian Meek, Sister Evodna (Thurman) Marler, Sister E. Coral Johnson, Sister Katie Marler, Bro. Manly Jones, Sister Vera Dotson, Bro. Alsia Sorrell, Sister Emma Busch, Bro. and Sister Sam E. Abbott, Sister Fannie Williams, Sister Eva Penner, Sister Mary Whitmore, Sister Edith

Wall, Sisters Betty Davis and Edith Boyer, Bro. Darius and Sister Evelyn Gibson, Bro. H. P. Huskey, Sister Goldie Knapp, Sister Margaret Brant, and Sister Becky Barnes.

On page three of that issue was printed a photographic reproduction of the front page title of the first issue of this *Faith and Victory* paper dated March, 1923, which was forty years ago. Following this title was the Scriptural exhortation: "O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Another "Ebenezer" stone was figuratively set up, the 40th milestone with this inscription: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us!" Truly, God's hand has been over His work all through the years, and all praise and honor belong unto Him. On the third page there was also a brief description of the contents of the first issue in March, 1923, as well as a note of appreciation to the forty to fifty consecrated workers, mostly young people, who joined the *Faith and Victory* family here at Guthrie, Okla., over the past forty years.

Herewith are excerpts from some of the letters published in this 40th anniversary issue:

From Bro. Robert Longley:

"We are also rejoicing with you and thousands of others on this the fortieth anniversary of the sending forth of the *Faith and Victory* paper, and we join with you in praising God for His helping and sustaining hand all down through the years—during many battles, burdens, and trials that attend the way and path of the faithful. . . . I well remember the great spiritual thrill and blessing that was experienced when the first issue of the *Faith and Victory* went into the mail and out to its readers. You and your whole family are, have been, and always will be, among my highest esteemed friends and brothers and sisters in the Lord. My prayer is that God will continue to bless and prosper your lives and labors, until He calls you to hear that wonderful announcement: "Well done, good and faithful servants."

From Sister Katherine Key: "Now in regard to the *Faith and Victory* paper, I want to say that I have read it from almost the beginning of its publication, and all along, and today I find it to be the cleanest periodical published by the saints anywhere. I have always found a good spirit in its writings, and it has not swerved from the pure radical truth put out by Bro. D. S. Warner and his associates at and from the beginning. While many have taken bypaths and foreign doctrines, the *Faith and Victory* publishers have held steady to the old landmarks. (Job 24:2; Prov. 22:23; Prov. 23:10). We, the saints, should appreciate this fact and back it up with our prayers and support. And I pray God it may keep in line with God's Word until Jesus comes."

From Sister Vera Forbes: "One among the senior couples was our dear Brother and Sister Pruitt, editors of this good little gospel paper that comes to us each month with so much good soul food and inspiring testimonies from God's dear children. I truly thank God for the *Faith and Victory* and for the editor's faithfulness through the past 40 years. My deceased husband and I knew Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and family in New Mexico before they moved to Oklahoma and we knew them to be true, sincere saints of God.

"I remember the first copy of the *Faith and Victory* and it was good, but there has been much improvement. We were charter subscribers, and I believe we have received every copy that has been published. Also we have almost every yearbook of the same. Because we had much confidence in the editors and found the little paper contained precious truths from God's holy Word, we daily prayed for and supported the work. We ordered and distributed many, many copies of the paper to neighbors, friends, to people in markets, etc., trusting the Holy Spirit to convey the truth to lost and hungry souls."

From Bro. Ulysses Phillips: "I am thankful for and appreciate the fact that I have known, and have been in services with Bro. Fred Pruitt from time to time for a period of approximately 40 years, or since the time

(1923-1926) he used to operate and print the *Faith and Victory* paper in the block in which the dining hall and chapel of the Church of God at Guthrie, Okla., now stand, and have found him to be a sincere and straightforward saint and Christian man, a trustworthy brother.

"We enjoy and endorse the *Faith and Victory* paper, and the literature published and sent out by his staff of workers."

From Bro. Thomas V. McMillian: "After the camp-meeting at Hammond, La., in 1942, the Lord sent me to Guthrie to help in the printing work. This was a great blessing, to help print the gospel and to attend services regularly with the saints. I was privileged to be in Bro. and Sis. Pruitt's home for over a year, enjoying their love and hospitality. The hour of family worship was a special blessing to me. I felt sweet fellowship with the whole family, which has never been broken.

"I have appreciated the contents of the paper down through the years. It seems just as clean and pure today as it did over 20 years ago. My prayer is that God will keep it that way."

From Bro. Kenneth Flynn: "I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to our editor, Bro. Fred Pruitt, for his faithfulness and steadfastness in the calling wherein God has called him. It has been my privilege to become well acquainted with Bro. Pruitt. After the Guthrie Campmeeting of August, 1948, I remained in Guthrie and began working in the Lord's Print Shop, and continued over four years. I labored with Bro. Pruitt, traveled some with him, also he and I occupied the same bedroom for some time. His sanctified life proved to me that salvation is real. Many times while working with him in the printing work the machinery wouldn't work right. Instead of him becoming emotionally upset, he kept calm. Often he would go and pray, asking God to help and to give grace and wisdom to repair the machine. His patience and kindness manifested meant so much to me. His great responsibility caused him many times to be burdened because he was faced with many perplexing problems. Many

times I heard him praying, sometimes in the night, because of his responsibilities and burdens. I have known him, while I was there, to fast for 12 days which was a real sacrifice. He said it was needful for him to fast that long. Also, I would hear him praising God many times in the night hours. I believe he praised God in his sleep at times because it was so deep in his soul."

From Sister Dora Lela (Sorrell) Beisly: "At the age of 18, I felt led to work in the Print Shop. I treasured the blessings others had brought to me by laboring there. I felt there was no greater work than spreading the gospel to hungry souls. I went by faith, with no promise of a salary, and spent five years. The atmosphere was heavenly. The workers were saved—had a song in their hearts and praise from their lips. All my needs were bountifully supplied. The Lord did more for me than I could ask or think. I count those years as stepping stones in my life."

From Sister Geneva Ray: "I was reared in a sectarian environment with no knowledge of the truth concerning the church and very little knowledge of salvation except as the Spirit of God would speak personally to me time after time. At last HE conquered. I prayed through to a knowledge of salvation alone in my room in the spring of 1934 in a little settlement in the mountains of New Mexico where I was teaching school.

"In the fall, Bro. and Sister Pruitt and a company of workers held a meeting in our school house. God definitely witnessed to my heart that Bro. Pruitt was His true servant and that he taught the way of truth. Because of some teachings that I did not understand (such as no musical instruments in worship) and because of a lack of confidence in some who professed, I did not accept the truth then.

"There was no more pleasure in worldly things for me and the pleasure of the Lord had departed, so I fully realized my dead state for two years, then began in earnest to seek the Lord, telling Him I would do ANYTHING for Him.

"I am sure some people in the community took the *Faith and Victory* paper, but if I had seen it before, I had paid no attention to it. One day I found one in my school room and my eyes fell on part of Bro. Pruitt's editorials saying someone was needed to operate the Linotype. I had never seen nor heard of one before, but the Lord said, "Go." I had promised "anything" so I arrived in Guthrie in May, 1936. I had no natural ability for printing work, but the Lord helped me. I had the privilege of attending the Hammond, La., campmeeting and other good meetings in surrounding communities that summer and my soul was greatly blessed.

"After learning that Bro. Willie Murphey was coming to operate the Linotype, I decided to return to N. Mex., that fall. It was then that I really learned the value of the *Faith and Victory* to isolated saints. I could hardly wait for its arrival each month and wished it could be printed more often. But I had learned how much work it took to publish it, and knew under existing circumstances that it couldn't be.

"In 1938 I returned to Guthrie and was one of the Faith Publishing House workers until 1957. I am not aware of anything great that I was able to accomplish for the Lord during that time, but my firm convictions that the *Faith and Victory*, the tracts, books, etc. were blessings to souls near and far prompted me to serve as best I could.

"So long as the Lord owns and blesses the printing work and the workers and those in charge "abide in Him" my prayers and support are behind it; and to those who are otherwise minded I would repeat God's warning of old, "Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm."

"The work should not be regarded as earthly headquarters of the church nor as infallible, but should be respected for the unity which it helps to preserve among God's people. Jesus is our Great Shepherd and the Holy Spirit is our Teacher and Guide; but the Holy Spirit makes choice of "lead sheep" without which there would be great confusion among the sheep. When the

flock is scattered or confused, the wolves have a great advantage."

From Sister Evodna (Thurman) Marler: "Thank the Lord for Brother and Sister Pruitt, all the workers and especially for the little *Faith and Victory* paper! When I was only 14 or 15 years of age I began reading the paper that my grandmother had sent to us. It surely was instrumental in awakening me to the need of my soul. What a wonderful change came into my life when I left the proud, sinful, broad way which leads to destruction, to walk in the humble, straight, and narrow way which leads to life everlasting and is full of joy, peace, and happiness.

"I have only precious memories of the almost five years I spent there working for God in the Print Shop. I've never been sorry that I said, "Goodbye, old world." God's ways are truly best, so let Him have His way with you!"

From Sister E. Coral Johnson: "In 1896, my cousins visited us at Grant City, Mo., and took us to a Church of God meeting; my cousin, Emmanuel Myers (Grace Jones' father), being a young Church of God minister. In 1900 we moved from Missouri to Nicodemus, Kansas where we attended Church of God meetings and my father accepted Christ. Then some time later my mother and I were also saved. We moved to Fargo, Okla., where we attended meetings sometimes.

"In the spring of 1906 my sister and I started with horse and buggy to Kansas to meet Sister Julia Myers and her husband and company to accompany them to Ima, New Mexico, where we all homesteaded. After a little over a year my father passed away, leaving me to manage things. I went to Roswell, N. Mex., and worked, sending money for my folks to live on. After making proofs on homesteads, we moved to Roswell. Bro. Willis M. Brown started a Church of God grammar school in Roswell. When they needed another teacher, I taught for a while. Bro. and Sis. Unruh lived in a house in back of the missionary home, and he kept books for Bro. Brown. Before long the school closed and Bro. Unruh

moved to Los Angeles. Later (1915) my sister and I went to Los Angeles and took an apartment in the house with the Unruhs and Bro. C. E. Orr and family. I worked out, but helped fold the *Herald of Truth* papers in the evenings.

"I corresponded with Sister Julia Myers and she mentioned about Bro. Fred Pruitt being in meetings in New Mexico. In 1917 I attended a campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. About that time Bro. and Sister Unruh came to Carthage, Mo., and I accompanied them to La Junta, Colo., where I worked in the office of Ed Daniher. Later I sold my homestead and built a house in La Junta, and my mother and sister came and made their home with me.

"I had heard of Bro. Pruitt, and had confidence in him and his publishing work. On Christmas 1927, I sent them a small offering, and increased it the next Christmas. My mother passed away in November, 1929, and her obituary was in the *Faith and Victory* paper.

"I attended a campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., about July of 1938. There I met Bro. G. E. Harmon. Brother Fred Pruitt was present, but I do not remember meeting him personally. However, I wrote Bro. and Sis. Pruitt a long letter in 1938 and sent an offering. On March 15, 1941 I sent them a telegram which read: "Arthritis in back and right arm, almost helpless, please pray." God answered prayer.

"In Sept., 1941, Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson, Sr., Bro. Willie McMakin, Bro. Alton Stubblefield and Bro. Fred Pruitt, traveling in a company, visited me in my home at La Junta, Colo. Bro. and Sister Pruitt sent me the book, *God's Gracious Dealings*. In 1943, I visited my brother in Dallas, Texas, and stopped in Guthrie and visited Bro. and Sister Pruitt in their home. . . . I often wrote to Bro. and Sister Pruitt and they were a great help in praying about my problems and giving good advice. Sister Pruitt answered most of my letters and I loved and appreciated her very much. I enjoyed spending a night in their home whenever I could. They always

had family worship and I always felt nearer God when in their presence.

"I attended some meetings in Guthrie and stayed at Sister Pruitt's and Frances Murphey's. In 1961 I moved to Guthrie and bought a home in the next block from Faith Publishing House. Bro. and Sister (Nettie) Pruitt have been a great help and encouragement to me. They and Bro. Pruitt's daughters have taken me to meetings in other cities and have prayed the prayer of faith for me together with the other saints."

From Bro. Merrill Williamson: "I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the printing work at Guthrie. I know it has had much opposition from the enemy of souls and surely would not have survived up to this present time if it had not had the hand of God behind it. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Rom. 8:31. Praise His precious and holy name!

"I am still thankful and appreciate very much the time I spent in the Print Shop as a co-worker. I feel that the Godly atmosphere and influence that was manifested has meant much to my spiritual experience, especially as I was young in the Lord. . . ."

From Sister Lois (Whipple) Sharp: "We wish to express our appreciation for Bro. Pruitt and the printing work. We felt it a great and wonderful privilege to be able to help in the work there for a few years. Being in the home and office is where we felt we really got established and settled in the Lord so that we wouldn't be moved by false doctrines. We remember when we felt in need of spiritual help, that Bro. and Sister Pruitt were so kind and ready to pray with us and instruct us. The years spent in the Print Shop are now precious memories.

"Even though there are opposing powers, the truth is still going forth by the printed page. We trust the Lord will continue to bless Bro. Pruitt and the work at the Print Shop."

"From Bro. William Cramer: "I well recall the days when my sister, Julia, and I journeyed from Pennsylvania

to Guthrie, Okla., in a Model T Ford coupe, about 35 years ago when the *Faith and Victory* was still in its infancy.

"Bro. Pruitt, it was there that I served my apprenticeship in printing—press work, and linotype operation. This type of work I have followed practically all my life.

"I often recall the days spent in the Lord's Print Shop, publishing the *Faith and Victory*. I think of the letters sent in by readers of the paper, telling how they were helped in their souls by the papers and tracts. We never can tell how much good we do as we labor for Him. The Word tells us to cast our bread upon the waters and after many days it will return again.

"Do be encouraged, Bro. Pruitt, to keep up the good work. May the Lord richly bless you as you labor on for Him."

From Bro. H. P. Huskey: "It is with joy that we greet you on this, your fortieth milestone, in the great work of getting the truth of the "evening light" to a lost world.

"Your paper receives a hearty welcome each month in our home. As we read its pages, enjoying the blessed truth, and hearing of our beloved brethren and sisters as they write of God's wonderful dealings with them, our hearts swell in praises to Him who has made it possible that the truth could be printed.

"Bro. Pruitt is an outstanding example to all of the saints and ministers. His faithfulness to his special calling should inspire many to a greater effort to be all God wants them to be."

From Sister Edith Wall: "We want you to know that we have been enjoying the *Faith and Victory* paper for about twenty-five years and see no compromise in it. It is still the same truth we read in our first paper.

"We don't know just how our mother came in contact with the paper in Illinois, but she sent it to us when I was sick in soul and body. I saw where the saints in Guthrie were having a day of fasting and prayer and asked any who had a need to write in and they would pray for them. I wrote with the expectation

of receiving healing. The Lord saved my soul and healed my body, for which we are forever grateful. This put us in contact with the saints of God. When the Lord opened up a way, I took my children where the truth was preached. They are both saved today. We feel we owe much to the *Faith and Victory* paper and those who labored to send it forth. The books and tracts have been a great blessing to us also. We thank the Lord for Bro. Pruitt, and what he has done to get salvation to lost souls through the printing work."

From Bro. Darius Gibson: "It is close to 40 years ago when I first came in fellowship with the saints and have enjoyed going through the pages of the *Faith and Victory* paper. I have appreciated the counsel of Bro. Fred Pruitt and am still willing to have more. We also cannot express in words what the saints and many others have meant to us through the years in sharing with us to help carry the gospel into new fields. 'Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God.' I John 3:1."

In March, 1963, Sister Lillian Meek wrote: "... On Jan. 5, 1960, the Lord blessed me and made me one of His steady workers at the Print Shop. My whole heart is in the work of the Lord. It is a real blessing to me that I have a little part in getting the pure truths of God's Word out through the printed pages."

Sister Meek prepared the noon meal each day for the workers until her health failed and she could no longer do it. She was such good help, and also canned fruits and vegetables in the summer for winter use. She loved the Lord and was always working to help others. Passing to her heavenly reward in 1967, she has been greatly missed at the Print Shop and in the Guthrie congregation.

Perhaps my father little suspected that this would be his last observance of an anniversary of the publication which he had edited for forty years, and as we look in retrospect on this occasion we are pleased and grateful that our readers "gave their flowers" while he lived, though he would not accept any praise whatever,

but would ascribe all honor and thanksgiving to the Lord for His matchless grace and considered himself "as an unprofitable servant."

CHAPTER FIFTY-SEVEN

The Editor Finishes His Course

As the late springtime of 1963 began to stretch toward the longer days of summer, my father remained active as usual in the office and shop, along with all the other consecrated workers, and the gospel literature was printed and mailed out regularly in all directions, much of it going out in this country and overseas without charge for free distribution. He and my sister, Marie, kept their Sunday preaching appointments at various places over the state.

On Wednesday morning, June 5, 1963, I was in my father's office talking to him about some manuscript. The type of his editorials for the July issue of the *Faith and Victory* had been set on the Linotype, the proofs were read and I was getting ready to set the corrections on them. While we were talking, he complained of a hurting in his chest and said he had been having some trouble that way for the past two days. He said he thought he would go home and rest, and he went right away. I thought he would be all right after he rested awhile. I went back to the shop where Marie was, and told her that Papa was not feeling well and that he went home. She started to go over next door to see about him, and my son Harvey, who was painting outside, called to Marie that our stepmother, Nettie, was calling for her to come. She saw that he was having a severe attack, but we did not know that it was a heart attack. The Print Shop workers gathered in and we prayed for his healing. Our pastors, Bro. and Sister Ira Stover, were called and they joined in prayer. Soon the Lord gave relief from the pain, and he rested. Later in the day, around 5 p.m., he got up and took the mail to the post office in the car. He believed the Lord was taking care of him.

Just before prayer meeting time, Marie, Frances, and I went to see him, and he was not feeling very well, so we stayed with him. Soon he was having another attack, and we called Bro. and Sister Stover and Bro. Willie Murphey to come. After prayer, the Lord undertook again for him. He talked with all of us about the Scriptures as he lay on the divan. His confidence was strong in the Lord, and none of us ever mentioned or thought of doing anything but trusting God to take care of him. All left except Marie. She stayed with him most of the night, and he rested fairly well.

Early the next morning (June 6) I went to see about him, and about 9 a.m. he began to have another attack. He asked us to pray the Lord to take him out of his suffering which was so severe in his chest. We children and our co-workers kept praying, and we called Brother Stover and other saints to come and agree in prayer. The Lord again touched him and relieved the pain. I went to the post office to get the mail and my sister, Frances, went to town on business. Marie stayed with him. It was not long after all others had gone, and only Marie and Mother Nettie were there, that he had a massive heart attack and departed suddenly to be with the Lord at 10:45 a.m., June 6, 1963. Of course, it was a shock to all of us, though he was ready to go and desired to be with His Lord and Saviour. His expressed desire to go quickly was also granted. In the days and weeks prior to his Home-going he had talked more than usual of heaven and his readiness to go anytime.

Excerpts from writings in the July, 1963 issue of *Faith and Victory* are as follows:

Obituary

"Fred Pruitt, son of Harrison and Mary (Burroughs) Pruitt, was born October 4, 1881, at San Antonio, Texas, and departed this life at his home in Guthrie on June 6, 1963, at the age of 81 years, 8 months and 2 days.

"On April 9, 1906, he was united in marriage to Mary Ann Balla at Walnut, Kansas. To this union ten children were born, four of whom died in infancy.

"The year of their marriage in 1906, they moved from Kansas to a homestead in the Territory of New Mexico, northwest of Clovis.

"In the year of 1915 he heard the gospel message of this 'evening light' truth for the first time at the school house near his homestead. He believed the message and was definitely converted, becoming a new creature in Christ. Very soon after, he was sanctified, baptized, and heard and obeyed God's call to the ministry. Feeling the need of more fully giving himself to the work of the Lord, he left the farm and eventually moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma, in 1918 and engaged in the preaching and printing of the gospel. This cause became the foremost purpose in his life, to which he gave all his time, talents, and possessions. To this call he remained faithful to the end, covering a period of 47 years in the ministry of the Word.

"Forty years ago, in 1923, he, with a few close associates, began the publication of the *Faith and Victory* paper, continuing as editor and active manager of the publishing work until his passing.

"On October 11, 1954, his wife, Mary Ann, mother of his children, preceded him to that eternal Home.

"On March 3, 1956 he was united in marriage to Sister Nettie Sample.

"He leaves to mourn their loss: his wife, Nettie, of the home address; six children: Andrew J., Fresno, Calif., Lawrence D., Guthrie, Mrs. Anna Marie Miles, Guthrie, Mrs. Mary Lola Embly, Chino, Calif., Mrs. Frances Edna Murphey, Guthrie, and Frank Edward, Phoenix, Arizona, 16 grandchildren, 9 great-grandchildren besides many other relatives, friends, and saints."

Bro. Ira D. Stover, the Guthrie pastor who officiated at the funeral service, wrote the following:

"The funeral service for Bro. Fred Pruitt, our long-time fellow-minister, was held in the Church of God chapel, 6th and W. Warner, Guthrie, Okla., on Monday, 2:30 p.m. June 10, 1963, with a very large gathering of friends, neighbors, and saints from several states, who

came to pay their last respects to our dear brother. More than thirty-five ministers were present.

" 'A mighty tree has fallen; a mighty stream has ceased to flow.' A number of the ministers spoke thus in giving tribute to our fellow-minister of their love and labor in the gospel work together.

"Bro Sam Barton read Psalms 27 and spoke of his association over the years with the departed. Bro. O. B. Wilson read II Tim. 4:1-6 and related a number of personal experiences and glimpses into the life of the deceased when they traveled and labored together in the gospel work. He felt, as a young minister, that after his first trip with Bro. Pruitt, his ministry had greatly expanded. This writer, Bro. Ira D. Stover, brought a message on "A Life Spent for God," using the texts in St. John 5:31-36; II Tim. 4:6-8; Acts 20:17-24.

"The first call was to go and preach the gospel—the glorious gospel of the kingdom of God. Bro. Pruitt faithfully preached the gospel in many states, being responsible through God in bringing many souls to the Lord, also seeing many go on to perfection and receiving the glorious experience of sanctification. Numbers have expressed that his life had been an influence in helping them get established in the faith of God. Bro. Pruitt was pastor of the Guthrie congregation for many years, while also sending forth the gospel by the printed page.

"Again he heard the call to send forth the message of truth on all lines through the press as well as the pulpit. He labored untiringly for souls—his chief interest in life. The three texts of Scripture used, perfectly convey the thought of a life spent for God—a call to labor and obedience to that call. The second and last call is the appearing at the end of our life's span with all our work finished, ready to receive the Lord's announcement of 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

"The third scripture, Rev. 14:13: 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord . . . that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.' This denotes our final and eternal rest from all our labor and

the fruits of 'a life spent for God' still remaining with them in Glory.

"Dear ministers, fellow-laborers, and saints of God, let us take up the task and burden for souls our brother has laid down and carry the torch on to a final victory, closing the ranks and uniting our forces in love and humility, for a valiant soldier of the cross has laid down the armor and gone to receive the reward for the faithful. Let us follow the Captain of our salvation who is leading this battle for truth and right to a final victory.

"Bro. Ulysses Phillips closed the service at the graveside. The body was laid to rest in Summit View Cemetery at Guthrie by the side of his wife, Sister Mary Ann Pruitt, to await the general resurrection.

—By Ira D. Stover, Guthrie Pastor"

The following was written by Lawrence Pruitt in July, 1963:

"Truly, the family and the staff of co-workers are indeed saddened, but we sorrow not as those who have no hope. Perhaps even now we do not fully realize the loss we have sustained in the great battle against sin and Satan, but there is in our hearts a lively hope and bright anticipation of meeting him again with all the faithful of the ages around the eternal throne of God.

"At the close of that warm June day when my father was so suddenly taken from us, I returned to my home from the office about 10 p.m. I was there alone in my grief, my wife, Maybelle, having gone on the previous Monday to the bedside of her mother in San Bernardino, California, who had suffered a stroke. As I lifted my heart to the Lord in prayer, I asked Him to give me a special Scripture for my comfort and consolation. As I opened my Bible this is the first verse that came to my view: "I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." II Sam. 22:4. This was David's song of thanksgiving after he was delivered out of the hand of Saul, and this is the text I am resting upon. In calling on the Lord I am fully convinced there is a solution and a way to meet with victory every problem of life.

"My father's desire and request was that my sister, Mrs. Anna Marie Miles, and myself should assume and continue the operation of this publishing work after his passing in accordance with the original aims and purposes for which it was established. Over the years he has communicated these policies to us.

"Not only was this his request, but also the Lord has especially burdened each of us to labor for Him in this capacity. In obedience to this call we have been directly engaged in the work for a number of years. As a lad of 13 years I learned to operate the Linotype machine in this publishing work and helped most of the time in the shop until 1934 when I took a job as a printer-operator in a local commercial printing plant and resigned from that position in 1958. Since then I have been engaged in this gospel printing work.

"Some 36 years ago, in 1927, this writer as a boy of 16 years, was definitely converted at an old-fashioned campmeeting of the Church of God in Oklahoma City. Then and there I counted the cost, paid the price and made a decision to follow the Lord the remainder of my life. Later I sought and obtained the experience of sanctification, dedicating my life to the leadings of the Spirit of God. Up to this moment my faith has not failed, though tried many times, and the anchor holds firm to the solid Rock. Through all these years we have been intensely interested and closely connected with this gospel printing work in which my father, mother, and co-workers were engaged, and have aided in its advancement and progress in every way possible.

"Now we believe that the Lord will help us in the much greater responsibility that has fallen upon us. By the special help and leadings of the Holy Spirit, and the earnest prayers of the saints we will endeavor to continue to proclaim the great truths of the Bible which brought forth this precious "evening light" reformation, free from compromise or fanaticism. To this end we solicit the earnest prayers and co-operation of the Church at large.

"Our father left no written will, nor any earthly inheritance of consequence, but did leave the greatest heritage—a godly life—that a parent could leave to his child. He did not need a will, as he had already placed what the Lord had given him into God's work. No real or personal property remained in his name excepting a little personal money in the total amount of \$50.56. Aside from this sum and a few small offerings received for this occasion, the funeral expenses will be paid from the funds of Faith Publishing House as the Lord supplies.

"Mother Nettie Pruitt, his wife, and the six children of Fred Pruitt, who are his legal heirs, have willingly signed an agreement releasing the Faith Publishing House from any liability in the matter of the estate of Fred Pruitt since this is a non-profit religious institution, and all of them definitely expressed the desire that this work be carried on in the same manner and for the same purposes as it has in the past, according to our father's wishes.

"In life our father and mother lived plain and simple lives in harmony with the teachings of God's Word, not wasting the Lord's money in extravagance. Likewise, to be consistent with their lives they desired that in death and burial this simplicity of Christ would be expressed. Their wishes were carried out. Their caskets were plain, but adequate for the occasion. The Lord's money was not "buried" in vaults and other unnecessary items. They are not in the grave, but there lies merely the houses in which they lived, and soon all will return to the dust from whence it came.

"Yours in His service, —Lawrence D. Pruitt"

My sister, Marie Miles, wrote the following in July, 1963:

"Words cannot express the love and appreciation we have for the children of God who have been so precious to stand by us in this time of sorrow. At times it seemed my heart would break, but then the echo of words spoken directly to me, over the phone, and those written in letters helped me to look up to God. He would ease the hurt and again I could see God's hand working

and I could view my father's going as he did. He has talked to me in the last couple of years about his going as any person would talk about a trip they intended to take. He made me feel that this trip was to be the most glorious trip he would ever take. He instructed me about what he wanted done in this work which was so close to his heart. He knew the burden I had for it and he, Lawrence, and I often prayed together about its progress in reaching more souls.

"When I was still small, I sat at a table and folded tracts by hand, as we did not have a tract folder in those days. As I grew older I learned to operate some of the machinery. When I was a child it was to me just work that had to be done. When I was older and was saved, a burden fell upon me to help others. Many times I would fold tracts, wrap papers, fill orders, and pray the Lord to make that particular tract, booklet, or paper a blessing to some soul. I helped here in the office until my marriage at the age of 22 years. Before I married I traveled in the gospel work with my father and we were in close communion with each other. When my husband asked for me, he told Carl that he could hardly give me up, but felt it would only be selfishness to want to keep me from him. For 18 years I lived in California after my marriage. During those years I learned many things. At the time I did not know that the Lord was preparing me for this work. I had some hard things to endure that has helped me to understand those who have troubles.

"In October, 1954, I came to Guthrie and cared for my precious mother for two weeks before she was called to her reward. I returned to California with a burden upon my heart. I left my bereaved father who told me with tears that he did not know how he could carry on this printing work alone. He needed a man and his wife to move in there with him, but who would that be? I requested prayer at the chapel in Pomona where I was pastor at that time, that God would fill the vacancy made here in the printing work, as I wanted to see it continue unhindered. One day in prayer the Lord made me know He wanted me to come here and help. What a

mountain stood between me and a move to this place! The saints in Pomona didn't want me to leave them when I told them of my burden. Some, with tears, just told me they felt that surely someone else would come. Some in California wrote me that I was needed there more than here. But God had laid the burden and the mountain to be moved was His. After much prayer I was much surprised to find that my husband was somewhat favorable. He had a good job with seniority. Some at work plainly told him he was making a big mistake but God's big hand was in it all. My teen-age boys were willing. When I wrote my father about it, he wrote me that God had answered prayer in a greater way than he ever expected. Soon our furniture was sold, our home redecorated, rented, and we were on our way. The call to come was so definite and so plain. God had worked a miracle to bring me here. I have had some hard things to face because I was willing to be in this work and be in the front of the battle for God and I would be afraid to ever leave here until God makes it very plain to me. The burden is heavy upon my heart to see that souls still have a chance to read the plain gospel story that goes out through the literature from this place. So much false literature is dumped on the reading public that we must see that the Truth is sent forth. Dear ones, pray for me, my brother, and the dear workers here that we ever keep that burden for souls upon us. Some might feel that we do not ever have any battles with the enemy here. But dear ones, the devil does not want truth to go forth and he would like to stop the flow of truth from here. By the grace of God and your prayers we intend to work on until we, too, can lay down our armor as my precious father longed to do many times. God has made plain His will concerning me at this time and that is to help keep this work going until He makes me know differently. I feel that as God has definitely led me in the past, He will continue to do so in the future.

"The next morning after he was gone I opened my Bible and it fell open to I Chron. 28:9,10. I had underlined the ninth verse some time ago. It was like my

father speaking to me. 'And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever. Take heed now; for the Lord hath chosen thee to build an house for the sanctuary: be strong, and do it.' Oh, how my heart was strengthened as I thought of the great responsibility that had fallen upon my brother and me. That responsibility is too big for us but we are serving the same God my father did, and if we keep serving Him with a 'perfect heart' and 'a willing mind,' He 'will be found' of us.

"I have been here working with my father now almost nine years. We had appointments nearly every Sunday at other towns in places where the saints did not have a pastor but did have a place of worship. I had been driving the car and taking him, his wife and others to these places. We would have two services and the Lord blessed us together in our labors for God. Many times I would ask him to tell me if I preached anything that would not be just as God's Word taught it because I valued the revelation that God had given him on the Word. Yet the same Holy Spirit was revealing the same word of truth to me. Our spiritual life together has been precious.

"As I came into the office this morning rather early the tears flowed, because I didn't see my father here as he always was. We miss him and it seems we will miss him even more as the days bring the realization more and more that we will not see him again in this life, but thank God, we sorrow not as those who have no hope.

"The flowers were beautiful that so many dear ones sent to help ease the heartache. The many cards with wonderful verses and written words of comfort were precious. We do not feel that we are able to answer each one individually, so please accept these few words as an acknowledgment. You have helped us so much! We appreciate all those who came from far and near to

speaking a word of comfort. We are grateful to those who were close and brought food and have done so much. May God bless and reward all of you.

"It helped so much to have my brother and sister from California and my brother from Arizona to come and be with us three children here in our sorrow.

—Sister A. Marie Miles"



The six Pruitt children, taken in 1963, just after our father's funeral at Guthrie, Okla.

From left to right: Frank, Frances, Mary Lola, Anna Marie, Lawrence, and Andrew

CHAPTER FIFTY-EIGHT

Changes For More Responsibility

It was with a feeling of humility and inability that we penned the lines for the editorial column in the Sept., 1963, issue of *Faith and Victory*, as there was no paper published for the month of August according to our usual policy. Never in our Christian experience had we felt so much the need of divine wisdom and the leadership of the Holy Spirit since the departure of our beloved father. Often we would want to ask him questions about the work, but he was not with us. Yet we had realized many times the gracious sustaining hand of God and the faithful leadings of the Spirit as we endeavored to carry on, with the help of our consecrated co-workers, this gospel publishing ministry in which my father was actively engaged for 45 years.

The volunteer co-workers at the time of my father's passing pledged their cooperation in continuing the publishing work, for which we were very grateful. In July, we took several thousand tracts and books to the National campmeeting at Neosho, Mo., for free distribution.

In the month of June, we suffered a double loss—not only the sudden departure to the Glory world of our father on June 6th, but also the passing to that eternal Home just 13 days later, on June 19th, of our (Marie's and my) mother-in-law, Sister Lycenia Miles, at San Bernardino, Calif. She had suffered a stroke on Memorial Day, from which she did not recover, although in answer to prayer the Lord relieved her of pain many times. My wife, Maybelle, flew to the bedside of her mother on June 3rd and was with her to the end. Carl and Marie Miles, their son, Carl, Jr. and family, and myself made a rush trip to California for the funeral in San Bernardino, Calif. Burial was beside her husband, Bro. W. I. Miles, in Mt. View Memorial Park, San Bernardino.

The passing of our father was also a hard ordeal for our stepmother, Nettie Pruitt, especially for one of 80

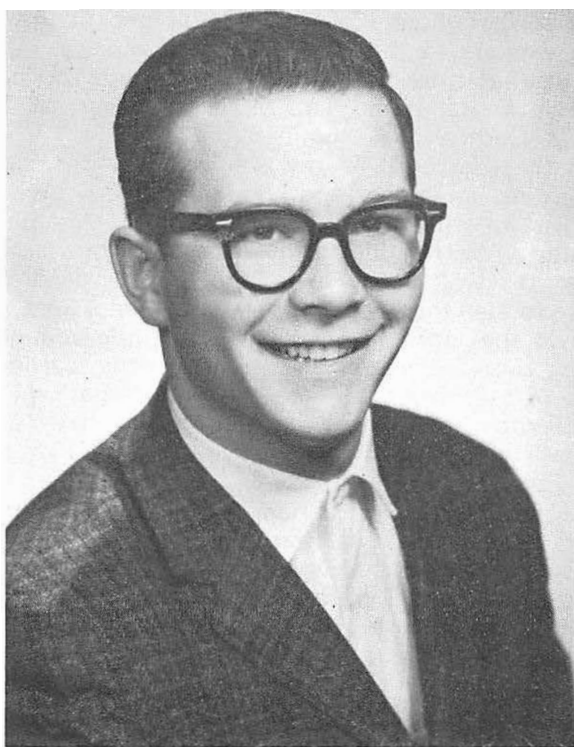
years of age. They had been married about seven years and lived in a home to themselves next door east of the office. We advised her that she could continue to live in the home and she would be cared for, but she and her children decided that she should move back to Tulsa, Okla., where she would be close to her children, as she had five children in that area. She went to Tulsa the latter part of June, and they found a house for her. The movers came and took the furniture to Tulsa on July 3rd. My sister, Marie, went by Tulsa and took her to the



Roberta Melot

National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo., and brought her back to Tulsa at the close. Mother Nettie desired to see the publishing work continue for the glory of God.

Some of the workers—Bro. and Sister Clifford Wilson and family, and Sharon Watkins, who had been helping here in the publishing work for the past year—went to the Jefferson, Ore., campmeeting in June. They also visited their relatives there, and Sharon returned to the National campmeeting, then came on to Guthrie.



Clifford Smith

The Wilsons went on to California, visiting other relatives and attended part of the Bakersfield, Calif., camp-meeting. They arrived back here at the office on August 15 to help in the printing work.

In August, 1963, Sister Roberta Melot, who lived with her parents near Guthrie, came to help in the work and live in the home east of the shop. She helped mainly with the correspondence, and we deeply appreciated her labors for the Lord. She left a few months before she married Bro. Eddie Wilson in 1966.

Bro. Clifford D. Smith, a fine, Christian young man, offered his services in August, 1963, and began learning the printing trade. He is the son of Bro. Harland Smith of Claremont, Calif., who was one of the most active workers in the Baja California, Mexico, mission field at that time. Clifford had attended the camp-meetings at Hammond, La., Monark Springs, Mo., and here at Guthrie that summer.

In the year of 1948 my wife and I had purchased the printing equipment and building formerly owned by the Christian Triumph Company at 1116 W. Washington, in Guthrie. We remodeled the building to provide living quarters as well as space for the printing department, and we resided there for nineteen years—until September, 1967. In that printing plant we did a little commercial printing over the years, and our two sons learned the basics of the printing trade. After my father's passing we offered the printing equipment for sale, as we intended to devote full time to the Lord's work at the Faith Publishing House.

At the Lord's Print Shop, a special literature extension effort is made each autumn to secure many new names and addresses to whom we send the gospel—the good news of salvation through Christ—by means of the *Faith and Victory* paper. A special offer is made of 10 subscriptions for three months for \$1.00. This offer was made in October, 1963, and by the end of the year several thousand new names had been received, to whom we mailed the paper for the months of Jan., Feb., and March of 1964.

While living in Tulsa, Okla., our stepmother, Nettie Pruitt, became afflicted with heart dropsy. Her children cared for her in her home. The Lord saw best to call her, and she departed this life on Oct. 19, 1963, at the age of 80 years, four months and 17 days, just a few months after my father's passing.

On Oct. 19, Bro. Clifford Smith accidentally got the middle finger of his right hand badly split open in the platen printing press with the crushed bone exposed. The finger was cleaned and bandaged, and an earnest agreement of prayer offered that the Lord would take care of it. In answer to prayer, there was no infection and the finger wonderfully healed up without any medical aid. All praise unto the Great Physician!

The first part of October, 1963, this writer was seriously afflicted with a paralysis on the right side of his face which affected his speech and sight. In answer to the earnest prayers of the saints, a definite healing touch was received, and by the first of November he was completely recovered, and he has been free of that



Maybelle Pruitt standing by our snow-covered car on driveway of our home and printshop building at 1116 W. Washington, Guthrie.

ever since. Thank the Lord for divine healing which is "the children's bread." Nothing is more attacked by the devil than the doctrine and practice of divine healing, and yet nothing is more plainly taught and confirmed in the New Testament.



**Fred and Nettie Pruitt printing tracts
on the Little Giant Press**

CHAPTER FIFTY-NINE

The Eventful Year of 1964

As the year of 1964 began, there were eight full-time volunteer workers at the Lord's Print Shop, for whom He provided room and board and a small allowance each week. All worked in harmony for the purpose of getting out the soul-saving gospel literature to this perishing world, not only in the English language but also the Spanish. Bro. Clifford Smith knew the Spanish language, and he translated some English tracts to Spanish, and set the Spanish type on the Linotype machine. Also, Bro. Clifford began the publication of a four-page monthly periodical in Spanish entitled, *La Luz de Esperanza* (The Light of Hope), which was mailed free of charge from this office. The missionaries who labored in Mexico, which included Clifford's father, Bro. Harland Smith, especially appreciated the assistance of this Spanish paper and tracts in presenting the gospel message to the Spanish-speaking people in that great field.

A two-page leaflet entitled, *Beautiful Way for Primaries*, was printed and added to the *Beautiful Way for Juniors* for use in Sunday school classes, and mailed to the subscribers every three months. A fund was started by Sister Vera Forbes to purchase an offset printing press in order to print illustrations and drawings in the *Beautiful Way* papers. The offset press can print sheets faster and at a cheaper rate than the conventional letterpress which we used exclusively at that time.

In June, a rebuilt 44-inch Seybold power paper cutter was installed in the shop to replace the obsolete cutter that was used for many years. It was a step by faith at a cost of \$2,000.00, but the Lord, through His people, supplied the means to meet the payments.

The Lord permitted this writer to attend the Jefferson, Oregon, campmeeting in June, going by auto with Bro. Willie Murphey and family. It was a pleasure to again meet the saints in the Northwest and worship the Lord

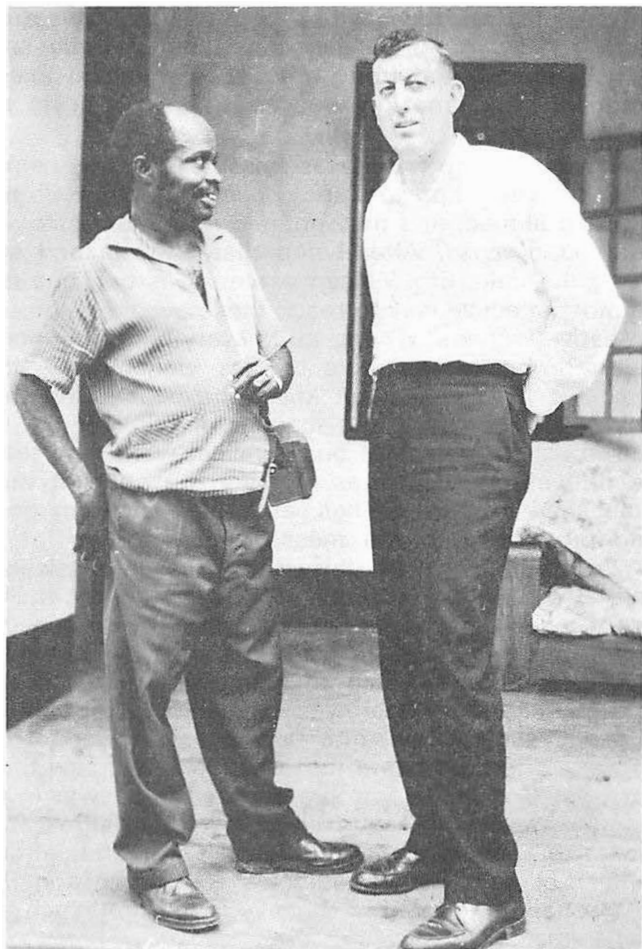
together. From Jefferson, I returned to Guthrie by auto with Bro. Royal Taylor via Orland, Calif., Fresno, Dinuba, Pacoima, Pomona and Chino, visiting relatives and saints enroute.

Calls kept coming from Bro. B. U. Etuk, native missionary in the Southeast State of Nigeria, W. Africa, for missionaries to come from the United States to aid them in the gospel work and to establish them in the doctrines of the Bible. Though that mission station had been expanding and flourishing for several years, yet the Church here had never had any personal contact with them or their activities. It seemed very necessary that some personal contacts should be made. The Lord laid the burden upon Bro. David Madden, a young minister of Tulsa, Okla., to make a short mission visit to Bro. Etuk and his mission stations in Nigeria. Accordingly, Bro. Madden made his own financial arrangements and by plane he arrived at Bro. Etuk's on March 28, 1964. While he participated in the service on Easter Sunday, 300 members took part in the Lord's Supper and fifty or more people were at the altar for spiritual help. He made every day count in contacting as many people as possible with the gospel message, and returned to Tulsa on April 12. Soon after returning, he took sick. Though earnest prayers ascended for his recovery, he grew worse, and God, in His infinite wisdom, called him Home on April 28 in his 38th year. Bro. Madden trusted the Lord fully and died in the triumphs of a living faith. His illness was posthumously described as malaria, evidently a deadly strain which he contracted in Africa.

Thus was the passing of our first American missionary to Nigeria, but the Church was exhorted to redouble its efforts, to grasp and carry onward the soul-saving gospel torch which Bro. Madden had laid down.

Since the autumn of 1963, Bro. and Sister Ostis B. Wilson, ministers of Pacoima, California, had been praying about their going to Nigeria, W. Africa, to labor with the Church of God missions there for a few months. They got the "go" signal, and by April, 1964,

they had their passports, and had made application to the Nigerian government for visas to enter that country. Though delayed, the visas were received, and they left New York by ship on July 15 and arrived safely in Port



**Bro. B. U. Etuk and Bro. David Madden at
Bro. Etuk's home in Nigeria.**

Harcourt, Nigeria, on August 12. The next day Bro. Etuk arrived with a Volkswagen bus and took them and their baggage to his mission station about 80 miles inland. The living quarters that they had rented for them far exceeded anything they had imagined they could get in that area. It was the upstairs part of a big house in a clearing right in the jungle, consisting of three large rooms with covered front and back porch and lots of windows. The location was about a mile from the chapel.

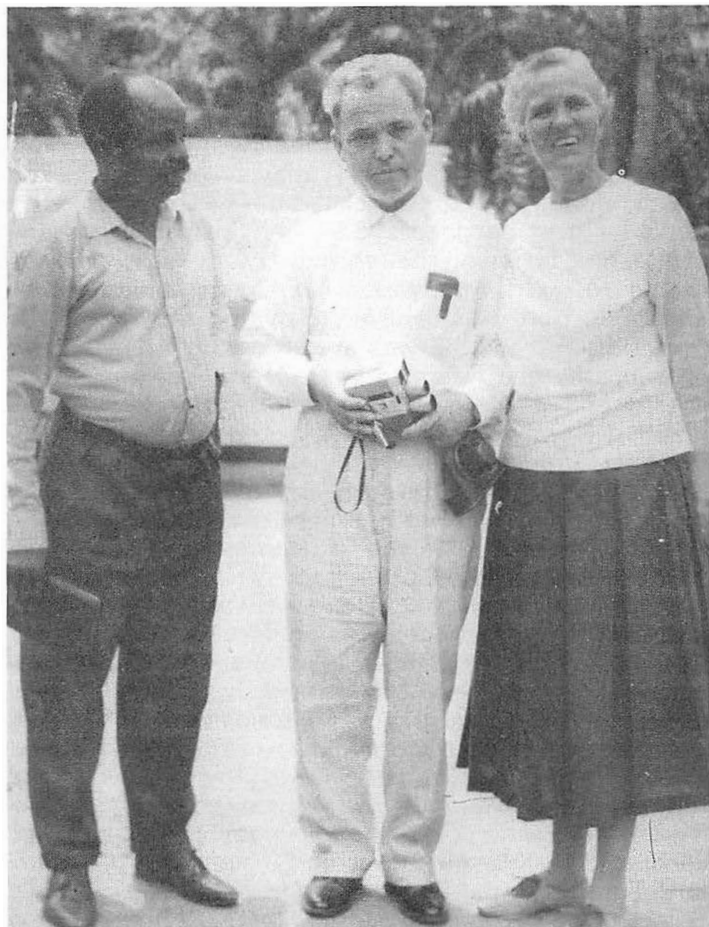
Their going to Nigeria as missionaries was backed up by the earnest prayers and cooperation of the Church here and abroad, and they entered into their work with zeal and purpose. After being there awhile and surveying the field, Bro. Wilson wrote: "It is our idea that the most effective way to reach these people is through the native workers. Having to do everything through an interpreter makes us more or less ineffective in that capacity. Also, we do not know the people and their background, customs, and manner of thinking like the natives do. We feel that our principal work is to teach the natives the doctrines of the truth and get them established in those things, and then let them go to their brethren with the message of salvation."

On Sept. 19, 1964, this office received a telegram from Bro. Wilson that his wife was very sick. This urgent request for prayer for her healing was phoned to several congregations across the country. About three days later another telegram came from Bro. Wilson stating that Sister Opal was critically ill. The Church here and abroad went into fasting and prayer for her recovery. The Lord heard those petitions and saw those tears, yet God in His wisdom declined to answer in the way that we desired, and called her to eternal rest from her earthly labors at 10 p.m. Sept. 24, 1964, after a number of days with pneumonia fever. She and Bro. Wilson had gotten wet in a heavy rain, from which she took this fatal illness.

This was the second missionary to Nigeria to depart this life that year, but the statement that "death does

not denote defeat" is still true. Death is that doorway through which every child of God must pass in order to obtain that final and complete victory.

Sister Opal Wilson was a missionary at heart with a burning desire to get the gospel to the poor and needy



**Bro. Etuk, Bro. Ostis and Sister Opal Wilson
in Nigeria, W. Africa**

about her. She had labored and done whatever she could in the mission work in Mexico. When the privilege was granted her to go to Nigeria, W. Africa, to do mission work, she grasped the opportunity with joy and anticipation. When she arrived with her husband at their Nigerian mission station, she entered into her work with zest and zeal. She loved her work and was happy and contented in that place. She very quickly came to dearly love the people with whom she worked and they loved her. However, the Lord did not permit her work to continue very long. At the end of about five weeks she was stricken with that severe illness, and about nine days later God called her to Himself to reap the reward of her labors. She went with courage and confidence, testifying that she was ready to go and was willing to go if that was what God wanted.

When word was received in this country that Sister Opal Wilson, aged 59, was at rest with the Lord, words of sympathy and offers to help in any way possible to get her body flown back to California for burial began to pour in from saints, relatives, and friends. As the financial arrangements were being made, Bro. Wilson was involved in a very slow and trying process, with delay after delay, in order to get the body prepared and flown to Los Angeles. Eventually he arrived about noon, and the body some hours later, at the Los Angeles airport on Friday, Oct. 2. There he was met by a large group of sympathizing saints and relatives.

This writer, as well as a number of other out-of-state individuals, were constrained by love and mutual concern to make the trip to California to render whatever comfort and aid we could to the bereaved family. The many flowers and the large attendance at the funeral spoke eloquently of the place which Sister Opal held in the hearts of all who knew her. The service was conducted by Bro. Ira Stover and Sister LaVern Manuel in the chapel of the Forest Lawn of the Hills (Hollywood Hills). As we carried her earthly tabernacle to its resting place on the green hillside by the chapel, we knew that Sister Opal Wilson possessed a "building of God, an

house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." (II Cor. 5:1).

Sister Eunice Coral (Myers) Johnson of La Junta, Colo., came to Guthrie in 1961, and moved into a house which she had purchased in the next block west of the Print Shop. For many years she had been interested in all phases of the work of the Lord, giving of her means for their support. Almost daily she came to the Print Shop, as we brought her mail from the post office. We were happy to have her with us and in the congregation.



Eunice Coral (Myers) Johnson

Sis. Johnson returned to Guthrie from the National campmeeting at Neosho, Mo., on Sunday, August 1, 1964. The first few days of that week she said she was not feeling very well, but she was up and going. On Thursday morning, Aug. 6, she did not respond to her neighbor's phone call or a knock on her locked doors. We were notified at the office, and several of us went to her house. Forcing an entrance at her back screen door, we found her lifeless in the bathroom. The medical examiner was called at once, and he said she had had a heart attack which took her without suffering or a struggle, evidently about 8 a.m. Apparently, she had gotten up at the usual time and was preparing to dress when she was stricken. Our loss was heaven's gain, and we certainly missed her.

Sister Johnson, aged 79, is at rest with the Lord and her good works are still following her. She had no children, and her estate was left for the benefit of several specified phases of the Lord's work. She was a good steward of the manifold grace of God.

Bro. Clifford Smith compiled and set the type (words only, no notes) on a Spanish songbook entitled, *Himnos de Gloria* (Hymns of Glory), consisting of 137 songs. About 70 of these songs had been translated by others from the *Evening Light Songs* book, and carry the Church of God message and doctrines. This book was published in a heavy paper binding, and is used by all the mission stations in Mexico. In Sept., 1964, Bro. Smith left the publishing work and returned to his father's home in Claremont, Calif., but he continued to edit the Spanish paper each month, and it was printed and mailed from this office.

The first part of September, 1964, this writer got an infection on his leg just above his ankle which seemed to poison his entire system. I took a hard chill and then a high fever. In answer to prayer the Lord took the sickness away, but for several more days I was laid up and unable to walk on my foot. By holding on to the promises of God the infection was eradicated and the Lord put me on my feet again. Thank God for the virtue

of divine physical healing and the privilege we have to trust Him!

In November, during Thanksgiving week, this writer and his wife, Maybelle, were privileged again to attend the annual Assembly meeting at Hammond, La., where we enjoyed the preached Word and the fellowship of the saints. To us, so many of the saints living in that area are just "home folks" as we have met with them in services many times since our first contact at the Hammond, La., meeting in December, 1928. Of course, we also enjoyed our visit and stay in the home of our son Byron and his family who live near Hammond.

We were saddened by the passing on December 12, 1964, of our sister-in-law, Helen Pruitt, my brother Frank's wife, at Phoenix, Ariz., after a long illness. The funeral and burial were at Phoenix, and were attended by all six of the children of Fred and Mary Pruitt.



From left to right: Andrew, Lawrence, Anna Marie, Mary Lola, Frances and Frank Pruitt. Taken at Frank's home when we were there to attend the funeral of Frank's wife Helen in Phoenix, Arizona.

CHAPTER SIXTY

More Missionaries Go Overseas

With the dawning of the new year of 1965 there were 5600 new names on the mailing list of the *Faith and Victory* to receive the paper for the months of Jan., Feb., and March as a result of the special subscription offer made in the autumn of 1964.

More old out-of-print Church of God books were reprinted during 1965. Also, we began printing gospel tracts translated from the English to the Efik language which were used in the Southeast State of Nigeria where Bro. B. U. Etuk, native Nigerian, was doing gospel work.

The first of May, 1965, Bro. Ostis Wilson held a ten-day meeting here at the Guthrie chapel. The preached Word was rich and precious. Several sought spiritual help at the altar of prayer.

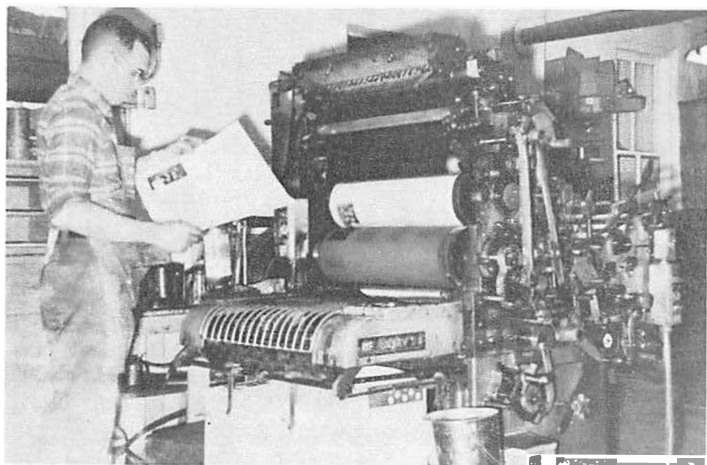
On June 12, 1965, a telegram was received from Bro. B. U. Etuk of Nigeria which stated, "Friday Ekpo passed yesterday." Bro. Ekpo was the secretary at the main mission station in the Southeast State of Nigeria, as well as the interpreter and translator of the Bible Lessons which Bro. Ostis Wilson was sending over there each week. His rather sudden departure was a real loss to that mission work composed of about twenty mission stations.

Office and shop co-workers, Roberta Melot, Sharon Watkins, Clifford and Dorothy Wilson and family, attended the Jefferson, Oregon, campmeeting and visited relatives in that state in July, 1965.

In September, 1965, a late model, used Chief 22 Offset Press was installed in the Lord's Print Shop which printed books much faster and cheaper than the letterpress process. One of the first books to be printed on this offset press was a reprint of the *Evening Light Songs* book. We surely thanked the Lord for His gracious dealings in providing this press to expand the production of gospel literature.

Another major flood came to Guthrie on September 21, 1965, and it crested five inches below the floor level of the Print Shop, which indicated that the water was deep in the chapel and dining hall on the campground. That summer the campmeeting tabernacle had been torn down and the lumber salvaged to be used in an addition to the chapel for the campmeeting. It was still raining when the sirens sounded at 2 o'clock in the morning, warning there would be a flood. The men of the church got out at that early hour, loaded the salvaged lumber on trucks and unloaded it above the flood level on the parking area of the workers' residence home beside the Print Shop. For a year or two the area around the home looked like a lumber yard.

Bro. Nse B. Umanah, a native Nigerian believer, took over the work of mission secretary left vacant by the death of Bro. Ekpo. On Sept. 3, 1965, Bro. Umanah sent a telegram requesting prayer for Bro. B. U. Etuk, the pastor of the main mission station in southeast Nigeria, who was ill with a stroke. In answer to prayer he improved very much.



**Randall Flynn operating the Chief Offset Press
on which all of our books are printed**

Bro. Cecil and Sister May Carver of Shreveport, La., felt concerned to do some gospel work in southeast Nigeria in the same area where Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson had labored. They left New York by plane on September 6, 1965. Arriving in Amsterdam, Holland, they made a side trip and a very interesting tour of the Holy Lands. Returning to Amsterdam, they flew on to Port Harcourt, Nigeria, arriving there on Sept. 19 for a stay of 28 days in Nigeria. They visited the various mission stations and Bro. Carver preached wherever they went. While there, Bro. Carver made a long trip by automobile with some native ministers to Benin City, Nigeria, where he preached and baptized a number of believers, among whom was Bro. Titus Enu who attended the campmeetings in the States in the year of 1976. Completing their time in Nigeria, Bro. and Sister Carver left there by plane and arrived in Amsterdam on October 16. In the meantime we had received an urgent call for



Bro. Cecil C. and Sister May Carver of Shreveport, La.

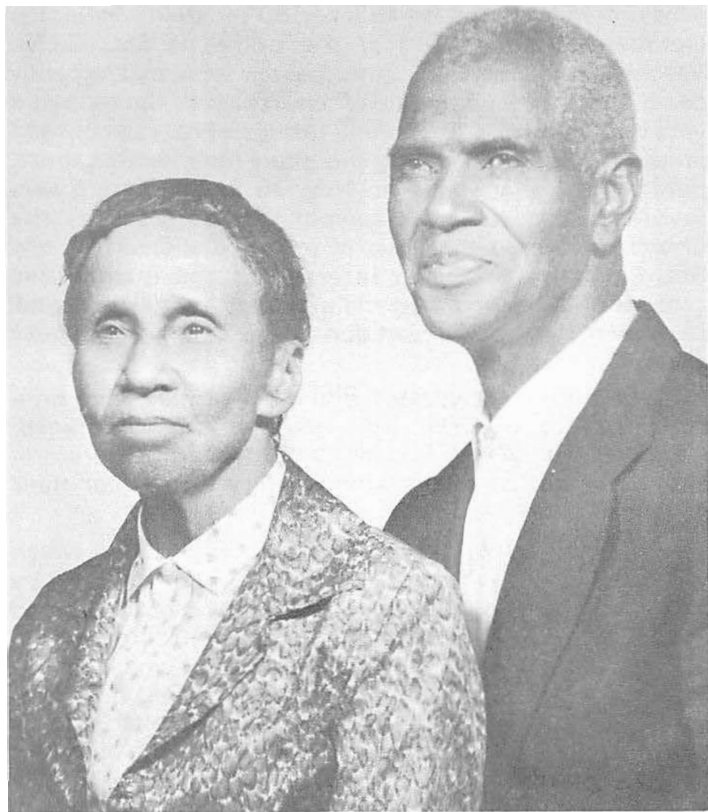
one of our ministers to come to South India to survey that mission field. Accordingly, we had made arrangements with Bro. Carver to make this special trip while he was that far on the way to that needy field. In Amsterdam the Carvers parted, and Sister Carver returned safely to the States alone. Bro. Carver left Amsterdam by plane on October 20 for Delhi, India. On October 25 he arrived at the home of Bro. C. M. Varghese who was a native pastor who had recently come out of a denominational church. Bro. Carver had a very busy schedule of meeting groups of new people and preaching the Word during the short time he was there. Returning to the States on Nov. 18, he brought a very favorable report of the gospel work started by the Church of God in that land of India's millions. Bro. and Sis. Carver gave a very interesting and informative account of their trip to Nigeria and India at the Hammond, La., assembly meeting held during the Thanksgiving week of 1965.

Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips, who had lived on a farm near Dover, Okla., for many years, became aged, infirm, and unable to live alone on the farm. Therefore, they moved to San Bernardino, Calif., to be near their daughter, Olive Davenport.

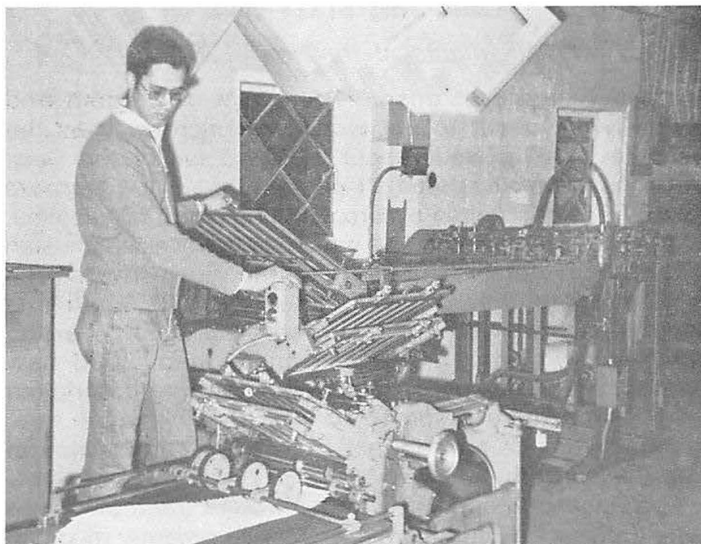
Bro. Phillips wrote many articles and poems which were published over the years in the *Faith and Victory* paper, and he also published a book or two of poems and songs. Together, Bro. and Sis. Phillips composed a number of songs with the music, several of which appear in the *Evening Light Songs* book which was first published by Faith Publishing House in the year of 1949 and is still used by the congregations of the Church of God in the year of 1978.

In November, 1965, a factory rebuilt Baum automatic book folder was installed in the Lord's Print Shop at a cost of \$6,000.00 to replace the old Cleveland hand-fed folder. Its installation greatly increased the production of books, for which we certainly thanked the Lord. God's hand was continually recognized in supplying better

equipment in order to meet the increased demand for gospel literature. All praise and honor to His matchless name!



Bro. Ulysses and Sister Ella Phillips



Bob Sallee operating the book folding machine



The Print Shop at the crest of the 1965 flood in Guthrie.

CHAPTER SIXTY-ONE

Highlights of the Year 1966

The volume of gospel literature in English and Spanish going out to the world was increasing as the year of 1966 arrived. About 1200 copies of the Dec., 1965, issue of the Spanish paper, *Luz de la Esperanza* (Light of Hope), edited by Bro. Clifford Smith of Pacoima, Calif., had been printed and mailed to the Mexico mission workers for free distribution to the Spanish-speaking people. More than 14,000 January, 1966, *Faith and Victory* papers were printed in order to send papers to our regular mailing list and to more than 6,000 new names received by the special three months' subscription offer (three months for 10¢).

Following is an editorial from the *F. & V.* issue of February, 1966:

"A question has come to us through the mail asking why the Roman Catholic hierarchy has recently modified and relaxed so many of its rules governing its members. No doubt the main reason for this action is to make their religious system more appealing to the masses, especially to the Protestants, in order to recruit members.

"In fact, this move by the Catholics is but one phase of the operations of the world ecumenical movement, by which all the religious denominations of the world are making concessions in order to form or merge into a super one-world confederation. This plan points to the ultimate union of Protestants and Catholics, but it will not include the one true Church that Jesus built.

"This movement, popularly described as 'Christian unity,' dates back to the Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910. Its greatest advance was the formation of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948. In the last five years this movement has made rapid strides to accomplish its pretended purpose. Even the Communist Party is aiding the formation of the one-world religious system as a convenient method to advance its propaganda.

“The merger of all religious denominations by no means answers the high priestly prayer of Jesus Christ as recorded in the 17th chapter of St. John. Mere union is not Christian unity. True unity results from the spiritual experience of the washing of regeneration by the blood of Jesus Christ, being made a new creature in Christ. ‘For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. . . .’ I Cor. 12:13.

“This proposed one-world religion is correctly titled in capital letters, ‘MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT,’ as described in the 17th and 18th chapters of Revelation. God’s command to His people is: ‘Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’ Revelation 18:4.

“The most accurate symbolic description of the present merging of all the false religious systems is recorded in Rev. 16:13,14. ‘And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.’ Whom are they fighting? The true Church of God—the spiritual Body of Christ—stands diametrically opposed to this huge false religious confederation. The spiritual battle of Armageddon—good against evil, truth against error, the church against the false—is now raging and the conflict will reach its climax when the combined evil forces compass the ‘camp of the saints about’ and fire comes ‘down from God out of heaven’ and devours them. Rev. 20:9. Then Jesus will take the Church to heaven to dwell forever, and ‘the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.’ II Peter 3:10.

“Thank God for the Church that Jesus built upon the rock of eternal truth, against which the gates of hell (false creeds of men) cannot prevail. This divine organism, governed by the Holy Spirit, is both inclusive and exclusive. It includes all the saved and excludes all the sinners. Jesus is the door and all who enter by Him are

saved from their sins. Their names are not written in the earth but high up in the Lamb's book of life. Do you know that your name is written there?"

Three editorials in the March, 1966, *F. & V.* are here quoted:

"As the second one of the family of six children, this writer grew up with the gospel publishing work. Looking back over those early crucial years, he remembers vividly a number of severe trials of faith in keeping the printed page going forth to the people. Many times the family did without sufficient food in order to save money to buy paper, ink, and postage. The prayer, 'Give us this day our daily bread,' was not a mere formality. Yet those days were good for us, as we witnessed remarkable and definite answers to prayer. We learned the valuable lessons of walking by faith, that 'without faith it is impossible to please God,' and that 'this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.' I John 5:4.

"The first seven years this paper was published without a subscription price, sent out freely to all who wanted a copy, but the postage rate then was extremely high on free printed matter. In order to secure the much more reasonable second class postage rates, we were required to set a subscription price and maintain a bonafide paid subscription list. The present price of 35¢ per year does not pay the cost of producing the paper, but it does place it in reach of all and encourages a wider circulation. Over the years the unmet difference in the cost has been supplied by the Lord through His people who hear His voice and give freely to spread the gospel message of salvation through faith in Christ's atonement.

"This literature ministry is primarily and essentially a work of faith in God. It is God's work and it has been proven that He will take care of His own. As 'workers together' with the Lord we are delighted in His service, and we appreciate all those who have and are faithfully supporting the literature ministry by your prayers and finance. Your treasures are being laid up in heaven where your affections are centered. What you have sown you will reap in everlasting happiness.

"Sixty years ago, on March 14, 1906, the congregation of the Church of God, Sixth and W. Warner, Guthrie, Okla., was issued a charter by the Secretary of Oklahoma Territory. The five members of the board of trustees were as follows: R. L. Glasgow, pastor and chairman, C. N. Jones, J. L. Glasgow, G. W. Winn, and Geo. D. Oldham. These original charter members are deceased, but the services of the Church of God have continued over the years at the same location, though the original frame building was replaced in the year of 1952 with a masonry structure.

"Since 1906 many members have come and gone from the number to join the family of God in heaven. God has remarkably preserved the congregation, and apparently the compromise of 1910-12 did not seriously affect it. The precious principles of Bible truth which the pioneer ministers of this congregation and the 'evening light' reformation taught have been maintained in spite of opposition from many angles."

On Sunday, May 8, 1966, Bro. Ira Stover resigned as pastor of the Guthrie congregation because of continuing ill health. Bro. and Sister Stover had accepted the pastorate on March 19, 1959, and over the years they had carried a real concern for the spiritual and physical need of each member. Their resignation was reluctantly accepted.

After some years of planning and building, the new Senior Saints' Home on the Church of God campground at Pacoima, Calif., was opened for occupancy on Aug. 22, 1966, and it answered a long-felt need of the Church.

After 27 years as secretary of the National campmeeting of the Church of God at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, this writer resigned in favor of a younger person. It had been a real pleasure to serve the saints over the years. We witnessed the steady growth and effectiveness of the campmeeting ever since its inception in 1938, having attended every meeting.

Sister Katherine (Gubser) Key, a well-known minister in the Church of God for many years, departed this life to be with the Lord on Aug. 1, 1966, at Shawnee, Okla. She

had been engaged in pastoral work in Louisiana for many years. The funeral service was held at the Oak Grove Chapel of the Church of God near Loranger, La., and interment was in the cemetery by the chapel to await the general resurrection.

Bro. C. M. Varghese, native minister of the Church of God mission is South India (Karikkom, Kerala State), whom Bro. Cecil Carver visited in 1965, wrote in July, 1966, that the gospel work was advancing in spite of much opposition. New stations were being opened. The new permanent masonry chapel under construction at Karikkom was almost completed at that time.

The summer of 1966, a new permanent-type building known as the House of Prayer was completed and put in operation at the mission station of Ukpom, Nigeria, W. Africa, where Bro. S. U. Udoh was the pastor. The sick in soul or body come there, and they are prayed for until they are saved or healed, whatever the case may be. The Lord has been answering prayer in a marvelous way, and His name is magnified in that foreign field.

Sister Sharon Watkins, who had worked in the mailing department for four years, left the office work in November when she took a full-time position with a local printing plant. We appreciated her consecrated services unto the Lord.

In answer to prayer for someone to fill the vacancy in this office, Sister Ruby Marken of Twin Falls, Idaho, responded and answered the Lord's call. She arrived on Nov. 14, 1966, just in time to help wrap and mail out the December paper. Again, we thanked the Lord for sending a consecrated saint to help in His publishing work. Since she had labored in Spanish mission work in Mexico, she was also now concerned in getting out more Spanish literature.

Through the year many thousands of gospel tracts in the Efik language have been printed and mailed free of charge to Nigeria for distribution, yet many fields remain untouched by the pure gospel.

The Lord had been very gracious to us and the gospel publishing work through the year. We appreciated

all the co-workers and readers who so faithfully co-operated to get the gospel literature out to this perishing world.



Ruby Marken from Twin Falls, Idaho

CHAPTER SIXTY-TWO

Highlights of the Year 1967

In the year of 1967 the blessings of the Lord continued upon the gospel publishing work as well as upon the foreign mission work in several countries.

Bro. James Huskey reported in the January paper that he and his wife Charlotte with their five children had re-established their family on the mission field at La Mision, Baja, Mexico, and the Lord was blessing their efforts in the gospel work. They were planning to build a chapel for their services. Bro. James also opened a free dental clinic for the poor people in that area.

Following is an editorial from the issue of Feb., 1967:

“The ecumenical (union) movement, spearheaded by the World Council of Churches, appeals to many people who think it is answering Jesus’ prayer for the unity of believers. On the contrary, the confederation of all these false religions is merely increasing the size and strength of the gigantic apostate religious system—MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT—in opposition to the true Church of God, the ‘woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars.’ In the book of Revelation is portrayed in symbolical language the conflict between the true and false church, and the final destruction of the false in flaming fire at the end of the world when Jesus Christ comes again to receive His victorious church to Himself forever.

“The message for this age is: ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’ To God’s people the call comes from heaven: ‘Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.’ There is no fellowship between light and darkness, between truth and error; every honest soul should heed the warning and flee from every false way lest he be a partaker of her sins and receive of her

plagues. We are not opposing people as such, but only want to expose the false systems and foul spirits, so that honest souls can escape and find fellowship in the true fold of God.

"Sad to say, professed Church of God groups have departed from those precious truths which brought forth the true 'evening light' restoration movement. Among them are many seemingly honest and sincere people, but the pathetic condition is that many do not know the teachings of the saints prior to the 'landslide compromise' of 1910-14. That was long before their time, and then so many have become accustomed to, and satisfied with, the innovations that were brought in over the years. When those who have never known the old-time truth begin seeking and walking in the light, the saints will show them much forbearance, but full fellowship cannot exist when one who knows the real truth begins to depart from it and to walk in darkness. 'If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another.' I John 1:7. There can be no basis for unity on a platform of compromise, yet one with little light and one with much light can walk hand in hand if both are walking in all the truth they know and have hearts open for more truth. The unity of the Spirit exists while they are coming to the unity of the faith. The break comes when one walks away from or rejects truth. When honest souls return to the 'old paths' they will find sweet fellowship and oneness with God's holy remnant."

Bro. Oscar Williamson, aged 81, well-known, long-time saint and resident of the community of Loranger, La., passed to his eternal Home on Jan. 27, 1967. He and Sister Etta Williamson were the parents of ten children, two of whom are ministers in the Church of God. Interment was in the Saints' Cemetery by the Oak Grove chapel, Loranger, La. Bro. Oscar's father, Bro. Frank Williamson, was a pioneer minister of the Church of God in Louisiana.

In the April issue of *F. & V.* is a mission report from Sister Opal Kelly who is laboring at the mission station at Rosarito, Baja, Mexico.

Another landmark had been removed in the interest of progress. More than 45 years prior to 1967 the four-room frame residence at 611 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla., was the original home of Faith Publishing House. The old house and spot held many precious memories for this writer and his wife. As a lad I was around and worked in the Print Shop. Later, after the office and shop were moved to 920 W. Mansur, my wife and I occupied this house and made it our home for the first six years (1933-1939) of our lives together. Our two sons were born there. In 1966, this property was purchased and added to the local church grounds. Then in April, 1967, the old house was torn down and the ground was used for a parking area during the annual Oklahoma State meetings.

In May, 1967, all communication with the mission stations of eastern Nigeria were abruptly severed because of the tragic civil war in that area. Bro. Titus Enu, native missionary in the mid-west section of Nigeria, advised us by letter of the terrible warfare and bloodshed in that country.

In the July, 1967, issue of *F. & V.* is a very encouraging report of the mission work in Baja, Mexico, by Bro. Harland Smith of Claremont, Calif., who spends much of his time and money in building chapels, preaching the gospel, and advancing the mission work in Mexico.

The saints attending the Guthrie campmeeting and abroad were saddened by the word that Sister May Carver, aged 69, wife of Bro. Cecil Carver of Shreveport, La., had departed this life on Aug. 6, 1967. The funeral service and interment were at the Church of God chapel and cemetery at Loranger, La. Sister Carver had accompanied Bro. Carver on a mission trip to Nigeria in 1965.

During the year of 1967 two excellent out-of-print books were reprinted and put in stock at the Lord's Print Shop. They are *The Cleansing of the Sanctuary* by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle; *The Birth of a Reformation, Life and Labors of D. S. Warner*, by A. L. Byers, with additional pictures of pioneer ministers.

For some time we had been praying for more office and shop workers in order to get out more gospel literature which was so urgently needed. The Lord granted that petition by sending Bro. Gene (Ralph E.) and Sis. Dora Lela (Sorrell) Beisly from Coffeyville, Kansas, with their two school-age daughters. They arrived in Guthrie with their van of furniture on Sept. 9, 1967, and established their home at 1010 W. Mansur, in the next block west of the office. Sister Dora Lela was no stranger



Bro. Gene (R. E.) and Sister Dora Lela (Sorrell) Beisly

to this work, as she had come to the office to labor for the Lord when she was just a young lady in 1949—some 21 years prior to 1967—and had given her time and talents for about five years until her marriage to Bro. Gene here at the Guthrie chapel on Dec. 3, 1950. They were soon busily engaged in the publishing activities to which the Lord had called them.

Following is an editorial from the issue of October, 1967:

“The New Testament teaches that the unity of the Spirit is an inherent characteristic in the experience of every true believer. The initial process of regeneration, or being ‘born again,’ inducts the believer into the one spiritual Body of Christ, the Church, in which he is in oneness and unity with every other ‘born again’ believer. The Apostle describes it thus: ‘For by one Spirit are we all baptized into **one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to **drink into one Spirit.**’ 1 Cor. 12:13. Again he writes: ‘So we, being many, are **one body in Christ**, and every one **members one of another.**’ Rom. 12:5. The same experience that makes one ‘in Christ’ also produces the unity of the Spirit with every other member ‘in Christ.’ Believers are not only members of Christ, but also ‘members one of another.’ One relationship cannot be true without the other. Independence in this respect is not in God’s plan for His spiritual body. Just as in a physical body, an independent attitude among its members would work havoc and a waste of effort.

“Since the unity of the Spirit is obtained in the ‘new birth,’ the Apostle Paul writes to the Ephesian Church in these words: ‘I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, . . . endeavoring to **keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.’ Eph. 4:1,3. They already had this unity. They did not need to produce it or add it on. The exhortation was for them to maintain or ‘keep’ this unity of the Spirit which was so essential in the process of their coming into the ‘unity of the faith.’

"The 'unity of the Spirit' is instantaneous at conversion, but in coming to the 'unity of the faith' or doctrine, there is a time element involved. The point which determines fellowship in Christ is not how much truth one knows or doesn't know, but the direction one is going—'walking in the light' or away from it. 'But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, **we have fellowship** one with another, ' "



Bro. George Stephenson, minister for many years. Picture made in Guthrie, Okla., at the age of 80. He rode his bicycle to the post office each day to bring the mail to the Print Shop. Departed this life on July 29, 1959, and interment was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

CHAPTER SIXTY-THREE

Highlights of the Year 1968

As we crossed the threshold of the new year of 1968, Sister Opal Kelly who had been given the signal from my father's book, "Go on with the printing work," began helping here, especially in translating English literature to Spanish in preparation for printing and distributing to Spanish-speaking people.

Bro. John Wilson, aged 83, long-time minister of the Church of God, departed this life to be with the Lord at Shawnee, Okla., on Jan. 23, 1968. He had been in ill health for a number of years, but always renewed in the inner man.

One of our faithful co-workers, Sister Lillian Meek, suffered an attack of paralysis at her home on Nov. 5, 1967. In answer to prayer, she began to improve. Her faith and trust was steady in our Great Physician, and



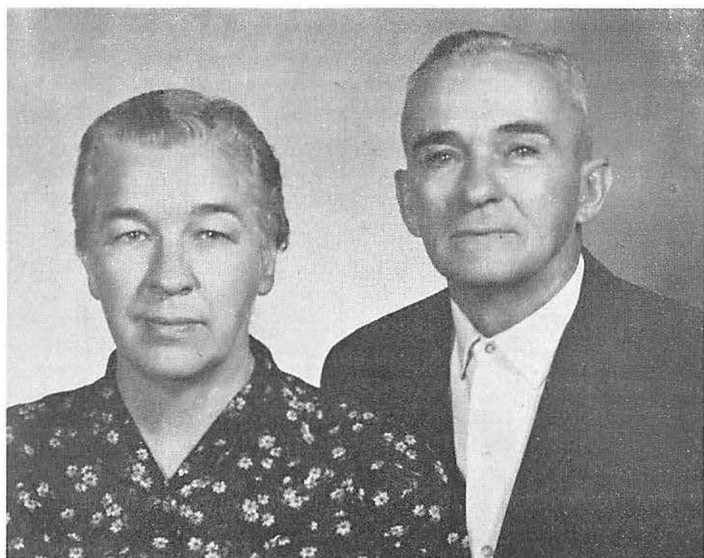
Opal Kelly, missionary to Spanish-speaking people

after several months of recuperation she returned to work at the office.

Bro. and Sister Sam Barton of Tulsa, Okla., long-time minister and gospel workers, observed their 60th wedding anniversary on March 25, 1968. Though aged and infirm in body, their anchor of faith and hope held steadfast in the Lord.

Bro. Darius Gibson, aged 70, a faithful minister of the gospel for many years, departed this life to eternal rest on April 23, 1968, near Guthrie, Okla. Bro. Gibson left this world in the triumphs of a living faith, trusting the Lord fully through his severe illness. This writer sat up with him the night before he passed. The funeral service was held at the Guthrie Chapel of the Church of God, and interment was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

Through the summer of 1968, evangelistic tent meetings were held in Illinois, Kentucky, West Virginia,



Bro. Darius and Sister Evelyn (Davis) Gibson

and Oklahoma, with Bros. Kenneth Probst, Curtis Williams, Mart Samons, Bob Forbes, and other ministers and singers laboring in these special meetings. Many souls were saved and brought to the knowledge of the Bible truth. Bros. Lewis Williams, Isaac Chandler, and Sister Katherine Williams held a meeting at Northport, Alabama, in which a number of souls were saved and others came out of a false movement.

Bro. and Sister Byron Wittenborn and family moved from California to Guthrie. They had done quite a bit of missionary work in Baja, Mexico. Sister Wittenborn began working with Sister Opal Kelly in translating material to Spanish in preparation to print more Spanish literature.

Bro. Audney Davis, aged 62, a long-time member of the Guthrie congregation, departed this life suddenly with a heart attack at the home of his son near Guthrie, Okla., on Oct. 14, 1968. The funeral service was held at the Guthrie chapel of the Church of God and interment was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

The Bible Lessons for use in Sunday schools had been a regular monthly feature in the *Faith and Victory* paper for 36 years, ever since 1932 when Bro. C. E. Orr merged his youth paper, *The Path of Life*, with this publication. He edited the lessons until his decease. In order to give more space in the paper for other material, it was deemed best to all concerned to publish the Bible Lessons each quarter in a 64-page booklet which would cover lessons for each Sunday for three months. The first quarterly was published for the quarter beginning with January, 1969. Second-class postage rates were obtained for this quarterly publication which was edited by Sister Marie Miles and assisted by others.

Our native missionary in India, Bro. C. M. Verghese, who had faithfully labored in that field and made monthly mission reports through the *Faith and Victory* paper for several years, was called Home suddenly with a heart attack on Oct. 19, 1968. His son, Bro. John Varghese, relayed the sad news to this office, and stated in his letter that his father had charged him to carry on the mission

work and he felt a call from the Lord to fulfill that obligation.

Another mission field also lost a faithful missionary. Bro. Harland Smith of Claremont, Calif., had labored sacrificially in Baja, Mexico, for ten years. For several months in 1968 he had been afflicted in his back and limbs, and could hardly get around. In addition, he was severely injured in a fall. Then on Dec. 26, 1968, the Lord of the harvest called Bro. Smith, aged 48, from labor to eternal rest. Another soldier of the cross exchanged it for



Bro. C. M. Verghese, native missionary in India. Deceased in 1968, he was the father of Brother John Varghese who took over his mission work.

a crown of life. The funeral service and interment were in Pomona, Calif.

During the year of 1968, several more of those old out-of-print books written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God reformation were reprinted and placed in stock at this office. More requests have come in for other similar books to be reprinted.



Bro. Harland Smith, missionary to Mexico, received eternal rest from his labors in 1968.

CHAPTER SIXTY-FOUR

Highlights of the Year 1969

At the dawn of the year of 1969, over 5,700 new names had been received to whom we sent the *Faith and Victory* paper for three months, beginning with the January issue, as a result of the special subscription offer of three months for 10¢.

An editorial in the issue of Jan., 1969, reads as follows:

"Jesus came to make a definite division (Luke 12:51) in spirit and fellowship between saint and sinner, but nowhere in Holy Writ does He sanction division among His people. On the contrary, He repeatedly enjoins peace, harmony, and unity. Then in that last High Priestly prayer recorded in the 17th chapter of John, Jesus prayed for the oneness of His disciples. Listen, 'Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word [that means believers today]; **that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**' Nothing is more destructive of the Christian witness to the world than the sin of division and sowing discord among God's people. Do we really want Jesus' last earnest prayer to the Father answered in us? By our conduct, are we endeavoring to 'keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace'? You may be certain that the love and unity of God's people is the only witness that will convince the world. How effective is that witness today? The Psalmist exclaims: 'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!'

"In this 'evening time' of the gospel day God is calling His people out of 'Babylon' into the visible Church of God, of which Christ is the Builder and Head. Hear the voice from heaven, saying, '**Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.**' Rev. 18:4. Listen to this same truth expressed by the song writer, D. S. Warner:

God's Gracious Dealings

'Have you heard a voice from heaven,
Calling in a solemn tone,
"Come, my people, from confusion,
This is not your native home?"
Yes, I heard, and to my vision,
Zion's glory brightly shone;
Then I rose and fled the ruin,
Taking not a Babel stone.' "

It was the blessed privilege of my wife, Maybelle, my sister, Marie Miles, and this writer to attend the Easter services on April 6, 1969, at the Church of God chapel in Dayton, Ohio, where Bro. Wm. McCoy was caring for the work. We enjoyed a full day of services and fellowship with the saints, some of whom we had never met before. Enroute to Dayton by automobile, we visited readers of the paper in Illinois, and on the return trip we visited Bro. and Sister Louie Marler at Senath, Mo.

For more than 45 years prior to 1969, the annual Oklahoma State campmeeting had always begun on the first Friday in August. However, for that year of 1969 the dates were changed and set for May 30 to June 8, which made it the first campmeeting of the season and ahead of the real hot weather. Since it proved to be ideal time weather-wise, the campmeeting starting date has continued to be the last of May each year when the Guthrie schools are out for the summer vacation.

The Lord provided through His people the funds to purchase a needed rebuilt Challenge Proof Press for His Print Shop. It was purchased in Kansas City, Mo., and Wife and I drove our Ford Van truck to the dealer's warehouse and brought the press back to Guthrie. This press makes master copies from type forms for reproduction work by the lithographic or offset printing process. More of our reproduction printing of tracts and books were gradually changed over to the offset presses which run more impressions per hour than the letter-presses.

Though the civil war had not ended in Nigeria, W. Africa, communications were resumed in June, 1969, with the mission stations in the eastern section of that

country. The believers had suffered much during the war and by the tight economic blockade of their area. Some of their chapels had been looted and damaged.

During the summer of 1969, evangelistic tent meetings were held in Kentucky, Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma. It was a time of sowing the gospel seed in new fields by the ministry of Bro. Curtis Williams and others.

An editorial in the Sept, 1969, issue of the *Faith and Victory* is as follows:

"When the astronauts set their feet on the moon—about 240,000 miles from the earth—on July 20, 1969, that was one of man's greatest achievements as far as worldly wisdom is concerned. But the Scripture says that the world by wisdom knew not God.' I Cor. 1:21. With all the marvelous inventions and technological skill by which man attempts to explore the moon and probe the planets in the immense space beyond, he is getting no closer to knowing the one true God, the Creator of this vast universe. On the contrary, the pathetic situation is that the multitudes are going farther away from the pure and holy moral state in which man was originally created. The pride of man's heart has deceived him, and he has worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator. The Apostle Paul wrote: 'But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; . . . **that no flesh should glory in his presence.**' I Cor. 1:27,29.

"Man has learned to fly to the moon, but he has never learned, generally speaking, to live together in peace on earth. The Prince of Peace has opened the way to real soul rest and peace, but the multitudes have stumbled over its simplicity, and are going on in their own ways, many with a 'form of godliness, but denying the power thereof.' Jesus Christ proclaimed the way when He said, 'Ye must be born again!' The Apostle Peter preached: 'Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out . . . ' Heaven is a holy place and sin can never enter there."

Sister Opal Kelly, who had been helping with the proofreading and Spanish literature here at the office, felt a call to return to the Mexico mission field. Accordingly, she attended the campmeeting in July, 1969, at Ojos Negros, Baja, Mexico, and remained there at that station to carry on the Spanish mission work in that new field.

Sister Ruby Marken, our faithful helper in the subscription and mailing departments for several years, had been with her parents in Twin Falls, Idaho, since June, 1969. Because of the serious illness of her mother, she did not return to the office work in August as planned.

The Lord impressed Sis. Virginia Wittenborn of the Guthrie congregation to help in the subscription and proofreading departments. Though Sister Wittenborn was not strong in body, she helped with the office work for several months.

In the summer of 1969, this writer's wife, Maybelle, who had been helping with the bookkeeping and other work, suffered from an anemic condition and was not able to be up very long at a time. In answer to prayer, the Lord restored her to health in a marvelous way. All praise to our Great Physician!

At the office about 350 different titles of English tracts and a few titles of Spanish tracts were kept in stock and sent out free of charge in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. A 4-ounce sample of tracts and *Faith and Victory* paper were sent out free to all who requested them. Each month from 1,000 to 1,500 *F. & V.* papers were mailed free of charge to readers and mission stations in foreign countries, in addition to thousands of tracts printed in their native languages.

An editorial in the October, 1969 issue of the paper is quoted as follows:

"Those who know, report that there are no lukewarm Christians behind the Iron Curtain. A saint there must endure untold persecutions, and a person is either in or out wholeheartedly. When the bloody hand of torture

fully takes hold in this country, the nominal professor of Christianity will also drop out. Then a clear line of distinction will be seen between the chaff and the wheat, between him that serveth the Lord and him that serveth Him not. Petty carnal differences and clashing of private opinions will fade away into insignificance.

"Oh, that souls would awake from the snare of lethargy, lukewarmness and cold indifference that is settling on the professed people of God! No one, from the pew to the pulpit, is immune from the subtle attacks of the devil on this line. The Apostle Paul warned: 'For to be carnally minded [the minding of the flesh] is death; but to be spiritually minded [the minding of the Spirit] is life and peace.' Rom. 8:6. Furthermore, the Apostle wrote: 'Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.' Rom. 8:9b. The Spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit, full of love and compassion for every precious soul. It is humble, self-denying, kind, gentle, longsuffering, and full of good fruits. It rejoices in the truth and nothing but the truth. Also, the Spirit of Christ reproves, rebukes, and instructs in the way of righteousness."

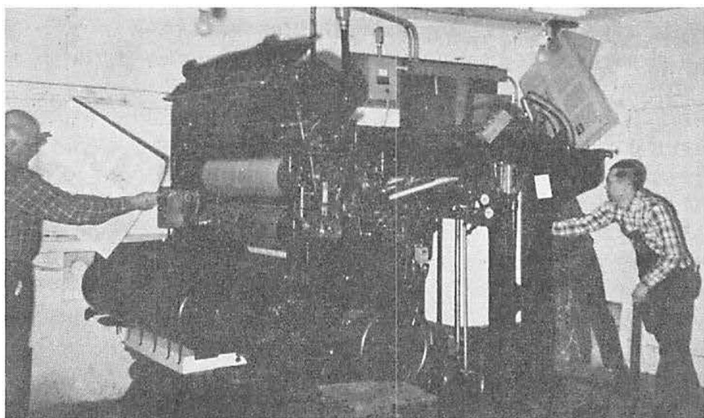
In October, 1969, the Lord's Print Shop was supplied with more typesetting and printing machines. A pair of Justowriter machines were installed for the purpose of setting "cold" strike-on type to use in connection with the faster process of offset printing. Anyone who can operate a typewriter can punch the tape for the reproducer unit which automatically sets the type at 100 words per minute. Also, a used Harris LTN 23 X 36 Offset Press, weighing about 8,000 pounds, was purchased and moved from Minneapolis, Minn. This press, with an automatic feed mechanism, printed the *Faith and Victory* paper at 5,000 sheets per hour. Up to this time, the paper had been printed on a hand-fed letterpress which printed only about 1,000 sheets per hour. These faster machines costing thousands of dollars were supplied by the Lord through His consecrated and dedicated disciples in obedience to Jesus' command for the soul-saving gospel to go to "every creature." This was another special expression of God's gracious

dealings toward His publishing work, and it was marvelous in our eyes.

An editorial in the December, 1969, issue of the *Faith and Victory* reads as follows:

Christ Reigning Now on David's Throne—

"The Apostle Peter, preaching that memorable sermon on the day of Pentecost, quoted from the prophet David in Psalm 16 with reference to Christ's burial and resurrection. In Acts 2:25,27, 29-31 we read from Peter's sermon: 'For David speaketh concerning him [Christ], I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved. . . . Because thou wilt **not leave my soul in hell**, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. . . . Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before **spake of the resurrection of Christ**,



Your servant holding a sheet of the *Faith and Victory* paper just printed on the Harris Press while Randall Flynn and Gene Beisly roll a load of paper to the feeding position.

that **his soul was not left in hell**, neither his flesh did see corruption.'

"Peter states explicitly that David's prophecy that Christ would be raised up to sit on David's throne was fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ from the tomb. Subsequently, Christ ascended to His mediatorial throne at the right hand of the Father. All power in heaven and earth was given into His hands. He is now King of kings and Lord of lords, and reigns from His majestic throne through the agency of the Holy Spirit over all His glorious kingdom on earth—the Church of God in this dispensation. David's earthly throne under the Old Testament was merely a shadow or symbol of Christ's spiritual kingdom under the New Testament. Christ came to save His people from their sins—their greatest enemy. Christ did not come to save His people from the bondage of the Roman government. Therefore, because of the misconception of the nature of Christ's kingdom, the Jews as a whole rejected Christ as the promised Messiah.

"Christ will never set up a literal temporal kingdom on earth. This is a vain hope cherished by millions. Although Christ has power and authority over all the kingdoms of earth, He stated clearly in Pilate's judgment hall, **'My kingdom is not of this world.'** John 18:36. Christ's kingdom is not, and never will be, an earthly kingdom. What truth could be plainer?

"When God shall declare that time is no longer, at the end of this world, Christ will leave His mediatorial throne and return with the angels of heaven and the saints in paradise to judge the world of mankind. He will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep are the saved in His glorious kingdom. Instead of setting up an earthly kingdom, He will 'deliver up' His spiritual 'kingdom to God, even the Father, . . . that God may be all in all.' I Cor. 15:24,28. 'Then we [the saved] which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them [the resurrected saints] in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: **and so shall we ever be with the Lord.**' I Thess. 4:17.

“The word *hell* in Acts 2:27,31, verses quoted above, does not refer to the grave, as some suppose. The Greek Diaglott translates the original Greek word as *Hades*, instead of *hell*. Hades is the general term for ‘the unseen world of departed spirits,’ which includes Paradise, the heavenly realm of rest, and the ‘lowest Hades,’ the place of torment and darkness. During the three days that Christ’s body was in the tomb, His soul was in Hades—in Paradise. Jesus said to the converted thief on the cross, ‘Today shalt thou be with me in paradise,’ meaning the intermediate abode of the righteous between death and the final rewards. Christ’s body in the tomb for three days was not permitted to see corruption. It did not decompose one iota. In contrast, we note that Martha said to Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus, ‘Lord, by this time he stinketh, for he hath been dead four days.’ St. John 11:39. The punishment for sin—‘dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return’—did not apply to Jesus’ body, for He had never committed sin. He did not ‘drop his robe of flesh and rise,’ but was ‘sown a natural body’ and was raised a spiritual body,’ even as the Apostle Paul taught. I Cor. 15:44.”

Sister Jessie Taylor, long-time member of the Guthrie Church of God, set an example of courage and unwavering faith in God during her long illness. She fought a courageous battle right to the end and died in the faith. On November 29, 1969, at the age of 48 years, the Lord called Sister Taylor to receive the crown of life which is awarded to the righteous overcomer. The influence of her life of faith and trust will live on.

CHAPTER SIXTY-FIVE

Highlights of the Year 1970

With the arrival of the year 1970, the challenge had never been greater to get the soul-saving gospel of Christ to this perishing world by means of the printed page. The consecrated volunteer Christian workers at this publishing plant used their strength and every means that the Lord provided to increase the flow of gospel literature world-wide.

For some time the Lord had been talking to Sister Joan McIntosh, a young lady of Conway, Mo., about coming to work at the Lord's Print Shop. She answered



Joan McIntosh
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the call and arrived on Jan. 10, 1970. She readily took hold of the work in the mailing department, proof-reading and typing.

It was certainly welcome news that the terrible civil war in Nigeria, W. Africa, ended on Jan. 12, 1970, though the shortage of food, malnutrition and disease continued to take a heavy toll in the affected areas.

An editorial in the March, 1970, issue of the paper is quoted as follows:

"DIVORCE—' . . . but from the beginning it was not so,' said Jesus. (Matt. 19:8).

"The New Testament, the law of Christ, teaches that marriage is binding for life. Jesus taught that 'fornication' is the only cause to 'put away' a companion, but leaves no right for that one to marry again while the first companion lives. Read Matt. 5:31,32; Matt. 19:9; Mark 10:11,12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2,3; I Cor. 7:39.

"As a consequence of the foul work of seducing spirits, Bro. D. S. Warner's wife left him and their small son in 1884. Later she secured a divorce by a false oath and married again. Three years after her departure he wrote a long poem about this heart-rending experience, two verses of which express the lifetime bond of marriage. We quote:

**'We still are joined in Eden's bond
Of matrimony true;
While life endures yet undissolved,
It binds my heart to you.**

**'No court of man, or Satan's power
Can disannul the tie;
Though spirits rent, in evil hour,
One flesh are you and I.'**

"The 'thousand years'—millennium—occurs only six times in the Bible—all within six verses of Rev. 20:2-7. Verse 4 says that 'the souls [disembodied spirits] of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus . . . lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.' These souls of martyrs for Christ went to paradise—not a reign on earth. Verse 6 indicates that those who partake of the 'first resurrection,' which alone makes one 'blessed

and holy,' will not be overcome of the 'second death' [lake of fire], 'but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.' Notice that not one verse in this passage in Revelation teaches that the righteous will literally reign on earth with Christ a thousand years. To live in the blessed hope and continual expectation of the Lord's second coming is one thing, and to have a theory about a literal millennial reign of Christ on earth is quite another. The thousand years merely indicate a long period of time, and not necessarily an exact one thousand years."

In the spring of 1970, several new chapels of the Church of God were completed and occupied as places of worship. The congregation, pastored by Bro. Archie Souder, which formerly worshipped on N. E. 50th Street in Oklahoma City, moved to their new chapel located at 5900 N. E. 23rd Street, in Oklahoma City.

The Church of God congregation in Enid, Okla., formerly worshipping in the south part of the city, moved to their new chapel which was constructed on the corner of Independence and Hemlock Streets in Enid, Oklahoma.

The congregation of the Church of God in Anthony, Kansas, pastored by Bro. Willie Murphey, finished their new chapel on the corner of N. Penn and Garfield Streets to the point where they could hold their Easter services in it on March 29, 1970.

The April, 1970, issue of the paper reported that at the Lord's Print Shop there were nine full-time volunteer workers, besides several part-time helpers from the Guthrie congregation. The full-time workers were Clifford and Dorothy Wilson, Gene and Dora Lela Beisly, Virginia Wittenborn, Joan McIntosh, Marie Miles, Maybelle Pruitt and this writer. All of those workers were sacrificing time and talent, accepting room, paid utilities, and a small allowance for living expenses, to advance the cause of Christ in the salvation of precious souls. They were happy to have a part in paying "the debt that we owe" to the unsaved world.

Bro. Samuel J. Barton of Tulsa, Okla., veteran minister of the gospel, departed this life to be with the Lord on June 6, 1970, lacking one day reaching the age of 82 years. His trust was fully in the Lord through his long and severe illness, and he died in the triumphs of a living faith. Bro. and Sister Barton observed their 62nd wedding anniversary in March, 1970. This writer served with Bro. Barton on the National Campmeeting Board for 20 years.

Bro. Earl Roethler of Guthrie, Okla., departed this life at his home on July 25, 1970, at the age of 62 years. Bro. Earl was bedfast ten years or more, and his wife, Pansy, faithfully cared for him all those years.

Bro. Willie Murphey and daughter Kathleen, of Guthrie, Okla., took the plane from Miami, Fla., to Jamaica, West Indies Island, on Sept. 10, 1970. Landing at Kingston, the capitol, they were met by Bro. Israel Smalling who had previously invited Bro. Willie to come and be in some services in his congregation about 60



Bro. Sam J. and Sister Hettie Barton

miles from Kingston. They were in services there and made other contacts. Returning to Miami by plane, they drove back home, arriving in Guthrie on Sept. 20.

Sister Janice Allen, daughter of Bro. and Sister Murphy Allen of Senath, Mo., volunteered her services at the Lord's Print Shop. She desired to make her life count for the Lord in His service. Her father brought her to Guthrie on Oct. 6, 1970. She faithfully helped in the mailing department, as well as proofreading and typing letters.



Janice Allen

In the autumn of 1970, a new Church of God chapel was constructed at Nowata, Okla., where Bro. Clarence Fry was the pastor.

CHAPTER SIXTY-SIX

Highlights of the Year 1971

As the year of 1971 arrived, there were more than 6,000 new names to receive the *Faith and Victory* paper for the first three months as a result of the special subscription offer of three months for 10¢. Over 14,000 copies were printed of each of those issues.

Thousands of gospel tracts in English and in the Efik language of Nigeria, W. Africa, were printed and mailed to that country for free distribution.

An editorial in the Feb., 1971, issue of the paper is quoted as follows:

Television—the Cause of Increased Crime . . .

“The Psalmist David said, ‘I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.’ *Psa. 101:3.*

“The Apostle Paul exhorted the church: ‘Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.’ *I Cor. 10:31.* God does not get any glory out of lust pictures, prize fights, dancers, wrestling bouts, liquor or tobacco advertisements, murders, crime promotion, etc.

“America is experiencing the worst crime wave of teen-age delinquency ever known in the history of the world, and crime is increasing four times as fast as the population. The principal cause can be laid at the door of the movies, television, and rotten literature. Television is helping to fill the jails, the hospitals, the insane asylums, the divorce courts, the clinics for venereal disease, the houses of ill-fame and even hell itself. Television is robbing the attendance at the church services and is putting out the spiritual fires of many who once loved God. Wherever television goes, real spirituality disappears. No one (without exception) can look upon TV for long and be deeply spiritual, or carry a burden for lost souls.

"Some say that it is just the same as radio (and this is no attempt to excuse the sin of the uncontrolled radio), but there is a difference. It is the difference between hearing the voice of a half-naked woman and having her prance around before you. It is the difference between hearing about an adulterous libertine who stole some man's wife and of having him come into your living room to seduce yours. It is the difference between hearing about beer and liquor, and of having them set up a bar in your home and drink before your children. Yes, there is a vast difference. Psychologists say that up to 90 per cent of our thought life is stimulated by what we see. Thus only 10 per cent of our thoughts are aroused by hearing, smelling, feeling, and tasting. Television employs the quickest, surest route to the polluting of the mind and the damning of the soul. Some claim that they will control theirs, but none of them do it for very long. It soon controls the owner.

"A leading magazine stated that '93.5 per cent of the nation's families now own at least one TV set each, and the average set is kept running five and one-half hours a day. The power of Television to penetrate the minds of people—even those with relatively little education—is seen as unique because its message reaches the mind through both the eye and the ear.'

"God said: 'Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.' Ezek. 3:17. 'Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.' Isaiah 58:1."

More of those spiritual classic books written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God in the "evening time" were reprinted and made available to the reading public. We were concerned that those vital Bible truths would not be lost to this generation and those to come.

Sister Katherine Williams, pastor of the Church of God in Boley, Okla., reported that they planned to build a new chapel on their campground and use their old chapel for dormitory space during their annual camp-

meeting. The campground in Boley is one of the oldest in Oklahoma.

Evangelistic tent meetings were held in Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio, and Arkansas by Bro. Mart Samons and other ministers and singers. Gospel literature was furnished for free distribution at these meetings.

Bro. B. U. Etuk, pastor of the first Church of God mission started in Nigeria in 1961, was called from his labors to eternal rest with the Lord on April 3, 1971. A few years previously, Bro. Etuk had suffered a stroke from which he never fully recovered. His passing left a large vacant place in that mission field.

Bro. John Varghese, minister in South India, reported in the *Faith and Victory* paper that a chapel was purchased on April 3, 1971, for the Church of God at Thrikkannamangal, Kerala State, South India. The price of this chapel was supplied from the Missionary Fund maintained by the readers at this office.

In April, Bro. Byron and Sis. Virginia Wittenborn left Guthrie and returned to California to care for her aged mother who was not well. Sis. Virginia had worked faithfully for the Lord here at the gospel publishing plant.

Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson, formerly the pastor at Pacoima, Calif., and managers of the Church of God Sunset Guest Home for many years, moved to Oregon in the early summer of 1971, and Bro. Wilson accepted the pastorate of the Church at Jefferson. On June 1, Bro. and Sister Robert Sherman assumed full management of the Home at Pacoima, California.

Sister Janice Allen, who had been faithfully helping here in the office work since the previous autumn, returned home on May 31, 1971, with her parents after they attended the first week-end of the Guthrie camp-meeting. She returned to the office work on August 25.

After nine years of faithful and sacrificial service here in the Lord's Print Shop, Bro. Clifford and Sister Dorothy Wilson and family left the publishing work in July, 1971, and moved to Nowata, Okla., where they were helpers in the congregation there, and soon Bro. Wilson accepted the pastorate. Their leaving was a

great loss to the work, but God's people come and go at His direction. Bro. Wilson continued to write comments for the *Bible Lessons*.

In the summer of 1971, a quantity of gospel tracts, papers, and booklets were sent or taken to various campmeetings for free distribution.

The following is quoted from editorial in Sept., 1971, issue of *Faith and Victory*:

"In a very precious and unexpected manner the Lord opened the way for my sisters, Marie Miles and Frances Murphey, my wife and myself to drive in a company together to the Jefferson, Oregon, campmeeting. Bro. Gene and Sister Dora Lela Beisly, our co-workers, graciously accepted the obligation to take care of the office work while we were away, and they did it in a very efficient manner, for which we were indeed grateful.

"Leaving Guthrie on June 24, we drove in three days without any trouble to Jefferson, Ore. On the way we visited an hour or more with Bro. and Sister Ed McEndree at Lamar, Colo., and stayed overnight with Sister Ruby Marken, a former worker at this office, and her parents at Twin Falls, Idaho. We all agreed that our visits were too short, yet we were glad to see them again and certainly appreciated their hospitality. Of course, our sister Frances was especially anxious to see her two-week-old grandson, Rodney, as well as his sister, Julie, and their parents, Bro. Clifford and Sister Patsy (Murphey) Smith who lived in Salem, Ore., about 15 miles from Jefferson.

"The Oregon campmeeting was real profitable, and the fellowship with the saints in the Northwest was precious. Frances remained with her children in Salem, then returned home by plane soon after the meeting. Leaving Jefferson on July 2, we took Bro. Pat Huskey to his home in Orland, Calif., and stayed overnight with him and his kind wife. That evening we were in services with the saints in Orland and glad to see each one. The next day we drove to Fresno, Calif., where we had a good visit with my older brother, Andrew, and his

family. On July 5, we arrived in Bakersfield, sang and prayed with Bro. Isaac Chandler who had been very ill for several months. A few days later, on July 11, the Lord called him Home at the age of 59 years, having pastored the Church in Bakersfield, Calif., for 33 years. On July 5, we also visited the saints in and near the Church of God Sunset Home at Pacoima, Calif. Then we drove on to Chino to the home of my sister, Mary Embly, and her husband where we enjoyed a visit with them and their married children who lived nearby. In the short time we were in that area we managed also to visit Bro. Jim and Sister LaVern Manuel in Pomona, my wife's brother, Claude, and family at San Bernardino, her brother, Cecil, and his wife, at Colton, and my wife's sister, Wilma Anderson, and her husband in Lakewood.

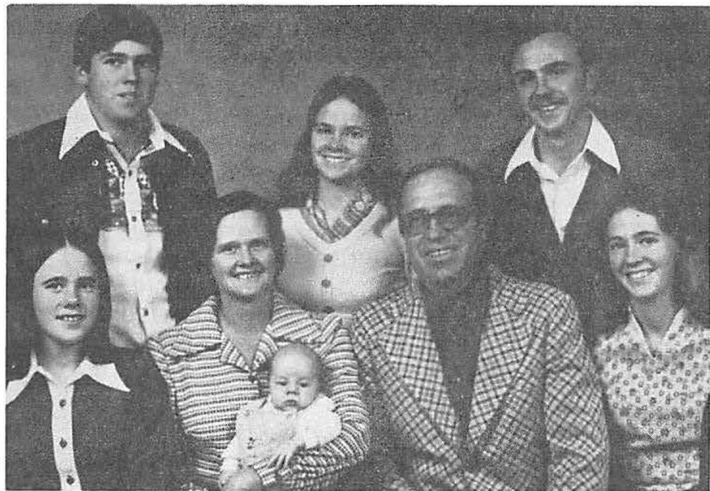
"On July 9, Bro. and Sister Byron Whittenborn of Anaheim, Calif., took us in their car to the Ojos Negros, Mexico, campmeeting, 125 miles south of the California border, which was our first time to visit one of our Mexico mission stations. Some of the roads were torturous, and one can well understand why vehicles cannot stand up under such conditions. Sisters Opal Kelly and Carrie Sheppard labored at this station, but Sister Carrie was in Louisiana at the time. We rejoiced to know their labors were bearing fruit. Among those in attendance at the campmeeting held in the chapel were Sister Edith Cole and several from her congregation at Patzcuaro, Bro. James Huskey from La Mision, and five Mexican ministers—Bros. Tomas Mendoza, Miguel Gaspar, Juan Cruz, Paul Gonzales, and Irineo Rama. Though we could not understand the language, we could feel the anointing of the Spirit on the services as Sister Edith interpreted to us. The Mexican brethren seemed especially blessed in preaching the Word, and several souls were saved and baptized. My sister, Marie, preached a message with Sister Edith interpreting to the people. Then we knew firsthand about the primitive conditions under which the missionaries labor to reach souls with the gospel light.

"We arrived home in Guthrie on July 15, thanking the Lord for a safe and profitable trip of more than 5,000 miles. Enroute home we stayed overnight and enjoyed a visit with my younger brother, Frank, and his family in Phoenix, Arizona, and also visited saints and friends in Clovis, New Mexico, which is near the birthplace of this writer on the old homestead."

In August, Bro. James and Sister Charlotte Huskey with their five children moved to Guthrie from the mission station at La Mision, Baja, Mexico, where they had labored several years. They felt it advisable to have their children in a congregation in the States, though they were still burdened for the Mexico mission field.

The following is quoted from the *Faith and Victory* paper:

"On Aug. 3, Sister Geneva Ray, a long-time worker here at the Lord's Print Shop, and her son, John, and Julie Cook were involved in a serious auto-truck ac-



The James Huskey Family in 1976
Standing, left to right: Timothy, Patricia, Bobby; sitting,
Leah, Charlotte and baby Benny, James, and Rosa

cident near Sikeston, Mo. It was a miracle from the hand of God that the three came out alive, as John's car was a total loss. All were rushed to the hospital in an unconscious or semi-conscious condition with numerous cuts and bruises. Sister Ray suffered a skull fracture and broken left arm, Julie had a broken left ankle and lost much blood from a cut on the back of her head, and John, the driver, had a bad cut on his head. The Lord undertook for each one in answer to many prayers, and they were released in a few days. Julie was flown to her home in Pomona, Calif., John went on to the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting, and Sister Ray was brought to her home in Guthrie, Okla. where she continued to improve."

An editorial in the Sept., 1971, issue of the paper is quoted as follows:

"The Plain of Ono"—Place of Compromise . . .

"The Jews rebuilding the walls of the city of Jerusalem in the time of the Prophet Nehemiah after their captivity in Babylon is a type or shadow of the present building of the walls of spiritual Jerusalem. Now, as in those days, there are enemies to God's Church and His restoration work who are out to hinder and stop the work on the walls.

"Of those enemies Nehemiah wrote: 'Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand.' Neh. 6:2-5.

"True to the type, this is a clear picture of the present overtures and schemes of the 'Sanballats' who are making every effort to stop the truth from going forth from Mount Zion. The various so-called Church of God groups are 'the villages in the plain of Ono,' but the true Church is the City of God high on Mount Zion

above the low 'plain of Ono' which is enveloped in the fogs of compromise, apostasy and false doctrine. Like Nehemiah, the saints are approached and invited by 'Sanballat' to meet together in 'one of the villages in the plain of Ono,' but the purpose is, as Nehemiah discerned, 'to do me mischief.' Dear saints, the advice and counsel you will get in 'the village in the plain of Ono' is to compromise the precious Bible truths that brought forth the 'evening light' restoration just as they have already done ever since 1910-14. Instead of coming down to meet with 'Sanballat' in the 'plain of Ono,' send a message in Nehemiah's words: 'I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?' The work of God's holy remnant is all-important. We must keep our hands to the plow. There is no time to look back or even consider a compromise on any point of the old-time Bible truth—no time to accept 'new light' and revelations which many claim to have received after they had departed from the true 'evening' light.

"Sanballat of old was persistent and sent an invitation to Nehemiah four times, but Nehemiah's answer was the same: 'I cannot come down.' Sanballat was determined to stop the work on the walls, and the fifth time he sent an 'open letter' which was blackmail to force Nehemiah to make concessions. However, Nehemiah denied the false charges, and prayed to God to strengthen his hands for the work on the wall. When the wall of Jerusalem was finished, Sanballat and Tobiah were 'cast down in their own eyes,' for 'they perceived that this work was wrought of our God.' Remember that the Lord will also vindicate His present-day remnant which is in the world but not of the world.

"God's people are always ready to help every honest hungry soul who is inquiring for the 'old paths' and the 'good way,' and will reach their 'hands in fellowship to every blood-washed one,' but such individuals cannot be brought to the full light if we go down to the 'plain of Ono,' participate in their services, and lend our influence to apostate movements. God's

scattered sheep in the various groups who have never found their way to Mount Zion should hear the call from heaven, 'Come out of her, my people,' and into the one fold under one Shepherd.

"God's sheep in the 'fogs of Ono' cannot properly and correctly represent the true church. That is not their native home, as expressed by D. S. Warner:

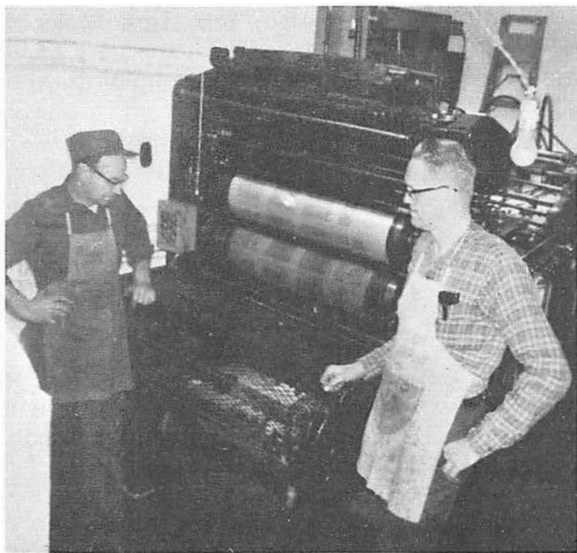
'Come my people from confusion,
This is not your native home.
Yes, I heard, and to my vision
Zion's glory brightly shone;
Then I rose and fled the ruin,
Taking not a Babel stone.'

"Letters which come to our desk indicate that self-styled promoters of unity are endeavoring to produce a working fellowship among all they think are in the true church from among all the so-called Church of God groups, inferring that the Church is scattered among all of them. They denounce all groups as bad, terming it 'groupism,' and thinking that is the root cause of division. Surely, any religious group is bad if it is not the Church that Jesus built, but He built His Church and said that it was a city set on a hill that could not be hid. Their teaching contradicts the fundamental attributes of the Church—its visibility and exclusiveness—as set forth in the New Testament. The very word 'church' means a called-out assembly or 'distinct body of Christians.' The apostolic church was a separate and distinct group or company of believers. Peter and John knew where their church group was, for 'they went to **their own company**, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.' Acts 4:23. Professors today who have lost their vision of the Church, or perhaps never had it, claim that the Church is invisible and scattered among all the religious bodies called churches. But such is not the true Church described in the New Testament. 'Thank God for a church triumphant, all pure in this world below; for the kingdom that Jesus founded does triumph o'er every foe.' Jesus is coming again to receive His holy remnant, a visible and distinct group, which is

His glorious Church without spot or wrinkle. Will you be in that number when He comes?"

Sister Lillian Meek, a faithful worker at the Lord's Print Shop for several years, was called Home to rest with the Lord on Aug. 31, 1971, at the age of 58 years. Even with failing health she was reluctant to give up her active work for the Lord. Hers was a busy life for the Lord and His people. In her illness the Lord answered prayer and relieved the pain many times. Another pilgrim received the crown of life and entered the Celestial City.

Sister Minnie White, long-time member of the Guthrie congregation, departed this life in the triumphs of a living faith on Dec. 4, 1971, at the age of 67 years. Her life was a witness to the truth by word and deed. Through her severe illness she kept her trust and confidence in God. She fought a good fight and won that eternal crown.



Clifford Wilson, left, and Gene Beisly watch the Harris Offset Press as it prints the *Faith and Victory* paper.

CHAPTER SIXTY-SEVEN

Highlights of the Year 1972

The year of 1972 was ushered in right at the close of the victorious 65th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting which was held here at Guthrie during the Christmas holidays.

Sister Janice Allen, who had been faithfully helping in the publishing work for quite some time, felt that the Lord had lifted her burden for this phase of His work. Accordingly she left about Feb. 1, 1972, with her father, Bro. Murphy Allen (minister), to travel with him in the gospel work.

Bro. George Hammond and his wife, Ann, of Illinois, moved to Guthrie in January, 1972. Though he was not a printer, Bro. Hammond volunteered his services here at the Lord's Print Shop. He adapted to the work very well, helping with the tract printing, folding, stitching, and trimming, besides doing maintenance work around the shop and buildings. Also, Bro. Tom Melot of the Guthrie congregation felt directed of the Lord to help in the publishing work, and was busy helping wherever needed.

An editorial in the March, 1972, issue of the paper is quoted as follows:

"About the year of 1880 A.D., Bro. D. S. Warner and a few other ministers received a revelation of the true Church of God separate and distinct from all sect confusion. Accordingly, they stepped out and declared themselves free from all the creeds of men. These reformers were bound together in the one Body of Christ by the love of God which was sufficient. Under the leadership of the Holy Spirit they began to restore to the Church those Bible principles and truths which were lost during the 'dark and cloudy days' of Catholicism and Protestantism. They taught two works of grace—justification and sanctification, and the preaching of the Word was confirmed with signs following. Miracles were performed, devils were cast out, and the sick were

healed by the prayer of faith. Multitudes dedicated their lives and possessions to carry this 'evening light' truth, and the pure gospel spread rapidly over the United States and into several foreign countries.

"During the thirty years from 1880 to 1910 the ministers of the Church of God exposed the evils of sectarian systems with the call to God's people to come out. Among many other truths, they taught against God-called men and women attending seminaries to learn to preach, against a salaried ministry, against the use of honorary titles as Rev., D. D., etc., against the use of musical instruments in the worship of God, against the use of tobacco, tea and coffee, against worldliness in dress, such as the necktie and all articles of dress worn for adornment, jewelry and make-up, against shows, fairs, ball games and all worldly entertainments, against the use of medicine, and against divorce and re-marriage.

"The saints of the Church of God still teach against all these detrimental practices, not only from the negative side but also from the positive Bible standpoint, setting forth the holy life we must live and the strict account we must give in that last great day. The question then is, who has left the reformation? Is it not all those so-called Church of God groups who have repudiated or departed from any of these Bible truths? Would the pioneer ministers be welcome to preach these truths in the congregation where you attend? We appeal to all honest saints, all who love the old-time truths of this reformation, to join with us in endeavoring to preserve the simplicity and purity of this glorious reform.

"The message for this age is: 'Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.' To God's people the call comes from heaven: 'Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.' There is no fellowship between light and darkness, between truth and error, and every

honest soul should heed the warning and flee from every false way lest he be a partaker of her sins and receive of her plagues. We are not opposing people as such, but only want to expose the false systems and foul spirits, so that honest souls can escape and find fellowship in the true fold of God."

During the summer of 1972, Bro. and Sister Mart Samons, assisted by other gospel workers, held evangelistic tent meetings in South Carolina, Kentucky, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Sister Joan McIntosh, who had been a co-worker here at the Print Shop for two and one-half years, terminated her services at the end of June, 1972, and returned to Missouri. We trust the Lord to bless her for her services unto Him and to guide her in her future activities. We continued to look to the Lord to supply consecrated and efficient helpers to fill the vacancies in His Print Shop. The gospel literature kept going out in spite of insufficient laborers.

In June, 1972, our co-workers, Bro. Gene Beisly and Bro. Tom Melot, accompanied Bro. James Huskey and others on a three-weeks' missionary tour to the interior of Mexico. Gospel services were held at various towns and villages, and Spanish Testaments and other Spanish gospel literature were distributed.

Sister Bonnie Matthews, a young sister in the Los Angeles congregation, not only answered the Lord's call to the ministry but also His call to come and help in this gospel publishing work. Accordingly, she gave up a school teaching position, and arrived at the office on Sept. 9, 1972. Her efficient service at the office, her holy conduct, and her deep devotion to the cause of Christ were a great blessing to the publishing work as well as to the Guthrie congregation.

In August, Bro. and Sister Mart Samons held an evangelistic tent meeting in the city park in Crescent, Okla., fifteen miles from Guthrie. It was a time of sowing the gospel seed as the Word went forth clear and definite night after night. Many saints attended the meeting from surrounding congregations.

From Crescent, Bro. and Sister Samons moved the tent to Enid, Okla., just east of the Church of God chapel on Hemlock Street, and held a profitable meeting from Sept. 8 to 17. Some souls were saved, and the saints were edified.

For many months Bro. George Hammond had been helping here in the Print Shop, printing, folding, and wrapping tracts. In his spare time, which involved many hours and days, he repaired the body of his Volkswagen van which was badly damaged in a mountain accident



Bonnie Matthews, young minister from Los Angeles, Ca.

while he was on a missionary trip in Baja, Mexico, the previous June.

During part of Thanksgiving week, Wife and this writer were privileged to attend the annual Assembly meeting held on the General Southern campground at Hammond, La. It was a blessing to worship the Lord and hear the Word preached, and to meet again with the saints on those holy grounds where we had gone many times since our first trip in 1928, when Bro. C. E. Orr was the pastor there. While attending the meeting we stayed in the home of our son, Byron, his wife, Clarice (Nichols), and their daughter, Genece, who live near Hammond.

During the meeting we attended the wedding of Bro. Robert Sallee and Sister Irma Gayle Doolittle which was an event of Nov. 25, 1972, in the Zemurly Park building in Hammond with Bro. Curtis Williams officiating.

In response to a direct call from God to fill the need for another printer-pressman here in the Lord's Print Shop, Bro. Randall and Sister June Flynn and their



**Bro. Leslie and Sister Sylvia Busbee,
pastors of the Church at Guthrie**

children of Hammond, La., arrived in Guthrie on Dec. 14, 1972, with their car and a truckload of furniture. Brother Randall had several years' experience in the printing trade, and his consecrated talents surely increased the production of gospel literature which was urgently needed. Their coming was surely another expression of God's gracious dealings in behalf of His gospel publishing work.

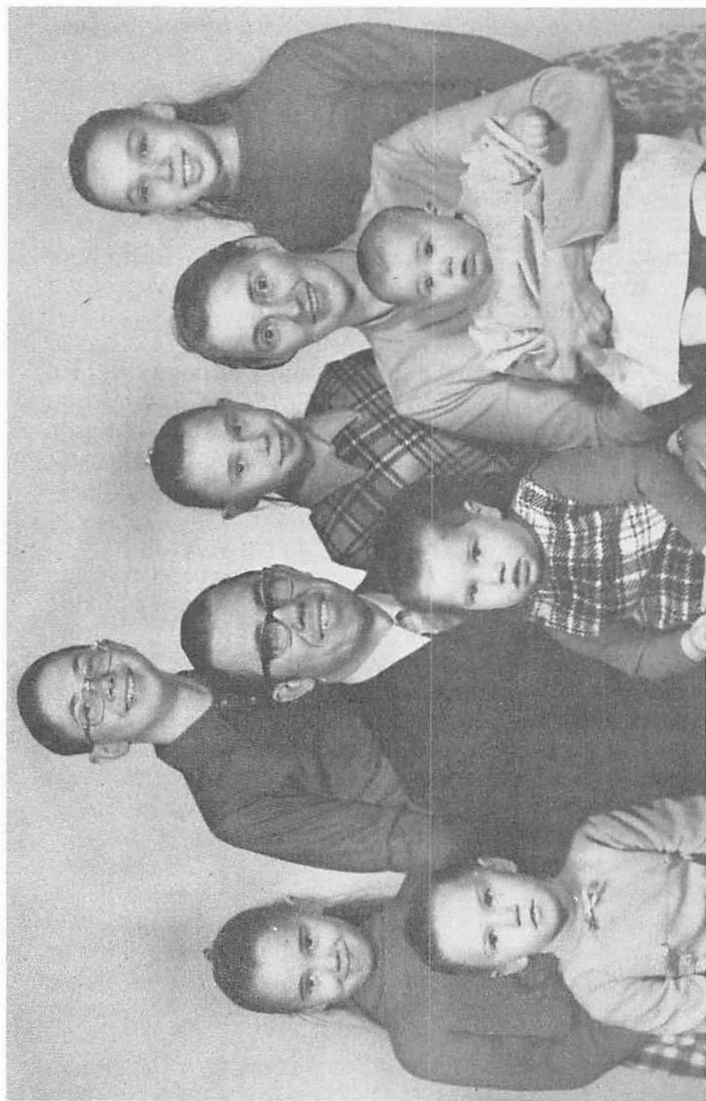
The Guthrie, Okla., congregation of the Church of God had been without a pastor, but not without a preacher, ever since Bro. Ira Stover resigned in 1966 because of ill health. In answer to prayer, Bro. Leslie Busbee heard God's call and accepted the pastorate. He assumed his full-time duties on Nov. 19, 1972, when he and his wife, Sylvia (Forbes), and their four children arrived from Bartlett, Kansas. They established their home at 1014 W. Mansur, in Guthrie, and the congregation prospered under their labors.

Bro. W. W. Crawley, a minister in the Church of God in Oklahoma for over fifty years, departed this life to be with the Lord on Dec. 9, 1972, at Shawnee, Okla., at the age of 97 years.

Bro. and Sis. G. A. Nichols of Loranger, La., observed their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 24, 1972. Open house was held for them by their three daughters.



Bro. W. W. Crawley, minister, and Sis. Crawley



Left to right, standing: Brenda, Dean, Charlene, Anita; sitting, Edith, Randall, Delores, June and Reba Flynn, taken in Feb. 1978.

CHAPTER SIXTY-EIGHT

Highlights of 50th Anniversary Year—1973

At the dawn of the year of 1973, there were over 6,100 new names on the mailing list to receive the *Faith and Victory* paper for the months of January, February, and March as a result of the special subscription offer of three months for 10¢. More than 15,000 copies were printed for each of these issues.

Bro. Murphy Allen of Senath, Mo., was led of the Lord to accept the pastorate of the Church at Springfield, Mo., in January, 1973.

The February, 1973, issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper marked the completion of 50 years of publication—a half century of service to Christ and His Church.

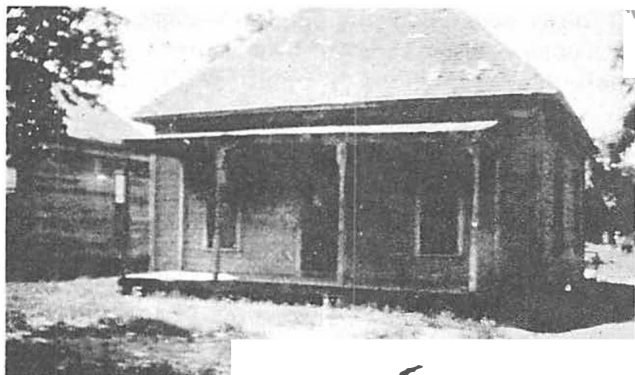
In March, 1923, my father, Fred Pruitt, and associates published the first issue here at Guthrie, Okla., at the Faith Publishing House printing plant which was then located at 611 W. Mansur Avenue. Over the years, God has preserved His work amid opposition and spiritual storms, and constantly increased the production of gospel literature. All praise and honor is due unto Him alone. After we have done all that He has called us to do, then we consider ourselves “unprofitable servants.”

The March, 1973, issue of the paper was designated the Golden Anniversary Edition, and that issue marked the beginning of the 51st year of publication. Excerpts from that issue are as follows:

Another "Ebenezer" Is Set Up—The 50th Milestone

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us!"

By L. D. Pruitt



This frame residence at 611 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla., was the original front office rooms of Faith Publishing House. Attached to the rear of this residence was the masonry printshop building where the first *Faith and Victory* paper was printed in March, 1923.

"The masonry shop addition on the rear was dismantled in 1927 and used in the new shop and office building at 920 W. Mansur. This residence pictured above was the first home of this writer and his wife after we were married in 1933, at which time this picture was taken. (Our two sons were born there.) In 1967 this frame building was torn down, and the vacant lots are now used as a parking area for the Oklahoma church campground.

"Around the print shop in the year of 1923 was this writer, a lad of 12 years, little thinking that this meager beginning by my parents and associates would be sustained and increased by the omnipotent hand of God for these intervening fifty years. Two years later, when I was about 14, after school and on Saturdays, I began to learn to set type (with Bro. Longley as my teacher) for the paper and gospel tracts on the Model 5 Linotype machine. This was the beginning of my lifetime occupation in the printing business and close association with this gospel

publishing work. Also, about this time the Lord sent Bro. Robert Longley overseas in foreign missionary work. Then in 1927 the printing plant was moved to 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, where it is still located."

First Associates in Publishing the Paper

"Besides my parents, Fred and Mary Pruitt, other associates and co-workers at the founding of this monthly periodical were: Bro. Robert Longley, a 30-year-old single man with a definite call and burden for the work of the Lord; Sister Mathilda Paulsen, a consecrated young lady from the State of Washington, and another young Christian lady, Sister Celena Lacue, from Pennsylvania. Those were certainly trying days when



**Founder and Editor for Forty Years
Fred and Mary Ann Pruitt, taken in 1952.**

many occasions arose for the exercise of faith and patience, but God always proved true to His promises."

Meager Printing Equipment

"There lies before me a faded 12 page paper bearing the title *Faith and Victory* with the date March, 1923. This was printed 50 years ago on an old Gordon hand-fed platen press powered by a gasoline engine at 611 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla. (Incidentally, my older brother Andrew got the fingers of his right hand badly crushed in the cogs of this press, and my father lost the end of his middle finger at the first joint in this same press.)"

May God Bless the Many Consecrated Workers!

"Over the years many saints, mostly younger people, have joined the *Faith and Victory* family here at Guthrie and given freely of their time and strength for the publication of gospel literature. They came by the leadings of the Lord, without a promise of wages in return. The Lord provided room and board for them, and usually a small allowance each week. Not one of them will lose that final reward in Heaven if he is faithful to the Lord until the end of life's journey."

"We would like to list the names of all the regular workers for the past fifty years, but lest we forget some names, we will not attempt it. The list of former workers would number between 50 or 60, whose terms of service ranged from a few weeks or months to six years, with possibly seven or eight exceptions, besides my father and mother.

"Sister Geneva (Bailey) Ray, a former school teacher in New Mexico, came to the office in 1938, and had faithfully served nearly full-time for about 20 years. She, with her husband, Hyrum Ray, a former worker, still live in Guthrie, and she continues to aid in the work by proofreading and operating the folding machine on the days that the paper is prepared for mailing each month.

"Many other workers have helped a few days at a time, and a number of local saints come in regularly to help on the days that the paper is wrapped for mailing."

A Tribute To My Mother

"My dear mother, Mary Ann Pruitt, who was called Home to eternal rest in October, 1954, at the age of 64 years, labored faithfully with my father in the gospel publishing work. Besides keeping house, cooking and washing for a family of six children—three boys and three girls—and other workers in the home, she carried on a large correspondence with readers of the paper. Many times during the summer months she would take care of the orders for literature when my father and other workers would be out in meetings. For many years she also was the main cook at the dining hall during the annual Christmas holiday Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie.

"With the limited means that came to her hand she was always looking around to see whom she could help. She was always ready to extend sympathy and comfort to those in trouble. I had a wonderful mother, and by the grace of God, I expect to meet her in Heaven."

My Father, First Editor, Finished His Course

"My beloved father, Fred Pruitt, who was the founder and first editor of the *Faith and Victory*, departed this life for the Glory World at his home next to the office on June 6, 1963, in his 82nd year. He filled his monthly preaching appointment at Okeene, Oklahoma on Sunday before he passed away the following Thursday with a heart attack, concluding 47 years in a very active ministry of the Word by the pulpit and press. He was also the pastor of the Guthrie congregation for many years. Finishing his course in the triumphs of a living faith, he is at rest with the Lord and his works do follow him. The memory of his life is a heritage richer than any earthly possession."

A Short Sketch of This Work

"In June, 1918, the Pruitt family moved to Guthrie, Oklahoma, from Clovis, New Mexico, driving through in a 1916 Model T Ford car, traveling three days over rough unpaved roads.

"In New Mexico, my parents had previously heard and embraced the truth of this Reformation, and were baptized by Bro. George E. Harmon, the pastor at Clovis. My father answered the Lord's call to the ministry about the year 1915. At Guthrie he continued in evangelistic and mission work, as well as working with another in the printing and circulation of gospel literature. In the year 1923, he launched out by faith, and with aid of a few close associates, he began (free of charge for seven years) the publication of this paper which, by unfailing blessings of the Lord, has continued and expanded in circulation and effectiveness through the years.

"Feeling a definite call of God and seeing the urgent need for world-wide gospel literature evangelism, my father placed all of his earthly possessions, which included several thousand dollars from the sale of his homestead and property in New Mexico, into buildings and printing machinery for the production of Christian literature.

"In 1927, a new masonry office and print shop building was erected at 920 W. Mansur on lots adjacent to the residence on the corner at 924 W. Mansur where the Pruitt family had lived since 1920. Additions have been made over the years to this shop building. It now covers about 4,000 square feet.

"As at the beginning, this paper is still published in the interest of God's people who compose the one and only true Church of God in this 'evening light.' It stands committed to the teachings and practices of the thirty years of the Reformation prior to 1910-1912, and open for more or additional light, but not 'new light' which eclipses or hides the truth which brought forth this precious restoration movement.

"Through the hand of God this publishing work has played a major role in continuing the truth of the original movement since the compromise 'landslide' of 1910-1912. However, this publication is not officially recognized as the church paper, neither do its publishers aspire for it any such recognition, nor is the Church's headquarters here at Guthrie or any other earthly

location. Yet in spirit and in truth, the paper is the servant of the Church as the sub-title and the use of its columns indicate.

"The publishing work is supported mainly through free-will offerings, as the present small subscription price on the paper (35¢ per year) does not pay the cost of producing it. Then through the Free Literature Fund thousands of papers, tracts, and books are printed and mailed out free of charge. With the postage rates soaring, this is a very large expense item. Where prices on literature are quoted, they do not cover all the costs, so this is primarily and essentially a faith work with the aim to carry the gospel to 'every creature' in obedience to the Great Commission which Jesus gave to His Church. A Missionary Fund is also maintained to aid the saints in relaying missionary offerings to home and foreign missionary work."

The Reformation Work Moves Forward

"The Reformation in this 'evening time' is really a restoration movement, bringing back to the people the truths and practices which prevailed in the morning Church of the first century. Over the years God has given more light and understanding on His Word. In the 1930's a general forward move in the work of God was noted. More ministers and workers were on the field, more campmeetings and assembly meetings were held, and many souls were added to the Church through salvation. The National Campmeeting, held annually at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., was started in 1938, and the attendance and interest has been increasing ever since."

ASSOCIATE FOUNDER BRO. ROBERT LONGLEY WRITES OF THOSE EARLY YEARS

"Calif. (Feb. 8, 1973)—Dear fellow-strangers and pilgrims: Upon the Fiftieth Anniversary of the founding and publication of the *Faith and Victory* paper, it is a pleasure to submit the following: I went to Guthrie in 1920 and it was my privilege and honor to be closely

associated with Bro. Fred and Sister Mary Pruitt and their family of six children for five years. Some of the children were not yet of school age.

"As David was called of God from attending to his father's sheep, so Bro. Pruitt was called from following the plow on his homestead near Clovis, New Mexico, to labor in God's great vineyard and harvest-field. He was completely possessed with a fervent love and compassion for souls, and this prompted him to use both verbal preaching as well as the printing of the gospel message.

"Our first method of preparing for printing was by hand-set type. Then Brother Pruitt purchased a used Model 5 Linotype. I began to learn to operate this machine which was a great improvement over the former method. As anyone knows who has walked very far with the Lord, we have a very wiley and determined adversary. Bro. Pruitt and I fought many battles together against this foe and enemy of souls—mostly by prayer and fasting. Bro. Pruitt was very devoutly burdened for souls bound and held captive by the devil, as well as for feeding the lambs and sheep of God's flock. As he was waiting before the Lord in prayer, the name *Faith and Victory* was given to him as the name of the paper to be published. I well remember the severe trials and tests, as we had the type all set and the first issue of March, 1923, ready and no money for postage. While thus praying and waiting upon God, He sent an assurance into Bro. Pruitt's heart and soul with the words: 'They Shall Hear!' Postage was supplied, and thus the first issue went forth to the dear people. That was by no means the end of the battles, but rather a victorious beginning.

"Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt were faithful to their calling and charge until called to lay their armor down and enter into their well-deserved Eternal Rest. Praise God, their works are following them and their mantles have fallen upon their second son, Bro. Lawrence, and eldest daughter, Sister (Anna) Marie Miles, who are

faithfully carrying on and fulfilling the prayers and desires of their parents. Let us earnestly pray for them.

—Robert Longley"

In April, 1973, Sister Carol Lasiter, who had been helping in the office work for about a year, was unable to continue her work as a result of a battle with her nerves and other afflictions.

The sad news was received that Sister Celena (Lacue) Whitehouse, who had worked here at the office in the early 1920's, departed this life on March 21, 1973, in Louisville, Ky., at the age of 74 years after many years of ill health.

In March, 1973, Wife and I went by plane to California to visit relatives and saints for a few days, and returned in a car belonging to Sister Bonnie Matthews. The previous September she flew out from Los Angeles to help in the publishing work, and she desired to have her car. While in that state, we were privileged to have a good visit with Bro. Robert and Sister Lois Longley in their home at Cambria, Calif. Both were up in years and still active, but they were not very well. He was 80 years old on Oct. 9, 1973. Bro. Longley had always seemed to be a part of the Pruitt family, as he was in the office work and in our parents' home when we children were growing up.

In the spring and summer of 1973, my sister Marie Miles apparently had attacks of heart trouble, was confined to her home and not able to be up much for several weeks. Help was provided for her care. Her trust was fully in the Great Physician, and He touched her many times in answer to prayer, restoring her strength gradually until she was able to return to the office work. All praise unto the Lord for His great mercy!

In the summer of 1973, Bro. and Sister Mart Samons of Kentucky held an evangelistic tent meeting at Kokomo, Miss., and then a tent meeting at the east edge of Hammond, La. In June, they conducted a tent meeting at Green Bank, W. Va., as well as another in August in Alabama, and then back to W. Va. for another tent meeting.

A reprint of the fourth edition of the book, *Revelation Explained*, by F. G. Smith, including two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors, were printed and made available in a cloth cover at the office in July, 1973.

On Sunday, June 24, 1973, the Guthrie congregation heard Sister Essie Wilson, 89-year-old, long-time minister of the Church of God, tell of her miraculous healing 71 years previously in Dallas, Texas. Her testimony in tract form was kept in stock at this office.

The 36th annual National campmeeting of the Church of God was held, as usual, near Neosho, Mo., on the Monark Springs campground from July 20 to 29, 1973. During that summer, campmeetings were also held at other locations as follows: Guthrie, Okla.; Holly Hill, S.C., Tulsa, Okla., Jefferson, Ore., Hammond, La., Akron, Ohio, Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico, Myrtle, Mo., Bakersfield, Calif., Boley, Okla., Blackford, Ky., Pacoima, Calif., and Fresno, Calif.

Bro. Israel and Sister Olga Smalling of Jamaica, West Indies, came to the States in July 1973, and attended the National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.



Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons in a tent meeting at Green Bank, W. Va.

They certainly enjoyed the meeting and the fellowship of the saints.

Sister Vera Forbes of Pacoima, Calif., moved to Guthrie, in September to be near her daughter, Sister Sylvia Busbee, whose husband, Bro. Leslie Busbee, is our pastor here at Guthrie. Sister Forbes, whom we had known for 56 years, has an apartment near her daughter. On Sept. 27, 1973, she was 80 years of age and still quite active. We are happy to have her near us again and in the congregation.

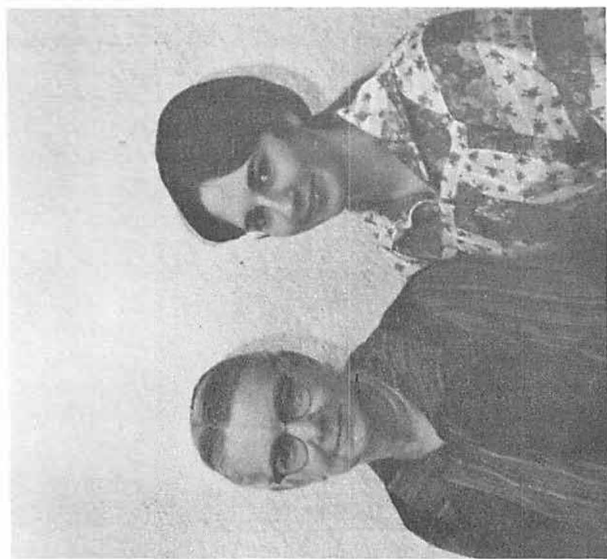
In September, Sister Roberta Hightower volunteered her services and began working at the office. She prepared the noon meal for the workers, and helped in the bindery and mailing departments.



Sister Vera Forbes and daughter Sylvia Busbee on Sister Vera's 80th birthday.



Roberta Hightower



Sis. Thelma Sprague and daughter Mary

In October, Sister Thelma Sprague and her daughter Mary, a senior in high school, moved to Guthrie from Illinois. For some time they had desired to help in the publishing work, so they began assisting in various ways, especially in typing the names on the wrappers for the three-months' subscription offer. Their assistance was certainly appreciated.

Bro. Mark Spinks, a young minister of Shreveport, La., expressed his burden from the Lord to help us in the gospel publishing work. Accordingly, on Oct. 23, 1973, he arrived at the office and began helping in various phases of the printing work. His consecration and zeal for the work of the Lord was much appreciated.



Mark Spinks

Sister Bonnie Matthews, who had faithfully worked here at the Lord's Print Shop for more than a year, was united in marriage to Bro. Jackie Riley of Goulds, Fla., at the Guthrie Church of God chapel on Dec. 28, 1973, with Bro. Lewis Williams officiating. This wedding, witnessed by many saints and relatives, was an event on the last Friday of the Oklahoma Assembly meeting then in progress at Guthrie. They established their home in Goulds, Fla.

This writer and his wife Maybelle (Miles) Pruitt observed their 40th wedding anniversary on Nov. 18, 1973. In 1933, during the Great Depression, we were married, both at the age of 22, near Neosho, Mo., in my wife's parents' home, which was directly south across the creek from the National campground at Monark Springs. Our heavenly Father truly verified all His gracious promises to us, and we were indeed grateful for all His loving care through the years. God blessed us with two sons, Byron and Harvey, who had homes and families of their own at the time of that anniversary.

Bro. Ira and Sister Ruby (Trimble) Stover of Tulsa, Oklahoma, observed their Golden Wedding anniversary on Dec. 9, 1973. They were married in her parents' home in Oklahoma City, Okla., on Dec. 9, 1923. Bro. Stover was a young minister at that time, and on this anniversary they had had 50 years together in the service of the Lord. They have one son, Bob Stover, also of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

(About the time this book went to press, Bro. Ira Stover departed this life to be with the Lord. It was March 22, 1978, that he finished his earthly labors at the age of 77 years, having spent 57 years as a minister of the gospel. The funeral service was held in Sapulpa, Okla., with Bro. Ostis Wilson officiating, assisted by Bro. Richard Madden and Bro. Lewis Williams. Interment was in the Green Hill Memorial Gardens, Sapulpa, Okla.)



Bro. Ira D. and Sister Ruby Stover

CHAPTER SIXTY-NINE

Highlights of the Year 1974

As we crossed the threshold of the year of 1974, we found the paper shortage still critical—both the brown wrapping paper and the printing paper for our periodicals, books, and tracts. The paper mills had refused to fill our orders for printing paper of the special size that we had used for about 50 years. Instead, we had to purchase a larger standard size and cut it down to the size we use with a consequent waste of 5½ pounds of paper for each ream of 500 sheets.

For the month of January, 1974, there were over 16,000 copies of the *Faith and Victory* paper printed to supply all the subscribers.

Bro. Nse Umanah reported a very profitable meeting in Nigeria when the 12th annual National campmeeting of the Church of God was held at Asana in the Southeast State of Nigeria in December, 1973. Eighty converts followed the Lord in water baptism. Bro. Titus Enu from the Midwest State of Nigeria attended and participated in that meeting.

The 1914 edition of the excellent doctrinal book, *What the Bible Teaches*, by F. G. Smith, had been out of print many years. By the blessings of the Lord this book was reprinted and made available at the Lord's Print Shop in the spring of 1974. This is a book that should be in every home for reading and studying, especially in these last days when there is so much false doctrine abroad in the land.

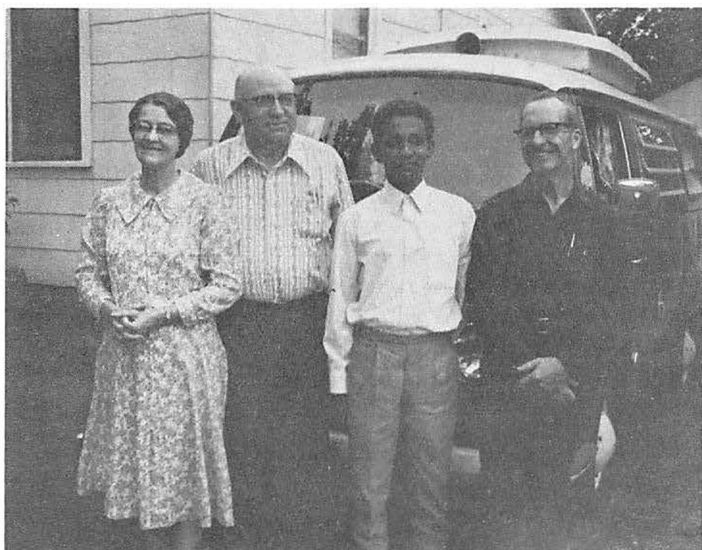
Sister Leola White, long-time member of the Guthrie congregation, departed this life to be with the Lord on February 23, 1974, here at Guthrie, Oklahoma, at the age of 77 years after a long illness. Many years she lived near the Lord's Print Shop, and was a faithful part-time helper in preparing the literature for mailing, always ready to work for the Lord. She is at rest with her Lord and Saviour.

Several English tracts were translated to the Ilocano language which is used in the Philippine Islands. These

were printed and thousands of copies were mailed to the Philippines for free distribution.

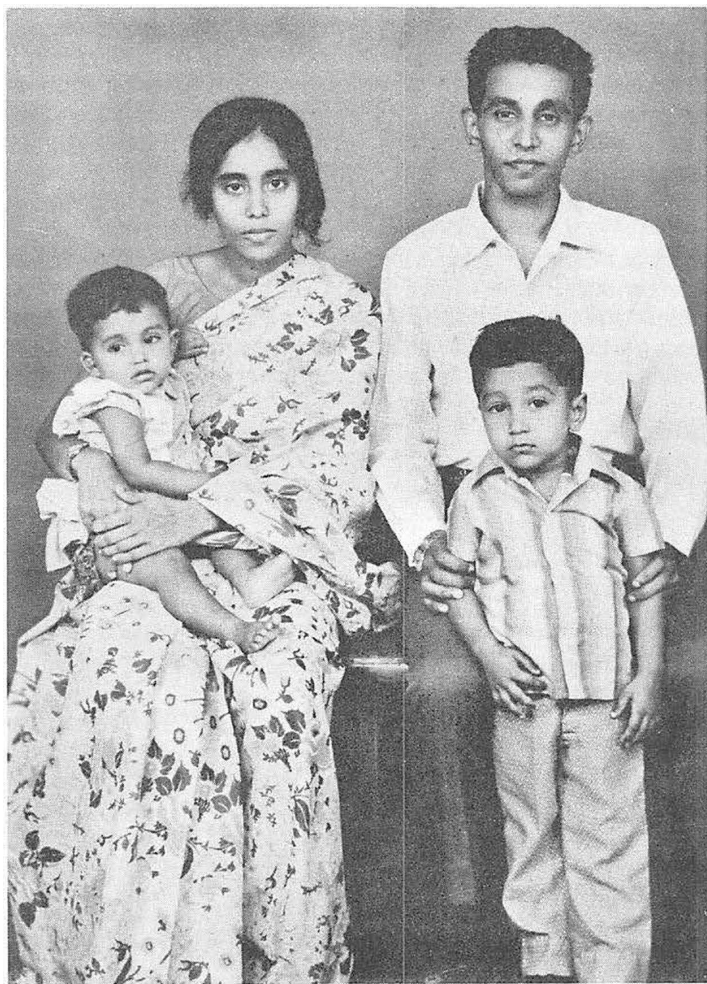
Bro. John Varghese, 28-year-old native missionary in South India, arrived by plane in time to attend the Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie which began on May 24, 1974. His humble spirit and his ministry of the Word in the meeting were special blessings to those in attendance, and won for him a warm welcome among the saints. He certainly enjoyed every service, and the wonderful love and fellowship of the saints.

Bro. Geo. Hammond, co-worker at the Print Shop, took Bro. Varghese "under his wing" to acquaint him with our customs and food which were so very different from those in his native land. Since his main diet was rice in his homeland, Bro. Hammond cooked rice for him and gradually introduced him to other American foods which he had never eaten before.



From left to right: Maybelle and Lawrence Pruitt, John Varghese, and George Hammond.

Bro. Varghese read and wrote English very well, but he had some difficulty in expressing himself in our language. However, the Lord helped him in speaking English, and he preached many anointed and inspiring



Bro. John Varghese, his wife, Sara, and their two children

messages while he was in the States. Special greetings were brought by him to the Church in America from the believers, including about thirteen gospel co-workers, in his native land of India whose population is over 650,000,000. He was greatly burdened for his people that the pure gospel light of the Church of God would be carried to them. Since so many of his people do not know the English language, he was especially concerned to secure a printing press and other necessary equipment in order to publish the gospel in his native language, which is Malayalam.

After the Guthrie Campmeeting closed on June 2, 1974, Bro. Hammond took Bro. Varghese in his Volkswagen Van (some of the trips in Bro. Hammond's Opel station wagon) through 28 states, traveling over 12,000 miles and visiting 25 congregations and campmeetings from coast to coast. Wherever they went they were well received by the saints. Through these contacts God stirred the hearts of the saints in many ways, especially in the field of foreign missions. The pair finished their itinerary and returned to Guthrie in early August.

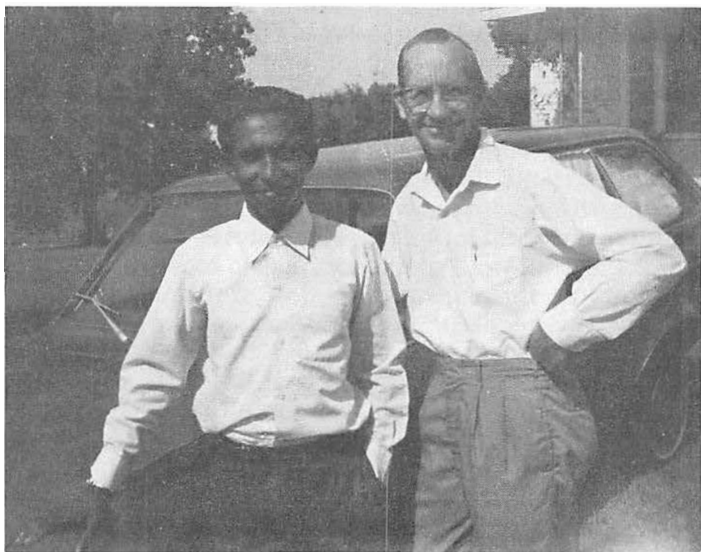
Bro. Hammond felt burdened to return to India with Bro. Varghese and aid him in the mission work for a few months. Accordingly, by the blessings of the Lord they left for India by plane from Oklahoma City on August 15 and arrived at Bro. Varghese's home mission at Karikkom, S. India, on August 18. In India, Bro. Varghese and Bro. Hammond traveled together and held services at the various mission stations with good results. The people in general were very receptive, and were thrilled to see "a sipe," which they call a white man, among them.

While Bro. Hammond was there, a new print shop building was constructed on the rear of the chapel at Karikkom, a printing press and necessary equipment were purchased and installed, and a 1971 Fiat car was purchased for Bro. Varghese's use in the gospel work and getting to the several mission stations. These tools to advance the gospel work in India were supplied by funds from the Church in the U.S. Bro. Varghese

named his print shop, Faith Publishing House, and since that time he has published a 16-page monthly periodical in the Malayalam language entitled, *The Evening Light*.

Bro. Hammond returned to the office in Guthrie on October 31, 1974, thanking the Lord for a safe and profitable trip.

During the Guthrie campmeeting in May, 1974, Bro. Gene Beisly informed us that he and his wife Dora Lela would be leaving the work, and that he had already arranged to take another printing job at a local print shop. He started on the new job on June 10, but continued to help us some after his regular hours. Sister Dora Lela continued to help with the office correspondence part-time. We were reluctant to part with these workers who had so faithfully helped in the Lord's work for seven years, but we said amen to the Lord's will, and prayed the Lord to bless and reward them in a special way. Two or three months later, they



Bro. John Varghese and Bro. George Hammond, taken at Guthrie after their trip to all campmeetings.

moved to their home which they had purchased at 1311 W. Cleveland, in Guthrie.

Bro. Sam E. and Sister Armilda Abbott observed their 50th (Golden) wedding anniversary on August 26, 1974. Both are ministers, and they had traveled and labored many years in the gospel work. At the time of this observance they were living in Dayton, Ohio, and they appreciated the many cards and gifts received on the occasion.

Another well-known, long-time gospel worker finished her course and won her crown. Sister Ulysses (Ella V.) Phillips, aged 93, departed this life to be with the Lord on Sept. 24, 1974. Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips, married for 57 years, were living in San Bernardino, Calif., at the time of her passing.

During the summer of 1974, Bro. and Sister Mart Samons, assisted by other gospel workers, held evangelistic tent meetings at Jasper and Opp, in Alabama, Green Bank, W. Va., Monterey, Va., Newton, W. Va., Kalamazoo, Mich., Garrett, Ind., and Fairborn, Ohio.

Another major flood in Guthrie, Okla., was reported in the *F. & V.* paper as follows:

"After several days of rain on the watershed of the Cottonwood Creek which flows through Guthrie, it overflowed its banks on Saturday night, Nov. 2, 1974, flooding many homes and business places in West Guthrie. Ample prior warning was given and there was no loss of life, but much property damage resulted. The water reached about 30 inches deep in the Church of God chapel and about 44 inches deep in the dining hall on the campground, as the floor of the dining hall was much lower. When the water receded on the following Monday, a layer of mud was left on the floors and furnishings, which necessitated a major clean-up job for several days and we were unable to have services in the chapel for two Sundays. Prior to the flood, most of the benches had been removed from the chapel. The dining hall was damaged when the pressure of the water broke the double doors on the south side. There was not sufficient time and help to get out the heating

stoves, hot water tanks and large refrigerator. Most of the clean-up work was done by the Guthrie congregation, and we certainly appreciate the additional help from the Shawnee and Enid, Okla., congregations.

"The flood lacked about two inches of getting into the Lord's Print Shop, for which we were very thankful to the Lord. Not knowing how high the water would get, we (including our co-workers and others) worked about all Saturday night raising the motors and material on or near the floor to a higher level. The flood water crested about 3:30 a.m. on Sunday, and we thanked the Lord for keeping it out of the Print Shop."

Bro. Mark Spinks, a young minister who had been helping here in the publishing work for more than a year, terminated his services at this place on Dec. 16, 1974. He felt that the Lord would have him take a course of study in computer operation in Oklahoma City, to which place he moved. We prayed the Lord to bless and reward Bro. Mark for his past services unto Him, and to direct his future activities.

In the fall and winter of 1974, the Church of God at Shreveport, La., where Bro. C. C. Carver was the pastor, was in the process of building a new chapel in a new location at 4220 Greenwood Blvd.



**John Varghese of India on the left with the
office workers in 1974**

CHAPTER SEVENTY

Highlights of the Year 1975

At the dawning of the year 1975, Bro. Tom Melot, a young minister of Guthrie, Okla., had obtained a tourist visa to go to Nigeria, W. Africa, for six weeks. The native gospel workers in Nigeria had been pleading for someone to come from the U.S. and help them in the mission work. According to plan, the Lord enabled Bro. Melot to leave by plane from Oklahoma City on Jan. 3, 1975, for Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and he arrived on Jan. 5, at his destination where he preached to a congregation that same day. The next day he went inland to the main mission station at Asana where he met representatives from most of the mission stations in the Southeast State. They gave him a warm welcome. A motorcycle was rented, on which Bro. Melot and Bro. Nse Umanah traveled continuously to and held services at 24 mission stations. Bro. Umanah was his interpreter and constant companion until he boarded the plane on Feb. 8, 1975, for his return trip to the U.S. Bro. Melot arrived safely with a greater vision of the great need for more gospel workers in that vast field.

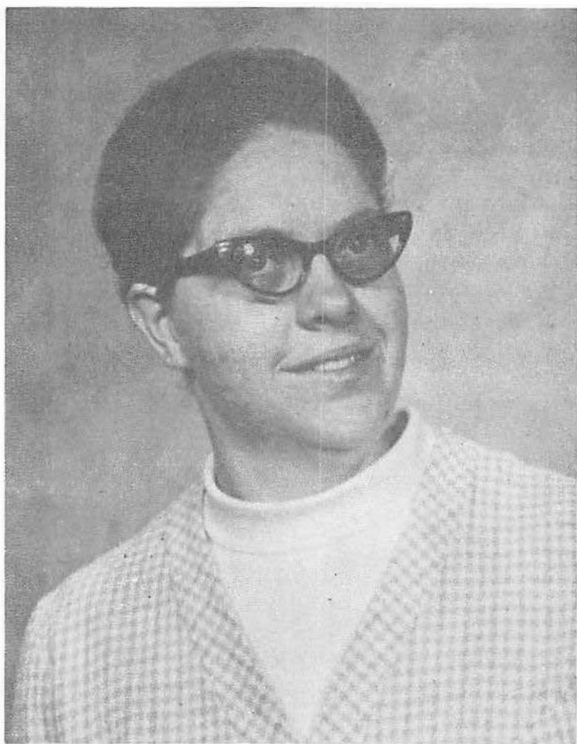
Another special answer to prayer in 1975 was that we were again able to purchase from the paper mill the



Bro. Tom Melot in congregation at Tombia, Nigeria

right size of printing paper, and the supply was more plentiful though at much higher prices.

Sister Mildred (Dolly) Brown, who formerly worked at the Sunset Guest Home on the church campground at Pacoima, Calif., came to work at the Lord's Print Shop the first part of February, 1975. She liked to work with machines, so she adapted well in the printing department, learning to operate the presses and folders, and doing other bindery work. Later, she took over the work in the mailing department after Roberta Hightower left the office.



Mildred (Dolly) Brown

The Lord graciously supplied the means to purchase a Model 725 Varityper typesetting machine. The type or master copy is produced by running punched tape from the Justewriter machine through the Varityper, which is a photo composition machine that forms the letters automatically on light sensitive Kodak paper at the speed of 20 lines per minute. This faster machine took most of the typesetting work off the Linotype machine.

One of the greatest obstacles that the Lord's Print Shop ever faced began to arise in the summer of 1974 when the Internal Revenue Service requisitioned our records of the allowances given to our co-workers and ourselves. In all honesty and good faith, we had not withheld Social Security tax and income tax on these allowances, as we did not feel that this non-profit religious institution came under those Federal statutes. In several previous issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper we had requested special prayer for a solution to this serious problem. After several months, however, the IRS figured and levied against us a total tax in five figures, which included interest and a 25% penalty. On Dec. 18, 1974, the District Conferee of IRS reviewed our case, and he was convinced that our failure to withhold and pay those taxes was all done in good faith. Therefore, he recommended to the higher authorities that the 25% penalty be cancelled, but stated that we would have to pay the remainder. His recommendation to cancel the penalty reduced the total tax by several thousand dollars, but in order to get the reduced figure the IRS had to re-figure it which extended the time several months in 1975. Finally, in July, when the tax assessments arrived, the Lord had wonderfully answered prayer and miraculously supplied through His people the means to meet this large obligation of nearly \$19,000.00. Furthermore, we were happy to testify that the money was received without solicitation to anyone in any form, but God's Spirit alone directed the contributors. Indeed, we felt eternally indebted to the Lord and His saints in this time of crisis. Only eternity will reveal in detail how God worked through His people to meet this urgent

need for the continuation of His gospel literature ministry.

The Oklahoma State campmeeting, held here at Guthrie, Okla., from May 23 to June 1, 1975, had a large attendance from many states. On the last Sunday a number of converts followed Jesus in His example of water baptism. During the business session of this meeting a decision was made to endeavor to find a more suitable location for the Guthrie chapel and the State campground because of the repeated flood damage to the church property over the past seventy years and the possibility of more floods in the future in the area of the present location of the 600 block of W. Warner Street.

A National ministers' meeting of the Church of God, held at the Guthrie, Okla., chapel on June 3 and 4, 1975, was very beneficial to those in attendance which numbered about sixty ministers. The time was used mainly in questions and answers on the Scriptures, especially for the instruction of the younger ministers. Some reported that it was the best ministers' meeting they ever attended.

First Pruitt Reunion . . .

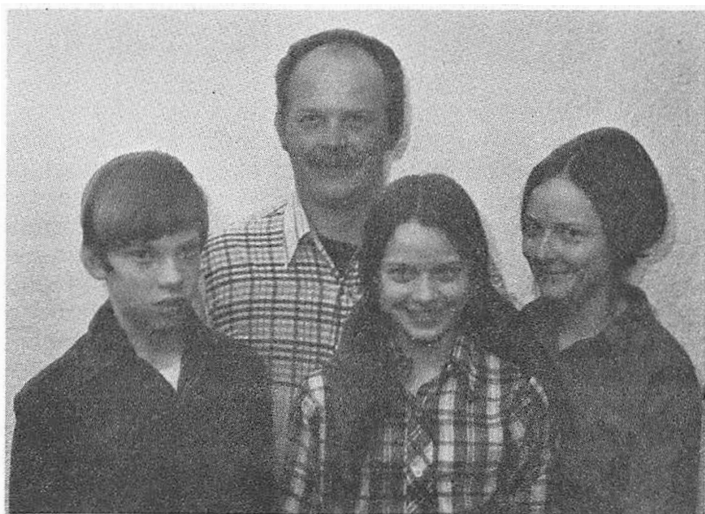
After months of planning and preparation, the first Pruitt Reunion was held here at Guthrie, Okla., on June 21, 1975, with the presence of about fifty members of the Pruitt clan coming from Oregon, California, Arizona, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Others had planned to come, but were unable to do so at that time. These were all the descendants (by blood and marriage) of the late Harrison and Mary Pruitt (formerly spelled "Prouhet") who were the parents of seven sons and one daughter, all of whom are now deceased. Their son, Fred (deceased in 1963), is survived by three daughters and three sons, one of whom is this writer. This gathering was a happy time together with relatives, some of whom we had never met and others we had not seen for many years. All of my brothers and sisters were present, which is the first time we had all been

together in many years. Our greatest desire is that all will be in that grand reunion in heaven.

In July, several thousand gospel tracts on the subject of salvation were printed in the Ilocano dialect used in the Philippine Islands and mailed free of charge to four different native mission workers in the Philippines for distribution.

Word was received that Sharon (Watkins) Ellis passed away on August 25, 1975, at Salem, Oregon, after a long illness, leaving her husband, Kedron Ellis, and two small children. While she was single, Sharon worked here at the Lord's Print Shop about four years—from 1962 to 1966.

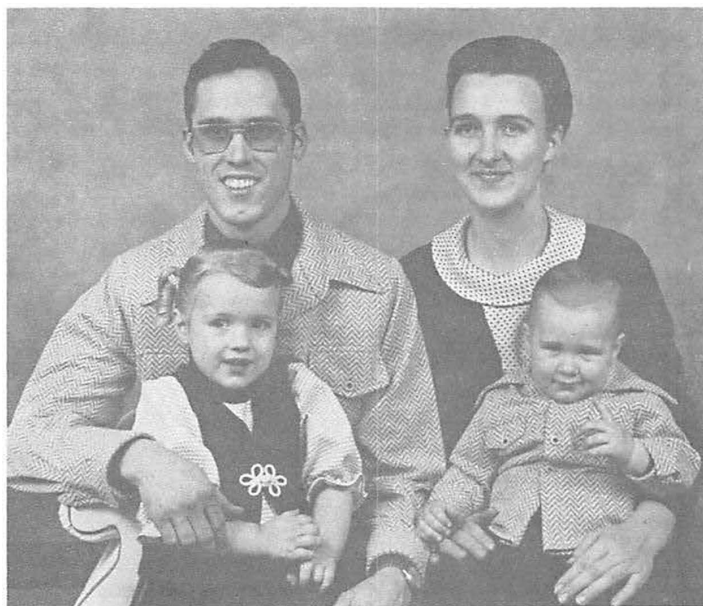
In answer to prayer, the Lord called and sent more consecrated helpers to His Print Shop. Bro. Delmar and Sister Linda Craddock and their children, Bunnie and Chris, arrived in Guthrie on July 28, 1975, from Illinois. They established their home at 1005 W. Warner.



**Delmar and Linda Craddock with their children,
Chris and Bunnie**

Then on Aug. 14, 1975, Bro. Robert and Sister Irma Gayle (Doolittle) Sallee and their small daughter, Rene, arrived in Guthrie from Louisiana. They made their home next door east of the office. These brethren, Bro. Craddock and Bro. Sallee, were welcome additions to the work force in getting out more gospel literature. Bro. Bob Sallee learned the press and bindery work in the shop, and Bro. Delmar Craddock did the maintenance work for all the buildings, in addition to the lawn and garden work. God makes no mistakes in the changes that He makes for His children.

This writer's nephew, Wayne Murphey, was united in marriage to Mary Sprague on Saturday, Nov. 29, 1975, at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, Okla., with the father of the groom, Bro. Willie Murphey, officiating. Each of these young saints taught a class in



Robert and Irma Gayle Sallee with their children
Rene' and Bobby

the local Sunday school. Sister Mary (Sprague) Murphey had been a faithful co-worker at the Lord's Print Shop for the past year and a half.

CHAPTER SEVENTY-ONE

Highlights of the Year 1976

As the new year of 1976 arrived, the 69th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting was still in progress here at Guthrie with a large attendance from this state as well as other states. More than 25 ministers were present to preach the Word as directed by the Presiding Officer—the Holy Spirit. Heart-searching truth went forth. Souls were saved and the saints were edified in the faith.

Sister Eldonna Rhoades of Myrtle, Mo., felt led to help here in the office work, so she came with her parents to the Guthrie Assembly meeting in December, 1975, and remained to help in the publishing work, especially in the correspondence or letter-typing department.

In response to urgent calls for foreign language gospel literature, the Lord enabled us to print and mail in January about 35,000 copies of Ilocano language gospel tracts to native missionaries in the Philippine Islands for free distribution.

Sister Rosalie Johnston, who had been helping here in the office work for about two years, felt her burden lifted for this phase of God's work and went to W. Va., with Bro. and Sister Mart Samons when they returned home from the recent Guthrie winter meeting. We appreciated her services unto the Lord, and prayed that He would guide and direct her future activities.

In the March, 1976, issue of *Faith and Victory* a warning went forth against the widespread anti-cleansing heresy which holds that there is no cleansing in sanctification. It denies the primary purpose for which Jesus came into the world. That purpose was to "destroy the works of the devil." I John 3:8. In Heb. 6:1 the Apostle Paul urges the believers "to go on to perfection." The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin,

but Christ offered Himself without spot to God to **purge or cleanse** the conscience from dead works to serve the living God. Heb. 9:14. The blood sprinkled on the golden altar in the Most Holy place of the Mosaic tabernacle typified the cleansing element in the work of sanctification.

Several readers responded to object to our statement in the March issue that there is no Scriptural basis for the popular teaching that Christ will reign over an earthly kingdom for 1000 years. They refer to Rev. 20:1-7. Notice carefully the facts in this reference: (1) It was the "**souls** of them that were beheaded [martyrs] for the witness of Jesus" that "reigned with Christ." (2) Not one word is recorded about people's being literally resurrected and reigning. This reign was **before the**



Eldonna Rhoades

resurrection of the literal dead, for the resurrection of these does not take place until after the one thousand years, and includes both classes, good and bad, as indicated in verses 11 to 15 of Rev. 20. (3) **No reign on the earth** is mentioned at all; the reign was "with Christ" as stated. (4) The first resurrection is of such a nature that makes him "that hath part in" it "blessed and holy." A literal resurrection cannot make one holy. Only the experience of salvation can do that work.

The calls for gospel literature—tracts, papers, and books—are increasing, and all the co-workers here at the Lord's Print Shop were making every effort to meet these greater demands for the gospel. Several new books, including another songbook, were printed. Ten thousand pounds (five tons) of printing paper have been ordered for delivery in April and May at a cost of more than \$3000.00 in order to keep the gospel literature going out to this sin-sick world.

Sister Elois Eck, the daughter of Bro. and Sister Edwin Eck, of Goltry, Okla., received a call from the Lord to help here at the Lord's Print Shop in getting out the gospel literature. Subsequently, she resigned her position in the Sears' office at Enid, Okla., and arrived at the Print Shop on April 8, 1976. She adapted to her new work very well, learning to operate the Justowriter machine which punches the paper tape for the typesetting machines. Later, she operated the new Compset 500 Varityper, which is a direct input typesetting machine.

By the blessings of the Lord, this writer and his wife, Maybelle, accompanied by Maude Hornbeck and Evelyn Taylor, were privileged to witness the wedding of our first grandchild, Zelda Genece Pruitt, to Nelson Doolittle at Loranger, La., on April 17, 1976. Nelson is the grandson of Sister Evelyn Taylor of Guthrie, Okla. The vows were solemnized by a great uncle of the bride, Bro. Willie Murphey, on the front lawn of the home of her parents, Byron and Clarice (Nichols) Pruitt, with a large group of relatives, friends, and saints in attendance. God's blessings were pronounced upon this

devout Christian couple as they established their home in His divine order.

This writer's nephew, Bro. Wayne Murphey, the younger son of Bro. Willie and Sister Frances (Pruitt) Murphey, answered the Lord's call to help in this gospel publishing work. Wayne, the grandson of the late Fred Pruitt, recently resigned his position as offset pressman for the *Guthrie Daily Leader* newspaper in Guthrie, and began working here at the Lord's Print Shop on May 19, 1976. The previous autumn he was married to our co-worker, Sister Mary Sprague. It is our pleasure to be closely associated with this dedicated young couple in the service of the Lord.



Elois Eck

In the spring of 1976, many thousands of Efik language gospel tracts were printed and mailed to Nigeria, W. Africa, for free distribution as well as thousands of Spanish tracts for free distribution to Spanish-speaking people. This is in addition to the continual reprinting of English gospel tracts, of which we have about 400 different titles in stock.

Bro. Titus Enu is a native convert who was baptized by Bro. Cecil Carver at Benin City, Nigeria, W. Africa, in 1965. Over the past years Bro. Enu was instrumental in raising up several congregations of the Church of God in Bendal State, Nigeria. For some time he had desired to visit the Church in the United States. By the blessings of the Lord, after several months of praying and planning, Bro. Titus Enu arrived at the Oklahoma City airport on May 23, 1976, to attend the Oklahoma State campmeeting at Guthrie and all the other campmeetings from coast to coast through the summer. Bro. Tom Melot kindly took Bro. Enu by auto to most of these campmeetings, traveling thousands of miles. Though his



**Byron and Clarice (Nichols) Pruitt, and daughter
Genece and Nelson Doolittle**

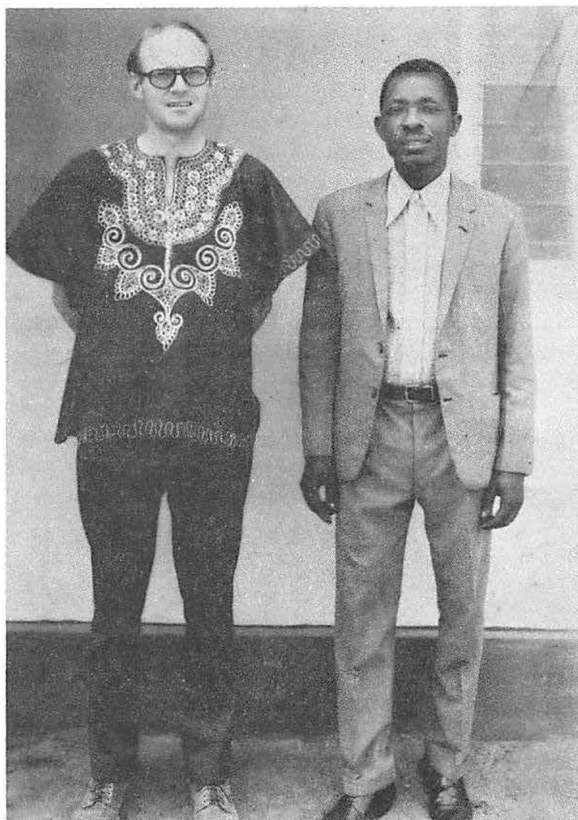
Oxford English was difficult to understand fully, yet Bro. Enu endeared himself to the saints by his humble spirit and firm stand for the Bible truths, especially on the line of faith and taking God at His Word. Bro. Enu left by plane from Oklahoma City on Sept. 6, 1976, and the Lord gave him a safe, smooth flight to Lagos, Nigeria. From the preaching that he heard and the personal contacts with the saints, Bro. Enu returned to his homeland with a clearer vision of the truth and a greater determination to evangelize his country. Having resigned his secular position with the Post Office Department in Nigeria prior to his coming to the States, he desired to obtain a bus equipped with loudspeakers to use full-time in his homeland to spread this glorious gospel more quickly and effectively. A fund was started for that purpose.

Our Model 725 Varityper typesetting machine had become obsolete, and it was very difficult and expensive to get parts and service on it. As a result, we could not

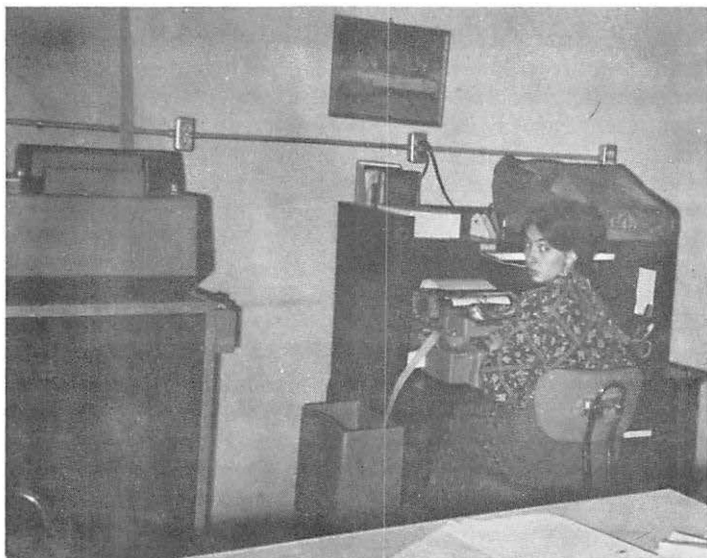


Wayne, Mary (Sprague) and Jason Murphey

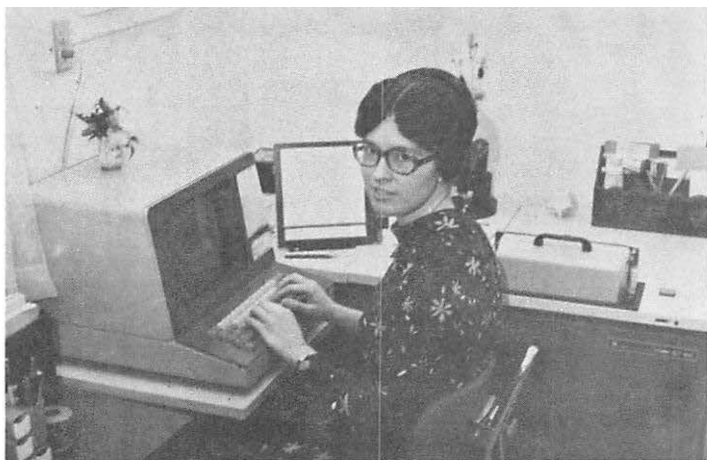
depend on it to meet the deadlines on our publications. Therefore, we took the urgent need to the Lord in prayer, and in August, 1976, a new direct-input phototypesetting machine—a Compset 500—was delivered to the Lord's Print Shop at a cost of about \$11,000.00. This machine was put in operation in September and has given good service. We certainly thanked the Lord and His saints for their faithful co-operation in procuring this essential machine.



**Tom Melot in Nigerian dress, and Titus Enu,
native pastor in Nigeria.**



Mary Sprague punching paper tape on the Justowriter with which to set type on the Varsity Model 725.



Elois Eck operating the Varsity, Compset 500

This writer and his wife were privileged to attend the 1976 campmeetings at Akron, Ohio, and at Muncie, Ind., and to meet a number of readers with whom we had corresponded for many years. The anointed meetings and the fellowship of the saints were real blessings to our souls. It was also our pleasure to visit dear Bro. and Sister Floyd Hines in Michigan who are aged and not able to get out to the meetings. They love the Lord, the saints, and the Bible truth.

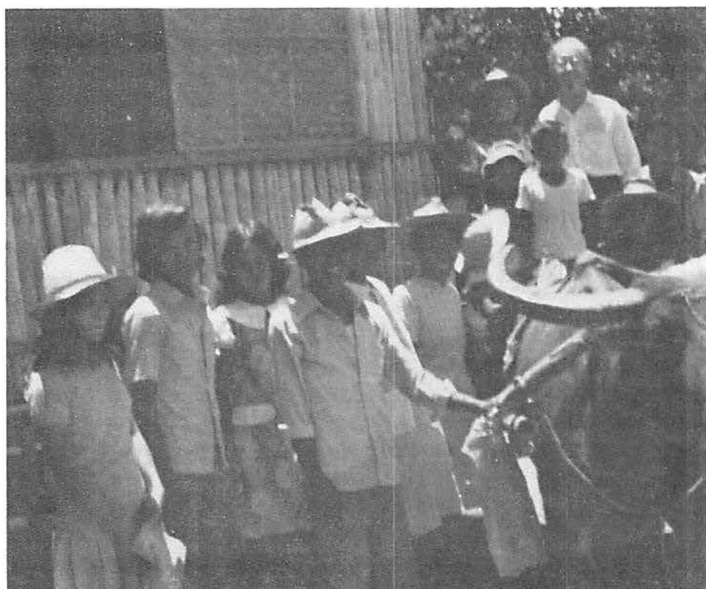
It was our privilege also to attend and enjoy the 39th annual National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., which ended successfully on August 31st with the largest attendance ever on those grounds.

Bro. George Hammond of Kenosha, Wisc., who for a number of years had been interested in home and foreign mission work, felt led of the Lord to go to the Philippine Islands to aid the native brethren in their mission work. Accordingly, on July 11, 1976, he left Oklahoma City by airline, paying all expenses himself, and arrived on July 14, at Cauayan, Philippines, where



From left to right: Lawrence Pruitt, Max Williamson, Bob Forbes, and Orie Young at Muncie, Ind., campmeeting in 1976.

Bro. Florencio Granil has a mission station. He was warmly received by the four Granil brothers, ministers who got the light on the one true Church a few years ago and came out of sectism. Bro. Hammond held profitable services at six mission stations, and baptized 14 converts in the river at Mabini. By the blessings of the Lord he returned safely to the States and reported to the saints of his trip on the last Saturday, July 31st, of the National campmeeting at Neosho, Mo. While he was in the Philippines, he located a concrete block building for sale which had enough space for a chapel and a home for Bro. Florencio Granil and family for the price of \$2,400.00. After his return home he forwarded that amount of money to purchase this property for mission use.



Bro. George Hammond in the rear with a Philippine mission group close to where they had a baptismal service in 1976.

My sister, Marie Miles, who had spent much time in writing and editing the *Bible Lessons* and *The Beautiful Way* papers, left on Sept., 24, 1976, by plane on a three weeks' trip which took her to Arizona, California, Oregon, and Idaho where she visited relatives, friends, and saints. In California and Oregon she held some gospel services, and returned safely to Guthrie at the appointed time.

One hundred New Testaments in the Ilocano language were mailed in the autumn of 1976 to the Philippine Islands for free distribution, and another large order of these Testaments were shipped to the same area soon after, as well as a shipment of New Testaments in the Efik language to Nigeria, W. Africa, for distribution.

Sister Nellie Poulos of Enid, Okla., who was 86 years of age and very frail in body, made arrangements for us to reprint her book, *My Life's Story and Healings*, which had been out of print many years. She added several chapters and pictures which increased the new book to 160 pages. This book was printed and kept in stock at this office along with many other inspiring books.



Sister Nellie Poulos, long-time minister, departed this life one week before she was 88 years of age, on March 17, 1978.

Our co-worker, Sister Thelma Sprague, who had been faithfully assisting in the publishing work for some years, was not physically able to continue her services as cook and matron at the workers' residence home. In October, 1976, she moved to the apartment in Guthrie adjoining that of Sister Vera Forbes. Sister Sprague continues to help with our proofreading and writes the primary lessons for *The Beautiful Way* paper. Sister Sprague's daughters, Linda Craddock and Mary Murphey, took over the cooking and serving of the noon meal for the workers, and their services unto the Lord are also much appreciated.

Again, it was the privilege of this writer and his wife, Maybelle, to attend the annual Assembly meeting at Hammond, La., during Thanksgiving week, 1976. Enroute to Hammond we enjoyed a good visit with our long-time friends, Bro. and Sister Lee Whitley at Marshall, Texas. The Hammond meeting was a real blessing from the Lord, and the saints and ministers, as well as the unsaved, attended from near and far. The convicting Spirit of God accompanied the preached Word, and a number of souls were saved. While attending the meeting, we enjoyed our stay in the home of our son Byron and his family who live near Loranger, La., just out of Hammond a few miles.



Bro. Ostis B. and Sister Evelyn Wilson

CHAPTER SEVENTY-TWO

Highlights of the Year 1977

As we crossed the threshold of the new year of 1977, the 70th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here at Guthrie was still in session and closed with victory on Jan. 2. Many souls responded to the gospel invitation, and sixteen converts followed our Lord's example in water baptism. It was our pleasure to have two carloads of German and Dutch saints from Ontario, Canada, with us. Attending these services for their first time, they rejoiced in hearing the old-time Bible truth and sharing the love and fellowship of the saints in light.

On Jan. 19, 1977, we were shocked with the news of the sudden passing of our dear Bro. Stanley Lounds, aged 62, at their Wednesday night prayer meeting at the 23rd Street chapel in Oklahoma City. As a faithful deacon and the Bible class teacher in that congregation, Bro. Lounds had been a pillar in the church for many years. For more than 50 years this writer was associated with Bro. Stanley, and for many of those years we served together on the Oklahoma State Campmeeting Board, of which he was a member at his death. His passing was a great loss to the Church in this world, but he is at rest with the Lord and his works do follow him.

Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon, kindly consented to conduct a question and answer column in the *Faith and Victory* paper. The first questions and answers appeared in the February, 1977, issue, and are continuing each month.

Sister Rosalie Johnston, a former worker here at the Print Shop, was united in marriage to John Samons on Feb. 5, 1977, at Myrtle, Mo. The vows were solemnized by the groom's father, Bro. Mart Samons of W. Virginia. This couple established their home at Nowata, Okla.

The March, 1977, issue of the *Faith and Victory* marked the beginning of the 55th year of publication.

The first issue was published in March, 1923, which consisted of 12 pages printed on an old Gordon hand-fed platen press powered by a gasoline engine at 611 W. Mansur, Guthrie. All praise and honor unto the Lord for His guiding and sustaining hand over the years.

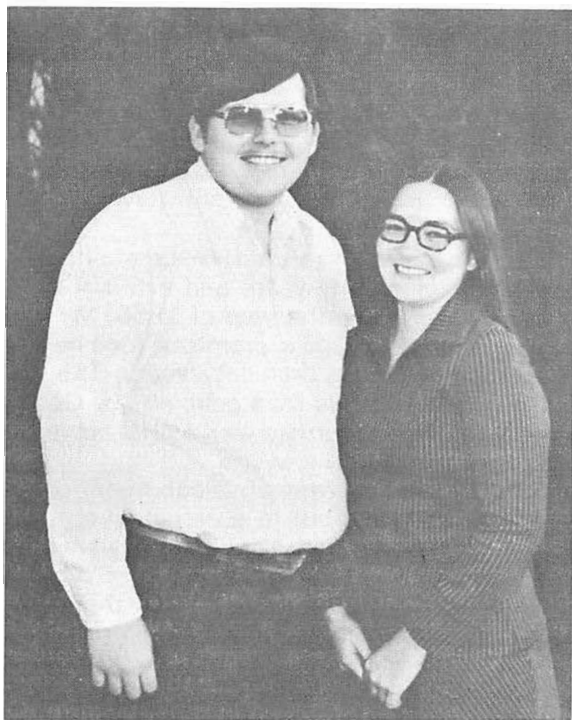
For a number of years, some of the saints of the Guthrie congregation have been meeting together in prayer and fasting at the chapel during the noon hour on each Wednesday. Congregations across the country have been encouraged to meet in an agreement of prayer at the same time, and earnest petitions have ascended to the throne of grace in behalf of the many urgent requests for prayer that come in, and God has answered according to His infinite wisdom. Prayer and faith are the keys to victory. The Word exhorts that "men ought always to pray and not to faint." The Lord commands us to watch and pray always—pray without ceasing. Let us present a solid front against the devil



Stanley and Ethel Lounds

who is drawing his battle lines tighter against "the camp of the saints."

Sister Essie Wilson observed her 93rd birthday on April 1, 1977. Very frail in body, she was cared for in the Church of God Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, Calif. It was 75 years ago on April 29, 1902, when Sister Wilson, then a single girl of 18 years, was instantly and miraculously healed by Divine power in Dallas, Texas. She was badly afflicted and given up to die by 22 doctors, but while bedfast in her parents' home, she read in her little red-back Testament how Jesus healed. God inspired her faith for healing and she prayed the prayer of faith for herself, instantly jumping



John and Rosalie (Johnston) Samons

out of bed without human aid. She spent many years in preaching the gospel. Her personal testimony of her healing is in tract form at Faith Pub. House.

Thank the Lord for permitting this writer and his wife, Maybelle, to get away for a short 12-day trip (April 4-15, 1977) to California where we visited relatives and saints. Enroute by auto with Bro. Willie and Sister Frances Murphey, we visited our brother Frank (a twin to Frances) and his wife in Phoenix, Ariz. Frank was recovering from open heart surgery. The Murpheys left us in southern California, and they drove on to Jefferson, Ore., where Bro. Willie held a week's meeting beginning Easter Sunday.

It was a pleasure to be with our loved ones and saints again, as well as to see more of God's wonderful handiwork in making the valleys, mountains, and the vast open spaces. We exclaim with the poet, "How Great Thou Art!" Refreshed by the change of activity, we returned to the office by bus with the resolve to do all possible to get out more gospel literature to this perishing world while the Lord still gave us time and strength.

This writer has been in the furnace of affliction with internal tumor for twenty years and external cancer for twelve years, ever since the year of 1966. My faith and trust are anchored in God's promises for healing even as it has been for more than fifty years. The trying of our faith is more precious than gold, and by God's grace I mean to trust His wisdom as well as His power as long as He leaves me in this world.

The doctrine of divine physical healing is being attacked from all sides, but it is definitely a part of the gospel, and healing for both soul and body was provided in Christ's atonement. When Jesus sent out His disciples, He commanded them "to preach the gospel and heal the sick," and every truly God-called minister today has the same commission. The matter of trusting God for our healing is not optional—take it or leave it—with the child of God, but he is commanded in James 5:13-15 what to do when he is afflicted or sick in body.

"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." Jer. 17:5. The lack of faith and trust in the Lord shown by resorting to medicines, drugs, doctors, and hospitals is dishonoring to our Great Physician who suffered those stripes in Pilate's judgment hall for our physical healing. Of course, we know that physical healing is only a temporary blessing for God's children, and there comes a time—the universal appointment—when God decrees not to heal this earthly tabernacle but calls His child from this world to be with Him. That is the blessed hope of the righteous.

More than 23 years have passed since the Lord summoned this writer's dear mother (in 1954) to her Home above, but he still fondly cherishes her memory and humbly acknowledges that it is through the grace of God, and the prayers and godly example of my parents that I am what I am today. With the poet I pray:

"God, hallow the holy impress
Of the days that used to be,
And keep me a pilgrim forever
To the shrine at Mother's knee."

The 43rd annual Oklahoma State campmeeting held at Guthrie from May 27 to June 5 was especially blessed of the Lord by His presence and convicting power. The large attendance was from many states. Ministers were mightily used to preach the Word under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Many souls found the joy of sins forgiven, and a number of converts were baptized. The other New Testament ordinances of the Lord's House—feet-washing and the Lord's Supper—were observed. These were very solemn and sacred services.

Sister G. A. Nichols of Loranger, La., who was the mother of our daughter-in-law, Clarice Pruitt, passed away on June 14, 1977, at the age of 72, after a long illness. My wife, her sister Maude Hornbeck, and this writer left by auto that same day to attend the funeral in Hammond, La. About the time we arrived at Loranger, Sister Etta Williamson, aged 88, of that congregation

also passed to her eternal Home with the Lord. We attended both funerals, one on Thursday and the other on Saturday. Bro. Randall Flynn, a co-worker at this publishing plant, came by plane to attend his Grandmother Williamson's funeral and returned with us to Guthrie on June 19th.

Sister Opal Kelly, who usually keeps busy in Guthrie in the publishing and distribution of the Spanish gospel literature, drove to Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico, to attend the campmeeting which began on June 27, 1977. Sister Kelly is especially concerned with that campmeeting as she had previously spent several years at that Mexico mission station.

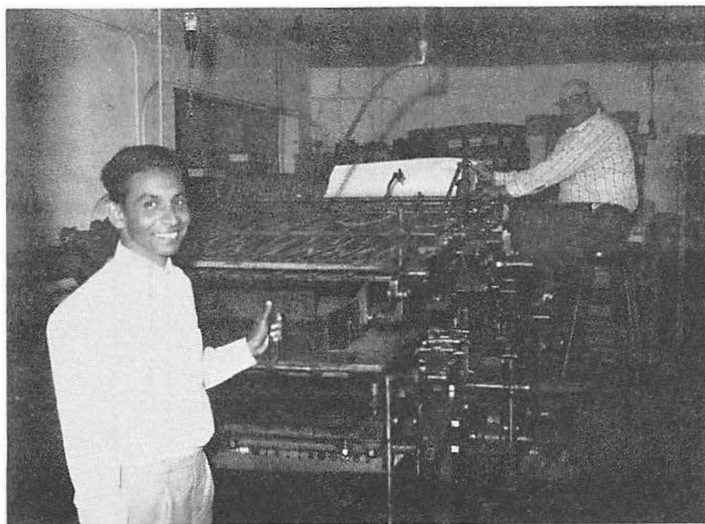
Our old, obsolete, hand-fed, Miehle letter-printing press, which had been the "workhorse" of the press-room at the Lord's Print Shop for thirty years, had been idle for about three years. Its work had been taken over



Gospel workers attending the campmeeting at Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico, in the year of 1971.

by the faster presses using the offset or lithographic printing process. Though it had very little value as a printing press and occupied valuable floor space, for sentimental reasons in respect to its long work record in producing gospel literature, we had been reluctant to consign the 6½ ton machine to the scrap pile. However, in June, 1977, the brethren in the shop and Bro. Hyrum Ray demolished the old faithful press and hauled it to the scrap metal dealer where it brought two cents per pound.

Bro. George Hammond of Wisconsin was again permitted to visit and work with the native ministers and believers in the Philippine Islands from May 29 to June 19, 1977. A five-day campmeeting was held at Cauayan where Bro. Florencio Granil was the pastor. Several souls were saved and sanctified, and six converts were baptized. From the Missionary Fund, a motorcycle was purchased by Bro. Hammond for the use



John Varghese stands beside our old Miehle cylinder letterpress while your servant, Lawrence Pruitt, sits at the paper-feeding position.

of Bro. Granil at Cauayan in the mission work. A meeting was held at Resurrection and seven more converts were baptized there. Bro. Hammond returned to the States with mixed feelings about the future of the mission work in the Philippines.

Quantities of gospel tracts, papers and booklets were sent or taken to various campmeetings in 1977 for free distribution. The free-will contributions of the saints made this literature ministry possible.

The 40th National campmeeting of the Church of God held at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, closed with victory on July 31st. It seemed that the attendance was the largest ever on those grounds with many states represented, and a number of saints from Canada and Mexico. Perhaps Bro. Reinhard Mueller of Edmonton, Canada, came the longest distance to be in this meeting. Many new people came and seemed to appreciate the old-time truth from God's Word. Messages on various



1977 campmeeting group in Madella, Philippines, showing Bro. Ben Granil with hat and Bro. Geo. Hammond in the right area.

Bible doctrines went forth with holy anointing. The spirit of conviction rested heavily on the unsaved, and many yielded to the Spirit's call and were flooded with the joy of sins forgiven. Believers were sanctified, and others experienced and testified of definite, divine physical healing in answer to the prayer of faith. Several believers followed the Lord in the ordinance of water baptism, which is the answer of a good conscience toward God. The sacred ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's Supper were also observed by many happy saints.

Plans were made to enlarge the tabernacle for the next year's meeting, as well as to make a number of other improvements on the grounds. It appeared there was an urgent need to provide more dormitory space to help take care of the increasing attendance, as practically all of the motels in the area are booked full for the week of the meeting.

Our Bible Book Store was open on the grounds where Bibles and other gospel literature were made available to those in attendance. It was our pleasure to meet many of our readers whom we had known before, as well as a number of new people who were attending the meeting for their first time.

Sister Roberta Hightower, who had been working in the mailing department for several years, expressed her desire to be relieved of this phase of the Lord's work, and she left that department in July, 1977. We prayed the Lord to bless and reward her for her faithful service unto Him, and to direct her future activities.

An editorial in the September, 1977, issue of *Faith and Victory* reads as follows:

"A very striking parallel exists in regard to the history of the Church of the morning era and that of the 'evening time.' History indicates that within thirty years after the day of Pentecost in A.D. 33 a serious departure from the original standards of truth, such as factions, heresies, legalism, and worldliness, began to infect the church. Losing its pristine power and glory, the so-called church went from bad to worse, and became

Roman Catholicism, which is symbolized by the 'beast' in the book of Revelation.

"In a like period in this 'evening time,' about thirty years from 1880 A.D. to 1910 A.D., the Church of God reformation or restoration movement shone forth in divine power and glory, until at the latter date it began its infamous spiritual decline and apostasy. Though the compromise 'landslide' of 1910-17 carried the great majority of the people of the movement with it, yet God by His infinite power preserved from those early days a continuous 'remnant'—a true Church of the 'evening light'—which today is still maintaining, teaching and practicing those same precious truths which brought forth this glorious reformation in fulfillment of Old Testament and New Testament prophecy.

"The tragic fact is that many of the people who are affiliated with the several so-called Church of God groups split off from 'Anderson' since 1910, do not know all the truth that was taught and practiced sixty-five years ago, prior to 1910. What was truth then is still truth today, and will be the truth at the judgment day. In fact, the light is shining brighter, according to the Scriptures, but it will not obscure or hide the truth that has already been revealed to the Church. If we walk in the light as Jesus is in the light, we have fellowship with Him and all those who are also walking in the light. Though one may have more or less light than another, it is the direction one is going, whether to the light or away from the light, that provides or determines the basis of fellowship.

"Let every soul seek God for that spiritual vision, holy boldness, and courage to go all the way back to the original pattern of the Church as laid down in the New Testament."

By the blessings of the Lord and the special concern of His saints, a bus capable of carrying 15 to 18 passengers was purchased by the Missionary Fund in July, 1977, for the use of Bro. Titus Enu and his co-workers in the great mission field of Nigeria. The native gospel workers in Nigeria had been praying for this

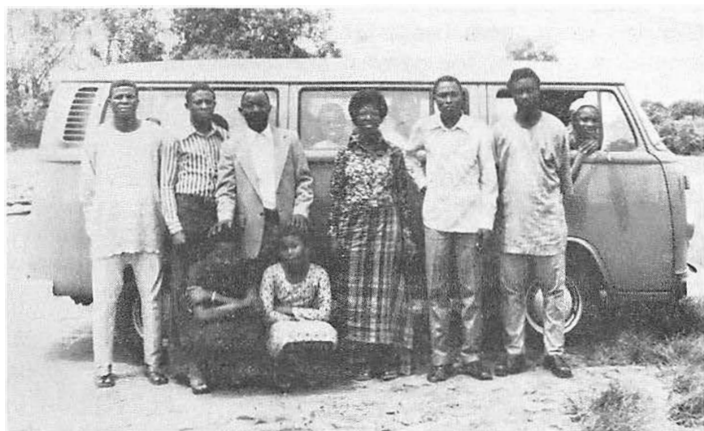
essential means of transportation equipped with loudspeakers in order to evangelize their homeland more rapidly and effectively, and they rejoiced in this special answer to prayer.

In the autumn of 1977, a special subscription offer on the *Faith and Victory* of three names for one year for \$1.00 was made, and our readers responded very well by sending in several hundred gift subscriptions. It was good to know that the gospel was going to more people.

Another shipment of 10,000 pounds of printing paper was ordered to be delivered from the paper mill in October, 1977, and almost every shipment comes at a higher price.

During the year of 1977 several more of those excellent out-of-print books written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God reformation were reprinted and placed in stock at this office.

In the autumn and winter of 1977, the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon, where Bro. Ostis Wilson is the pastor, was involved in building a new chapel on their new campground near Jefferson. Bro. Ernest Burditt, a carpenter of Oklahoma City, worked several



Bro. Titus Enu and his group with the new bus purchased for the Nigerian mission work.

weeks on the building, and with the help of volunteer workers, the structure itself was pretty well finished by the end of 1977. Jefferson is the focal point for the state and regional meetings in the Northwest, and we trust that all those in that area who love and appreciate the "old-time" truth will support the further improvements of dining hall and dormitories which are needed on that new campground.

In October, 1977, five of the six children of Fred and Mary Pruitt were together here in Guthrie, Okla., when this writer's sister Mary Embly of Chino, Calif., and his brother Andrew and his wife, Hope, of Veneta, Oregon, came to attend the marriage ceremony of our niece, Connie Miles to Dwane Sorrell, which was an event of October 15. Our brother Frank of Phoenix, Ariz., was not able to come after having open heart surgery in December, 1976. Connie Miles is the oldest daughter of Vernon and Bertha (Eck) Miles, and the granddaughter of my sister, Marie Miles. The young couple established their home near Thayer, Mo.

At this office in the year of 1977 there were in stock about 400 different titles of English gospel tracts, and a number of titles in the Spanish, Efik, Ilocano, and German languages. These were offered free of charge in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. For those who wanted to purchase tracts, nominal prices were quoted as a mere guideline. Practically all tracts and papers to foreign fields were sent free of charge and postpaid to the recipients.

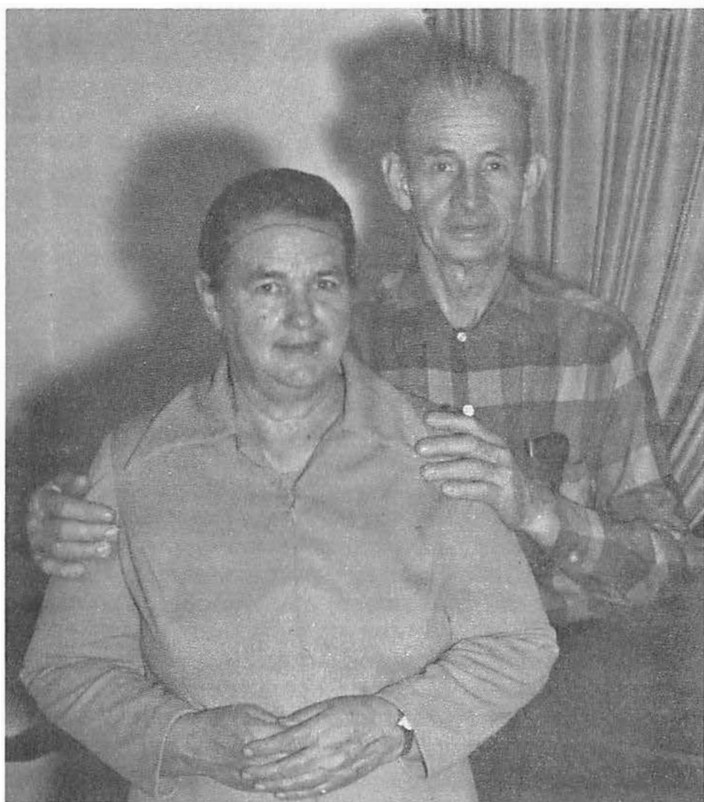
Bro. Waldo D. Eck, a member of the congregation at Guthrie, Okla., passed to his heavenly Home on Dec. 10, 1977, at the age of 61 years after a lengthy illness.

He was saved in the Church of God at an early age, and in 1937 he was married to Waneta Beatrice Davis. They observed their 40th wedding anniversary on Aug. 22, 1977. He is survived by his wife, four daughters and two sons.

For many years Bro. Waldo was interested in all phases of the work of God, and his singing of gospel

songs will long be remembered. His passing also created a vacancy on the trustee board of the Oklahoma Association of the Church.

The year of 1977 ended on a high note of victory with the very profitable 71st annual Oklahoma Assembly meeting in progress here at the Guthrie chapel. The meeting was well attended. The Word was preached with convicting power, and the church and the angels of heaven rejoiced as penitent sinners sought for and found the joy of salvation.



Bro. Waldo and Sister Beatrice (Davis) Eck

CHAPTER SEVENTY-THREE

Brief Life Sketch and Experiences

By Robert Longley

"Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" This precious exhortation is so important that it is recorded four times in this 107th Psalm. God's goodness and wonderful works are for individuals, families, groups, and nations.

To exalt, honor and magnify our great God and Father of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, for the mercy and amazing grace manifest in and to my little life, I write the following:

I was born of the flesh in this time world on Oct. 9th, 1893, of very devout parents, the fifth of twelve children. Three children passed away in infancy. Nine of us grew to maturity and beyond. I was born in a log house on a farm near the central area of Texas. Our family was of very modest means, and, as you might know, all worked to help make the living as soon as we were old and large enough. We were happy as a family and many precious memories linger. We had occasional family reunions after most had scattered in other parts of the country. My two sisters and one brother, remaining of our family, came from Texas and Oklahoma just recently for a reunion with our family here in California. This was a very sacred occasion.

As a very small boy, and in my youth, I was of a very inquisitive mind, wanting to know the whys and wherefores of many things. I remember, very early in life, kneeling by the side of my mother as she was churning with an old-time dasher churn. I looked up into her wonderful face and asked her: "Mamma, who made God and where did He come from?" She told me that God had always existed. I said, "I mean way, way back beyond anything." She assured me that "God had always existed—from the Beginning!" I arose from my knees with a wondering mind, but in time dismissed any

thought of this. I started to school at the age of five, walking three miles to a one-room, one-teacher school. Some of the larger boys taught me many bad ways, and at an early age I began taking the name of God in vain, among other bad habits, which I kept from my parents. One day my Uncle came by the school and asked: "Robert, what are you going to school for?" I said: "To play!" It was a while before I came to realize that maybe those letters and figures could have some value and meaning and I began to do something more than play.



Robert and Lois (Taylor) Longley

Although we, as a family, were relatively poor, my father and mother and all the family worked hard and I don't remember a time that we did not have adequate food and clothing, and above all the warmth of home where every one was loved and lovingly cherished. One morning, right after breakfast, I went out to the barn to feed the cows, and, being barefooted, began to rake some corn shucks with my bare feet. I didn't know a snake was couched in among the shucks. I was bitten by a very large, vicious, and very poisonous copperhead snake. It bit me twice before I could get away. I ran to the house crying that a copperhead had bitten me. Everyone came to my rescue to do all they could for me. I became very sick, lost all my breakfast and my foot and leg began to swell almost beyond bearing it. My brother had gone on horseback for a doctor four miles distant. The doctor lanced my foot and drained poisonous blood out. I was very sick for several days and on crutches for three months. But God spared my life—a wonderful token of His goodness and wonderful works to me.

By my early teens I had finished the country and elementary school, and began to go to high school in the county seat town of our county. I stayed part-time with my married sister who lived in the town and for one year I rode horseback six miles morning and evening. I thought I was getting along very well, and had some thoughts of eventually studying to be a lawyer. One of my older brothers had gone from the farm and attended a business college. He had become associated with true Christian people and was wonderfully converted. He wrote such precious letters home of how he had found the Lord and when he came home all could notice the change in his life. This all made me wonder, but the pull of the world had control. This dear brother became a traveling salesman for a reputable company. In 1912, there was an epidemic of spinal meningitis in our state, and my parents and all the family asked him to take some time off and stay at home a while. He said he travelled on trains and stayed in hotels and he did not think there would be any

danger for him. However he was stricken with this dread malady in a hotel in Seymour, Texas. My dear father went to him, but my brother was unconscious and did not recognize him, and passed away on March 3rd, 1912. My mother and the younger children had gone into the town to stay with my sister, and to be near a phone. Another sister and a brother and myself were on the farm to do the chores and take care of things. That evening, just at dusk, someone came by horse and buggy to bring us the sad news—and sad, indeed, it was. Well, I bring this to approach the marvellous change that came into my life. There was a large hallway in our house, a family clock on the wall, and a couch nearby. I was so sad and grief-stricken I reclined on this couch, as serious thoughts entered my mind and troubled soul. The clock, of course, had not been wound, as that was attended to by my father and mother. As I lay there, this clock seemed to tick very loudly, almost like a hammer against the wall. Suddenly it stopped. Then my dear Lord took the opportunity to speak to me. He said: "Young man, your heart is going to stop beating someday, just like that clock stopped ticking, and you are not prepared for this." I said, in a trembling and awkward way: "Oh, no, I am not ready, but if You will only spare my life and help me to know how to be ready, I will." I cried to God for mercy and forgiveness and a sweet peace flooded my soul. There was no question as to who made God or where He came from, I just wanted Him. I had never read the Bible, but my mother gave me my dear brother's Bible and I began to read eagerly and hungrily and was captivated by the words and works of Jesus. I also found where Paul exhorts: "He that cometh to God must believe that He IS and that He IS a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him." Praise the Lord!

I was in my last year of high school and some of my schoolmates and supposed friends began to shun me as if I were beside myself because of the great change that had come into my life and deportment. Some remarked that I was losing my mind by reading the Bible too

much. I had never regularly attended any church and wondered where I should go to associate with other lovers of God or Christians. There were several groups or churches in the town and I began to attend the services, also the mid-week prayer meetings to talk privately to the preachers. I wondered why there should be so many different ones all using the same Bible. This confused me very seriously in my quest. All told me I could not live like and as the Bible teaches us to live, that we had to keep on sinning. I felt and knew that Jesus had saved me from my sins by His great love, mercy, and grace. After attending about all the groups in the area, my confusion became even worse. I felt that God had the answer and I began to go on Sundays back of the field on our farm to read and pray, from morning until evening. My dear mother became very concerned about me. One Sunday afternoon about 4 p.m., after being out there all day, as I was on my knees and my Bible open before me, God's voice came to my searching soul saying: "You are MY child, aren't you?" I looked up into the heavens and said, "Oh, yes, You have saved me and I have no condemnation." The answer was: "Well, you just belong to MY BIG FAMILY!" What a revelation, what a relief to my confusion! I arose from my knees, seemingly walking on air. God had revealed to me His Church. Thank God, I was happy, and did not have to join anything. I was born into His Family or Church.

Not long after this, I was at a farmers' gathering and I heard a man singing "Eternity, Long Eternity." I had never heard a song like that, and after he was through speaking I asked him where I could get that song. He gave me the address of the Gospel Trumpet Co. This was in 1914. I sent for this song and was sent a nice *Select Hymn* book, also a tract entitled "Must We Sin?" by D. S. Warner. These were a great blessing and help to me in my quest. In 1915, I heard that Bro. and Sister L. Y. Janes had come to Houston after being on the mission field in Panama. I went to Houston and talked with them, which further strengthened me in my

endeavor to witness in my home area to the truth of God's glorious Church.

My dear father and mother were the most concerned parents to look after the welfare of us children. They could find the bitterest medicine in the world "to keep our bodies and blood conditioned." Jesus' ministry of healing, so wonderfully manifest all during His sojourn in the flesh, was so gladly embraced that He healed me of what seemed to be a burning lump in my abdomen, threatening my life. He took it all away. Also, my brother-in-law was stricken with typhoid fever and the doctor said he would have to be in bed for eleven weeks. God heard and answered prayer and within three days he was up and able to be about. Also a man, who had tuberculosis and was not expected to live, was healed. This brought some persecution as some said if these did not get well I would be held responsible. God's wonderful works to the children of men are manifest in many ways.

I suppose all that travel on in God's way and will, experience some need of correction, chastening, and even reproof. He is wise and administers this because He loves us. To me, these are blessings though they may not seem pleasant at the present, but will work out for our good. From 1916 to 1920 I had some experiences that proved this to be true.

In 1920, I was led to go to Guthrie, Oklahoma. Bro. and Sister Janes and Bro. and Sister Pruitt were there engaged in the publishing of gospel literature. I had met Bro. and Sister Janes, but had never met Bro. and Sister Pruitt and their fine family. This is the main reason for the writing of this account in 1977. Dear Bro. Pruitt gives a detailed record of his marvellous conversion while on a homestead in New Mexico before coming to Guthrie. We shared many times of fellowship and praise to God about these dealings of God. I lived for a few years in the Pruitt home, even before some of the children entered school. They are a very wonderful family. I began to set type by hand with individual letters—a very slow process as compared to today's

method of preparing material for printing. Bro. Pruitt purchased a Model 5 Linotype machine and I learned to set type on it. Bro. and Sister Janes, having been among Spanish-speaking people on the mission field, moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, to engage more directly in this field. The name *Faith and Victory* was given by the Lord to Bro. Fred Pruitt for the present publication. We shared together many struggles and battles in this venture, as the enemy of all truth and souls bitterly opposed and tried in many ways to prevent its publication. Bro. Pruitt was truly a tried and faithful warrior for the truth and for precious souls.

The Lord led us also to minister to the inmates of the local jail, where we placed Bibles and had wonderful witnessing services on Sunday afternoons. There was a compartment for women also in the jail, and we took a dear Mother in the Lord up there to talk to those poor girls who had gotten into trouble. Grandmother Spradling was a very tender-hearted soul and those girls came up near her and she reached her hands through the bars and took hold of their hands and also patted them on the cheeks and told them she loved them and that Jesus loved them. All of them broke down and wept bitterly and said they were going to live differently and for God hereafter. So the ministry at the jail was fruitful.

After being closely associated with Bro. Pruitt for about five years, one day while working in the office, what I felt at the time, and still do, was God's voice speaking to me. He asked me if I would witness for Him in any place, even "unto the uttermost part of the earth?" This was a little surprising, but I answered I would if He showed me where He wanted me and make the way. In a day or two, as I was working, a map opened up before me of the South Pacific Ocean and what looked like the point or points of a pencil in size called the Fiji Islands. This also seemed remote and somewhat strange, but I answered the question that if there was where He wanted me to witness I would do my best by His help. This seemed, and was, so sacred I did not say anything to Bro. Pruitt for a while, but the impression became

stronger and stronger. Then I shared my feelings with Bro. Pruitt and others who wanted to know where this "uttermost part" was. They said I might get sick and die there and no one would know what became of me. Then the question was asked, "Who is going with you?" That, of course, was a big question, and was asked several times. This question weighed very heavily on me and I sought an answer from the Lord. One day I was alone in my room, on my knees and Bible at hand. I asked the Lord to direct me to an answer or give some assurance. I opened my Bible at random and it fell on the 33rd chapter of Exodus, where God spoke to Moses "face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend." Well, Moses had the same question that was confronting me: "Thou hast not let me know whom Thou wilt send with me." A little lower down was the answer: "My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." What an assurance, also a relief and answer to my dear brothers and sisters! Let me say now that God did so marvellously fulfill that promise, even beyond expectation. Thank the Lord!

Dear Bro. Pruitt and I had been so closely associated together in the sharing of burdens, seasons of fasting and prayer, that this call to me did seem difficult to understand. I had felt that I could be a help to him in his direct calling to publish the gospel by printed page. I held this matter in earnest waiting and prayer and the call became more and more sure and certain. I obtained a passport and in a short time, with many tears and with some reluctance, I took my leave of dear Bro. Pruitt and family and other brothers and sisters in the Lord and friends, and left for the West Coast in preparation for passage to Fiji. I met some precious saints after I arrived at Los Angeles, among whom were Bro. A. S. Kriebel and Bro. George Harmon and others, besides a fine group of very devout young people—all of whom were a great help to me. I went to the British Consul in Los Angeles to obtain the visa, or permit, to go to Fiji. He did not grant this for the reason, as he explained, he was apprehensive that I might become a charge to the

British Government because I was not assured any amount of support in a financial way. One of the "great and precious promises" that I had embraced and found so true is: "And we KNOW that ALL THINGS work together for good to them that love God." I felt led to write the head consul in New York, tell my circumstances, etc., and sent the visa fee and committed this to the will of God. In the meantime there was an Assembly meeting at Fresno, Calif. Bro. Kriebel wanted me to drive his Model T Ford up to this meeting, which I was glad to do while waiting for my passport. There I met the most wonderful and very spiritual group of young people. Among them was Lois Taylor, who in time became my life companion, though at the time I had decided to live a single life unto the Lord if He saw this was best. When we returned to Los Angeles after the Assembly meeting, my passport was there and all okayed for me to go to the Fiji Islands, my place of call. Thank God for His wonderful works to a little life like mine, and ALL others who love and trust Him.

In those days my passage by boat, third class, was \$95.00. In a couple weeks' waiting for my departure, I enjoyed fellowship with the young people and all the dear saints in the area. They asked me to write and let them know how I got along, the conditions, etc. Perhaps most people who enter the strait gate to travel the narrow way with Jesus have experienced some withholdings from our all-wise God and Father who sees better than we can. In His wisdom He withholds relationships, involvements, and circumstances that would have been a detriment, perhaps to others as well as ourselves. Thank God for His withholdings as well as His provisions. "No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." God's ways are always best.

Our dear Father's precious promise of His Presence going with me was so closely felt as I walked down the "gang plank" onto Fiji soil, among strange people and customs. It took me a while to get accustomed to circumstances and to acquire enough talking words to get along. I had a large Bible picture roll that I used

among the children and even adults. After I had been there a year I wanted to make a walking trip around Viti Levu—Big Fiji, which I did, and had some wonderful experiences that space will not permit to record at this time. I contacted many mosquitoes, fever, fording a river with my clothes held above my head, etc., adapting to the very primitive mode of living. I only baptized one young native man who wanted me to explain to him what being born again meant. They only have one name—his was Abashai. At the port of call, Suva, there is a cable-relay from Australia to Canada, and the news items are printed there. I got some employment there to set type at night, and earned enough means to pay my passage when I left there. After a couple of years there and corresponding with the fine young peoples' group I had met, Lois Taylor being the scribe, the word entered my mind and heart that it was not good for me to be alone. Then a deep affection also came into my heart for her. This I held in my own heart for sometime, but it became stronger and the time came when I wrote a "private" letter to Lois expressing my feelings, but also saying if there were no mutual feeling or acceptance to forgive and forget. There was acceptance! After witnessing in Fiji for five years, and having become greatly attached to the dear people there, which I still am, I felt it was God's time and will for me to return to my home land. I returned by way of New Zealand, Australia, India, Egypt, Palestine, and on via Italy, France, England and on to New York in 1930. I witnessed in many of these places by way of an interpreter and observed many very pitiful conditions, both spiritually and also physically of the peoples.

Ever since I had become a Christian I had asked God if it were ever possible, I would like to see and walk among some of the places where Jesus walked and did His wonderous works, look upon the "place of a skull" where He suffered and died for me and every person born since that time, to enter into, and kneel, in thankfulness in the empty tomb—not that this at all was depended upon as salvation—but, in my life it brought a

deeper appreciation for what He has done for me. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the world and they that dwell therein." Should it ever become my privilege to see again some of God's wonderful world, I would choose the area of Palestine and the Fijis.

A few months after I returned to my homeland, Lois Taylor and I were united in marriage and became "heirs together of the grace of life." We shared joys and sorrows and God helped us and manifested His wonderful works to us in many circumstances. He entrusted to us four wonderful children, three daughters and one son. Our family is very close by God's blessings. God has called dear Lois to be with Him—greatly missed—resting from her labors, but the effects of her works are following her. I have just recently passed my 84th mile post. So precious is my God and Lord and Saviour fulfilling the great promise: "We will come unto him and make our abode with him."

I would like to say that my love, respect, affection, and prayers for the Pruitt family have grown and increased through the years. The parents, Bro. Fred and Sister Mary, have ceased from the labors they started, but their mantles have fallen upon their son, Bro. Lawrence, daughters, Marie and Frances and their families, who are faithfully carrying on their works. Though Andrew, Mary, and Frank have other callings, they are in great harmony and accord with the rest of the dear family who are directly involved in God's work. To those I write: If Jesus doesn't come before your labors are completed, I feel certain He will have some others on whom your mantles will fall. May God bless you each one.

—Robert Longley

Cambria, Calif. — December, 1977

CHAPTER SEVENTY-FOUR

Life Sketch and Experiences by Sister Marie (Pruitt) Miles

I want to add to the addition that my brother Lawrence has written for the book.

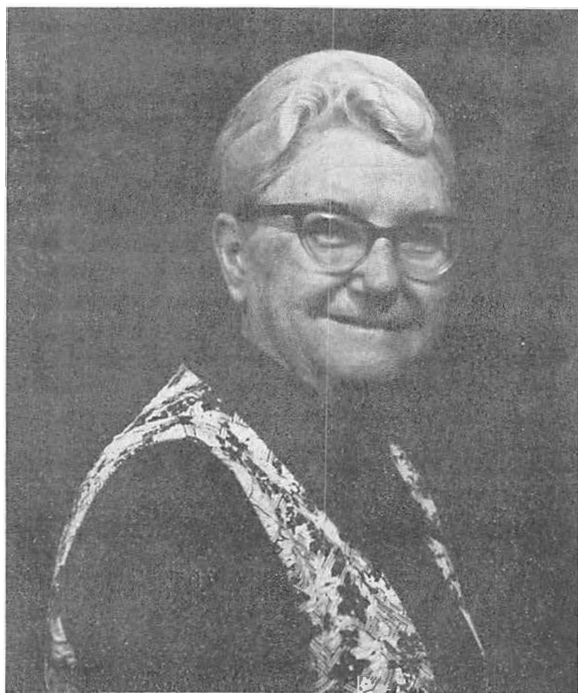
First, I want to testify to the saving grace of God in my soul. Each day I find great pleasure in serving the Lord. Very young in life I realized I had sinned against my precious Saviour, Jesus Christ, and I sought with tears His forgiveness. I found a sweetness in that experience which made me know that He was real. As a child, I often prayed to Him to help me to please Him. In my teens I lost the grace of God out of my heart for a short time and had to seek Him for forgiveness. But by the power of the Holy Spirit I lived for Him and sought Him to guide my life.

God gave my husband and me two sons whom I endeavored to teach the ways of the Lord and I pray that our family will meet in heaven at the throne of God. Our boys are married and we have eight grandchildren. The eldest is now married.

For eighteen years we lived in California. A number of those years I was not close to a congregation where I could attend services, but endeavored to work for God wherever I would be. In 1947, we moved to Chino, Calif., and I attended the services in Pomona where Bro. and Sis. Ira Stover were pastors. It was a great joy to be under their teachings and be with the saints there. The Lord was very precious to me at that time. I had real Bible salvation and had received a definite experience of sanctification. I was desiring to see the work of the Lord progress. I began to work with the young people there, and God blessed. A number, including my own two boys, got saved and we had a spiritual group.

The Lord permitted me to have an attack of kidney stones. I went down to death's door. In fact, for a few minutes those around my bed thought I was gone. I didn't want a doctor, but wanted prayer. God, in such a marvelous way, delivered me from that severe suffering.

My love for Him knew no bounds. I told Him, and really meant it, that I would do anything for Him that He called me to do. It was a surprise to me when the Lord spoke definitely to me that He wanted me to preach His Word. Only God knew how timid I was, and He brought me through that battle. When I obeyed Him, I thought others would be surprised, but they also saw God's hand upon me and recognized His call before I did. The Lord knew what He was doing, as soon afterward the pastorship of the Pomona congregation was left to me. God did bless and the work continued to increase. Today, there are some established gospel workers from the group of young people who were there. God established others in the Lord. When I saw that Bro. Harland



Sister A. Marie Miles

Smith was definitely all out for God, I felt led of the Lord to make him free to take the pulpit. Most of his calling later was in the mission work in Mexico and God used him greatly in that capacity.

My father had a monthly preaching appointment at Enid, Okla., when I came to Guthrie in 1954, and by the help of the Lord I have endeavored to keep that appointment, when possible, since his death in 1963. The saints at Enid are precious and God has blessed them. They are solid for the truth. I also labor in God's work in other places as the Lord leads, and here at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

My main burden has been for the work of the Lord here in the publishing plant. I write thousands of letters with the help of someone typing most of them for me. In each one I send forth a Scripture and some comments. Of course, I do not know what each one's needs are, but they are written and sent forth with a prayer that the letter will be a blessing to each one who reads. Many times some have taken the time to let me know that it was just what they needed at that very time. This causes me to thank the Lord because He knew and I did not.

The Lord impressed me to write the book, *Bible Chain of Truth*. Most of this was written at night at home after working in the office all day. Many times I would be so inspired, that around midnight I would be just trembling from exhaustion. After it was finished, and I began to relax, I had a heart attack. It seemed that I would go. I could not breathe and the pain was severe. The family was there and kept praying. I asked them to open the window and it seemed the fresh air did me so very much good. God did come on the scene and touched my body. My sister Mary Embly of California flew out to care for me for two weeks, and I regained my strength. I trusted God fully and had no thought of calling a doctor. He gave me precious Scriptures to stand upon and His Word never fails.

Again, I was able to work at the office, but my health was not the same as before, and I felt some weakness, but of course I was not young anymore.

In 1973, I again began to have heart attacks; also had high blood pressure and low blood sugar, as well as possibly other things which I did not understand. Again and again, it seemed I could not live. The Lord would touch me and I tried to keep going. The first of the year I flew down to Louisiana to get away for a change and be with my nephew and his wife, Byron and Clarice Pruitt. While there, I had more attacks. The ministers came and prayed. As one minister stated, they had to rebuke death. God raised me up, and after having the last attack on Thursday, I took the plane a day or two later and came home. Again I had attacks, and in May I got so weak from the attacks that I had to take my bed, only being up for a short time. Sis. Ruby Stover stayed with me, also Sis. Evelyn Taylor, and Sis. Cassie Wilson. After a month and a half, I again was able to go to the office. My strength returned slowly, but God did give me back my health. It is precious to know that "By His stripes we are healed." He also has told us, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." I feel I am living on borrowed time.

On Feb. 8th of this year (1978) I was 64 years of age, and God has been good to me. I am not strong, but able to be at the office daily and continue to labor in helping to send out the printed gospel.

Lawrence and I have carried a burden for this work, and together we have prayed about many burdens that have confronted the work. One of the severest blows that came to us was the back taxes that we were required to pay which we felt were not exactly due, but we complied with the requirements. It was a heavy burden to me until we got a letter from a Brother in the Lord who said that God showed him in a dream that the Lord wanted him to send a thousand dollars to the work. When we received that, tears came to my eyes, and my heart was full of thanksgiving because I knew that God had let us know that this was His burden and not ours. What God takes care of we do not need to trouble about. With a prayer of thanksgiving I gave it over to the Lord and trusted Him with faith that the

balance would be paid. How thankful we were when the \$19,000 were paid and we again were clear. God saw us through.

I am thankful for all God has done for me down through the years, and as I grow older I know He will see me through to the end of the way. One day the devil tried to make me feel concerned about my future. When I become unable to work, what will I do? The Scripture came to me, "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work." II Cor. 9:8. Surely God will take care of all my needs as long as He leaves me here in this world. I do trust that as long as I live I can labor here in the publishing work. Pray for me and for the work, that God will keep His hand upon it and that souls will be blessed through the labors of the dear workers here. The clean, pure gospel of Jesus Christ will help any soul that will accept it. God has a called-out few from this world of sin, who are His children, and they are separate from all divisions and worldly attachments. One of these days He will come in the clouds of glory to take His children home, and I want to be among that number.

Your companion in tribulations,

—Sis. A. Marie (Pruitt) Miles

CHAPTER SEVENTY-FIVE

Entering the Year of 1978

The cycle of time in the order of God's plan brought us to the New Year of 1978, and the 71st annual Christmas meeting here at Guthrie, Okla., closed with victory on Sunday, Jan. 1st.

In the autumn of 1977, Sister Carrie Sheppard of Louisiana came to Guthrie to help Sister Opal Kelly in the Spanish literature work. Then Sister Sandra Whitson of Alabama attended the recent Guthrie Christmas meeting and remained to also aid Sister Kelly in her Spanish gospel work by typing material and punching tape on the Justowriter machine in order to produce the Spanish type forms for printing more Spanish literature. Sister Sandra was very efficient in that work and her services unto the Lord were appreciated. She lived with the other single women in the workers' residence home next door to the office on the corner.

In January, 1978, a new booklet entitled, *Lest We Forget*, came off the press. This very inspiring booklet of 72 pages was written by Sister Margaret (Johnson) Eck, a long-time minister, whom this writer had known for more than 50 years—ever since she moved with her parents to Guthrie, Okla., in 1927. Originally, Sister Margaret intended to write a letter of life experiences just to her children and grandchildren, but she was encouraged to put it in book form for the reading public.

In the winter of 1977-78, a new chapel of the Church of God was under construction at the community known as "Four Corners" which is north of Vinita, Okla., on Highway No. 2 where Bro. Kenneth Probst is the pastor.

In January, 1978, Bro. Egbert Allen, minister of Norwood, Mo., received a special invitation to attend a church convention on Grand Cayman Island, British West Indies, beginning Feb. 5th. Thirty-one years previously, Bro. Allen had spent several months in gospel work on that island. Accepting the invitation, Bro.

Allen went to Grand Cayman by plane on Feb. 3, 1978, accompanied by Bros. George Hammond and C. C. Carver.

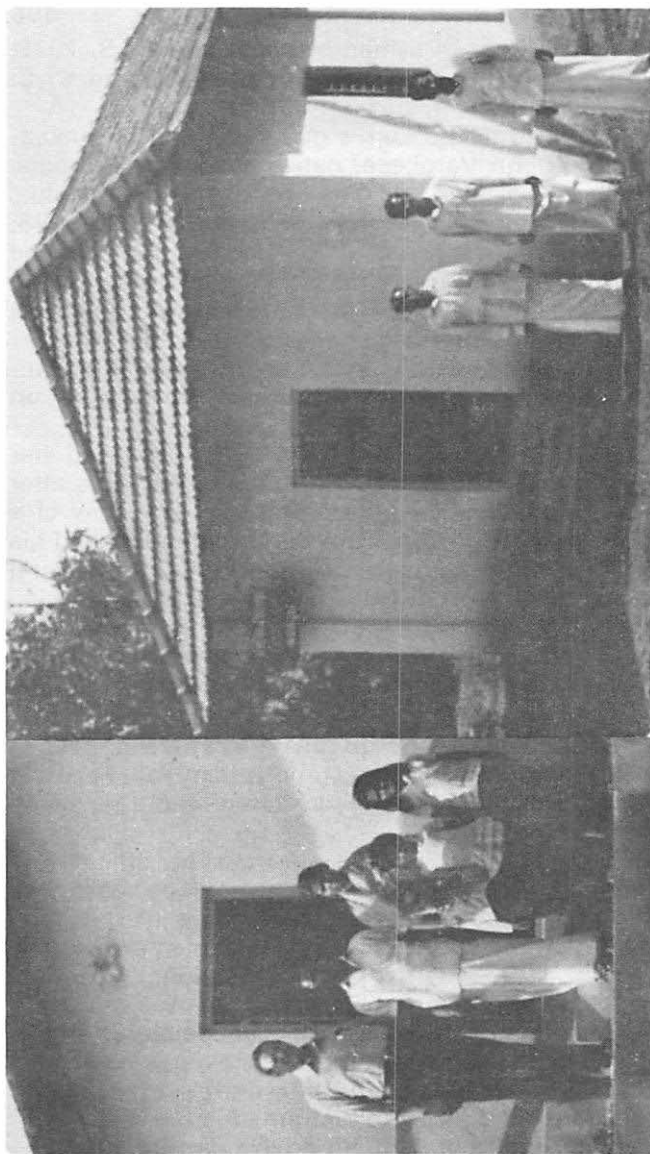
In response to the Lord's directions and the invitation of Bro. John Varghese, native missionary in India, Bro. Richard Madden, who is the pastor at Sapulpa, Okla., left the airport at Tulsa, Okla., on Jan. 16, 1978, and arrived safely in South India on Jan. 18 to attend the annual campmeeting at Karikkom, India, which began that same day. The Lord blessed in that meeting in a special way, and Bro. Varghese took him to other mission stations in that area. With his mission accomplished, Brother Madden returned home safely on February 13.

Sister Hettie Barton of Tulsa, Okla., reached her Home above on Jan. 26, 1978, at age of 84 years after an illness of several months. She was the widow of a well-known minister, Bro. Sam Barton, who finished his course and won the crown of life in 1970. The funeral service of Sister Barton was conducted in Tulsa, Okla., by Bro. Willie Murphey, assisted by Sister Ruth Murphey. Interment was in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Tulsa, beside her husband to await the general resurrection.

Bro. and Sister Oscar Wall of Vinita, Okla., long-time supporters of this gospel literature ministry, observed their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 12, 1978. Their children and grandchildren held a reception for them on that day.

The gospel literature goes out from this office every working day in the form of tracts, papers, or books. The press count of the February, 1978, issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper was 11,500 copies, which marked the completion of 55 years of its publication.

In 1954, the Faith Publishing House was granted a charter from the State of Oklahoma to operate as a non-profit, non-stock religious corporation. No one connected with the work receives any personal profit, and all income goes into the production of more literature. Nominal allowances are made for actual services rendered. Accurate records are kept of all receipts and



Bro. Richard Madden, left, and group of believers in South India with Bro. John Varghese on extreme right.

expenditures. Annual business meetings are held, as well as special meetings when there is business requiring the attention of the Board. The present five members of the Board of Directors are as follows: Geneva Ray, member, Randall Flynn, member, Maybelle Pruitt, secretary, Marie Miles, vice-president, and Lawrence Pruitt, president. The corporation is governed with by-laws which had been approved by the Board of Directors. One provision is that the president is responsible for the general supervision of the publishing work when the Board is not in session.

The present regular workers who volunteered their services are listed as follows: Mildred (Dolly) Brown, Eldonna Rhoades, Elois Eck, Bob Sallee, Randall Flynn, Wayne Murphey, Marie Miles, Maybelle Pruitt, and Lawrence Pruitt. Sister Linda Craddock prepares the noon meal for the workers four days each week. Sister Thelma Sprague, Sister Geneva Ray, Sister Opal Kelly, Sister Sandra Whitson and Bro. Leslie Busbee help part-time with the proofreading, correcting manuscript, writing copy for the monthly and quarterly publications, and help in the folding and wrapping of the *Faith and Victory* paper on the days it is prepared for mailing each month. Often, others from the Guthrie congregation come in to help on those days, for which we are grateful. Sister Kelly and Sister Whitson keep busy about full-time with the Spanish literature ministry.

As this Seventh Edition goes to press, I wish to repeat and emphasize that our Lord and Master, whose we are and whom we serve, has dealt very graciously with us, His co-workers, in regard to His gospel publishing work over the past 55 years. Many trying times have faced the work, and as we looked to the Lord in prayer, He miraculously supplied wisdom to solve problems, sent needed workers, and provided the means to keep the gospel literature going forth. All praise and honor unto the Lord of the harvest!

This literature ministry is essentially a faith work, as the receipts from sales alone would not meet the expenses. Much literature is sent free of charge, and

where prices are quoted they are at cost or below. Without the free-will contributions of the saints and those who had a love for the "old-time" truth over the past half century, this publishing work could not have survived, and neither can it continue without that support. Consequently, we owe a debt of gratitude to the saints and friends who so faithfully and sacrificially co-operated with us in getting the gospel literature out to this perishing world in obedience to the Great Commission. It has been a pleasure to be "workers together" with the Lord and each child of God in His great cause. The full reward will be at the end of a faithful race.

Some saints have made bequests to the publishing work in their last will and testament, which is to be commended. They will know that at least some of their



Sandra Whitson who helps in the Spanish literature ministry

possessions will be working for the Lord after they are gone from this life. A Christian will is one in which a gift is directed to the work of the Lord in its various phases.

Though this writer had been closely connected with this publishing work for 55 years, it will be twenty years ago in October, 1978, when he resigned his position with a local commercial printing plant and began (1958) to work full-time at the Lord's Print Shop. I felt the call of the Lord for this phase of His work, and I have done my best to be a good servant of God and His Church. Unless the Lord sees fit to heal me, I will not be able to continue in the work much longer, but the Lord will have a man to fill the vacancy. I am not old—just going on 67—but with the time and strength the Lord extends to me I want to be faithful at my post of duty.

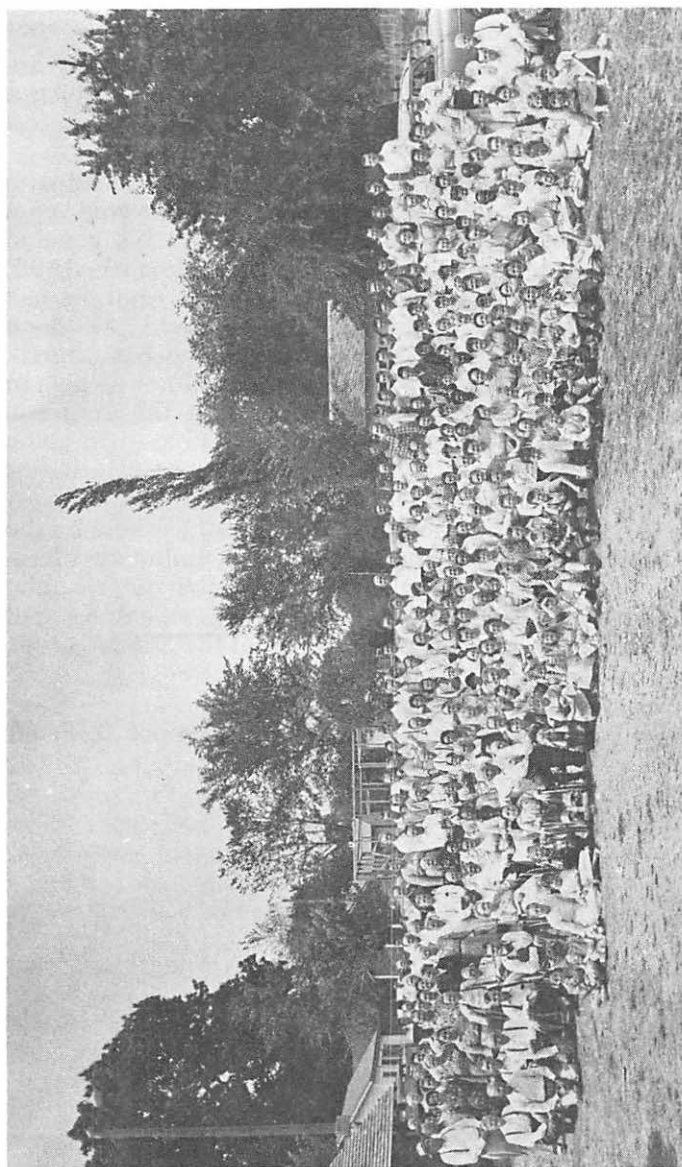
As I finish my course in this world, I expect by the unmerited favor of God to join that multitude of redeemed souls that no man could number which John the Revelator beheld in his vision, and I hope to bring at least a few precious sheaves to lay at the Master's feet. Will you meet me there?

Your servant in the Body of Christ,

—Lawrence D. Pruitt



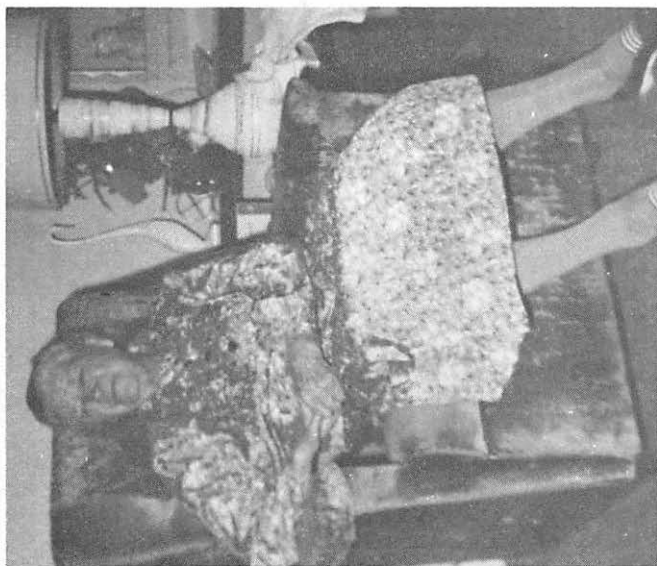
**Miscellaneous Pictures on
the Following Pages**



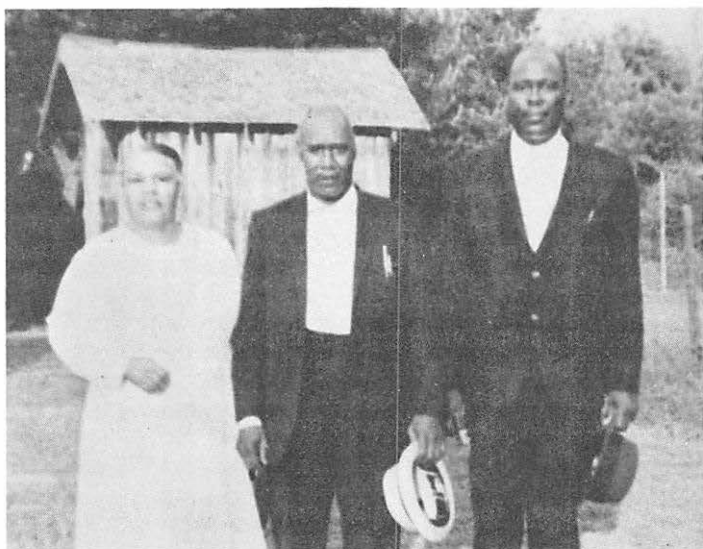
National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, in July, 1954



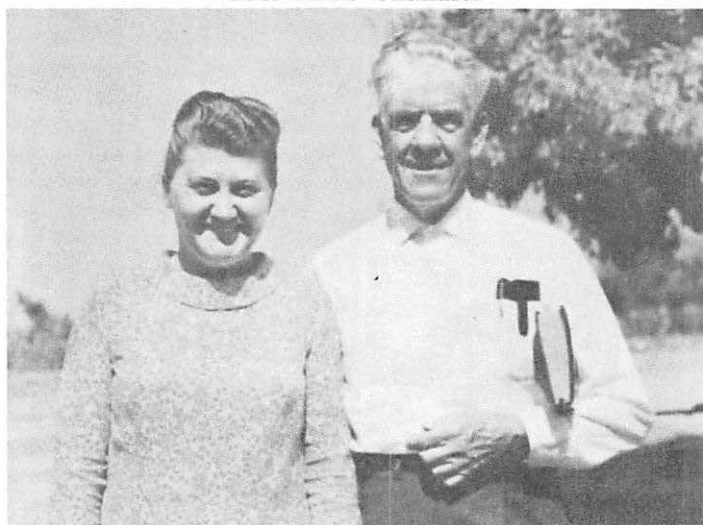
Bro. Sam and Sister Armilda Abbott standing with the Evangelistic Truck in 1961



Sister Essie (McDonald) Wilson, age 94 on April 1, 1978.



**Sister Jimmie and Bro. Lewis Williams, and
Bro. Isaac Chandler**



Bro. A. E. (Gene) and Sister Loretta Harmon



Left to right: Sisters Ruby Stover, Marie Miles, and Armilda Abbott at the National campmeeting



**Bro. and Sister Herschel Hargrave and family,
pastors at Goulds, Florida**



Sister Katherine Williams, pastor at Boley, Okla.



Paulino and Edith (Cole) Lara and children, missionary family at Patzcuaro, Baja, Mexico



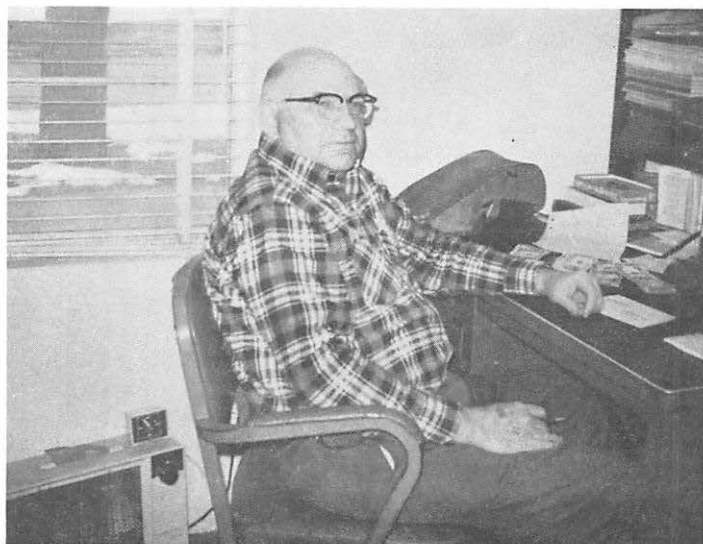
**Bro. Bob Forbes, left, and Bro. Egbert Allen
who held a tent meeting at Muncie, Indiana**



**Bro. Mart and Sister Verna Samons holding a
tent meeting at Crescent, Oklahoma**



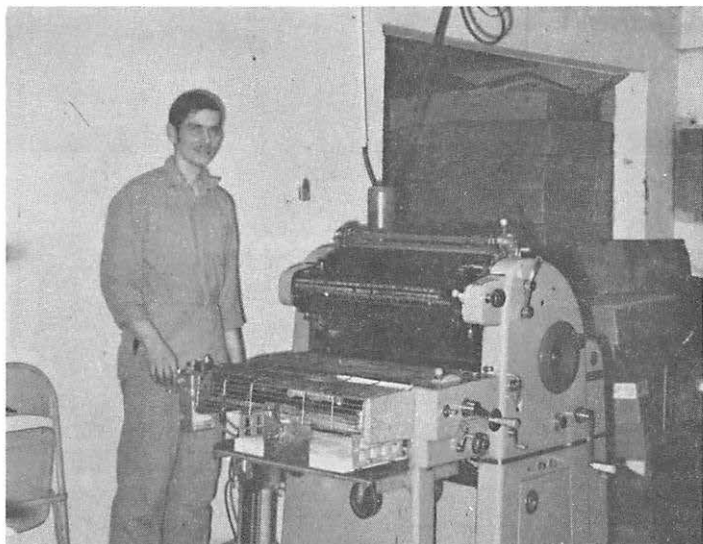
Marie Miles at her desk



Your servant, Lawrence Pruitt, at his desk
476



Eldonna Rhoades in the correspondence department



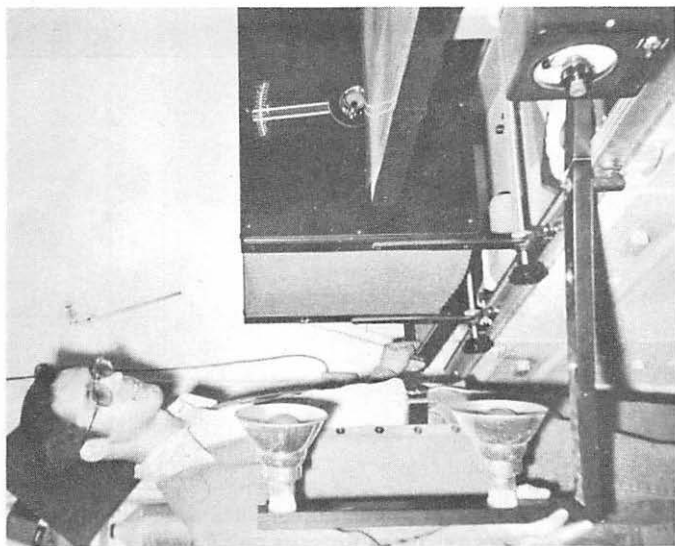
**Wayne Murphey printing tracts on MGD Offset Press
477**



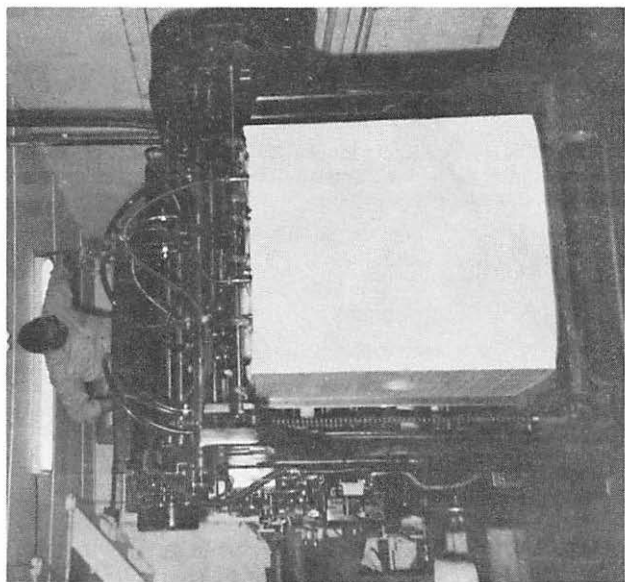
Maybelle Pruitt working in the subscription department



Maybelle stenciling addresses on *F. & V.* papers



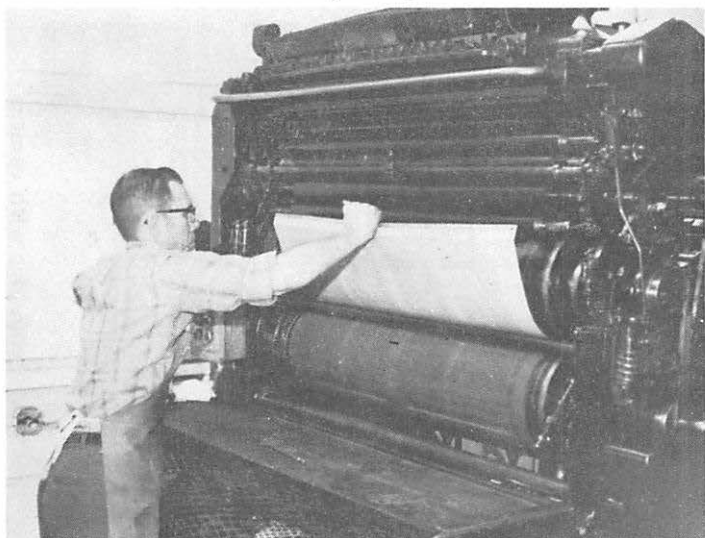
Bob Sallee standing with camera



Randall Flynn checks the ink fountain as the Harris press feeds and prints *Faith and Victory* papers from the 4-foot stack



Bob Sallee “burning” image from negative to metal press plate



Randall Flynn puts on new plate to print *Faith and Victory*



**Geneva Ray feeding the machine which folds, pastes,
and trims the *Faith and Victory* paper**



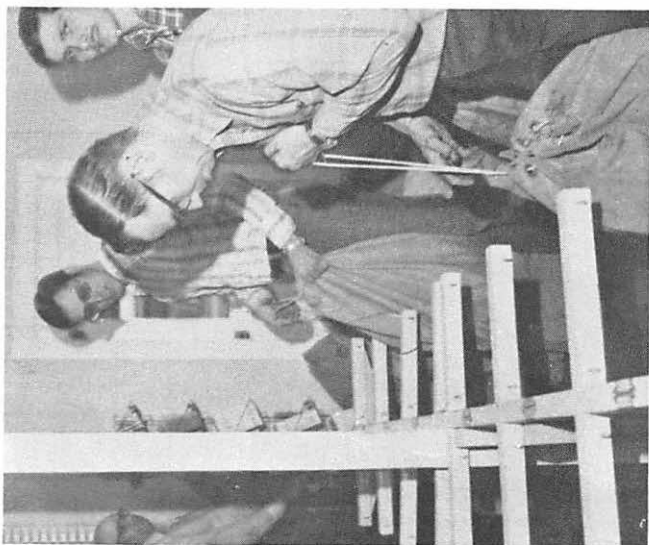
**Wayne Murphey feeding same machine
481**



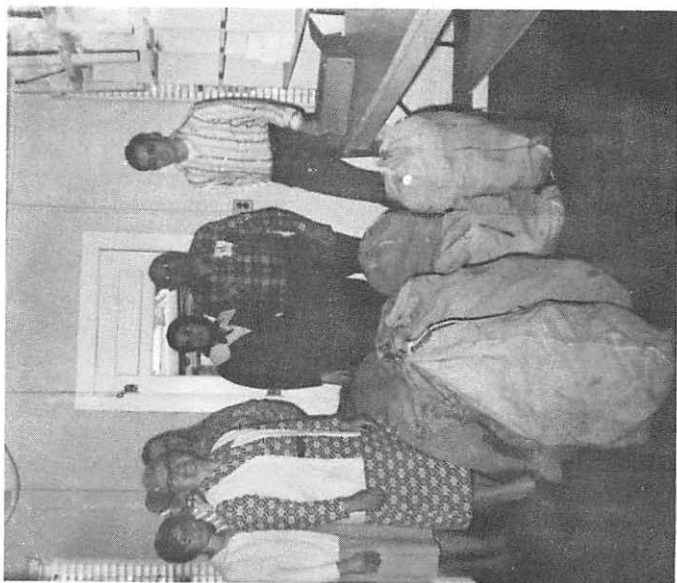
**Mildred (Dolly) Brown wraps rolls of *F. & V.* papers
and the editor puts them in mail sacks**



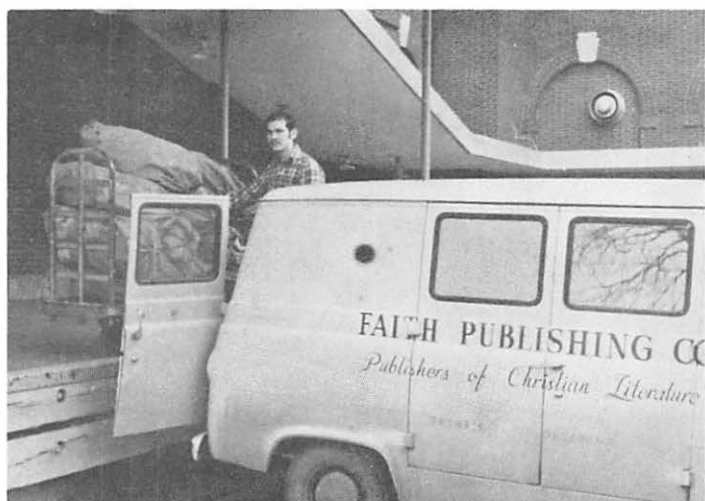
**From left to right: Marie Miles, Elois Eck, and
Maybelle Pruitt wrapping *F. & V.* papers**



Randall, Bob, and Wayne closing up the mail sacks



F. & V. paper ready to go out



**Wayne Murphey unloading the F. & V. at the
Guthrie Post Office**



**Workers at office and shop in March, 1978
484**



Lawrence Pruitt setting type on Model 31 Linotype



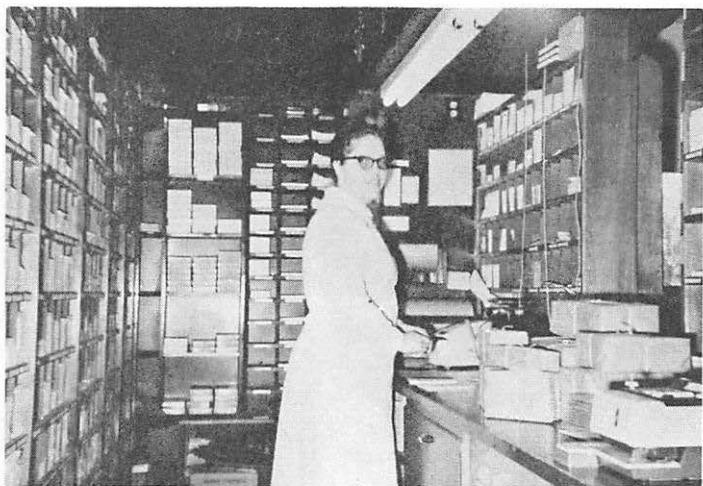
**Elois Eck in foreground and Maybelle Pruitt
wrapping *Bible Lessons***



Bob Sallee printing books on the Chief Press



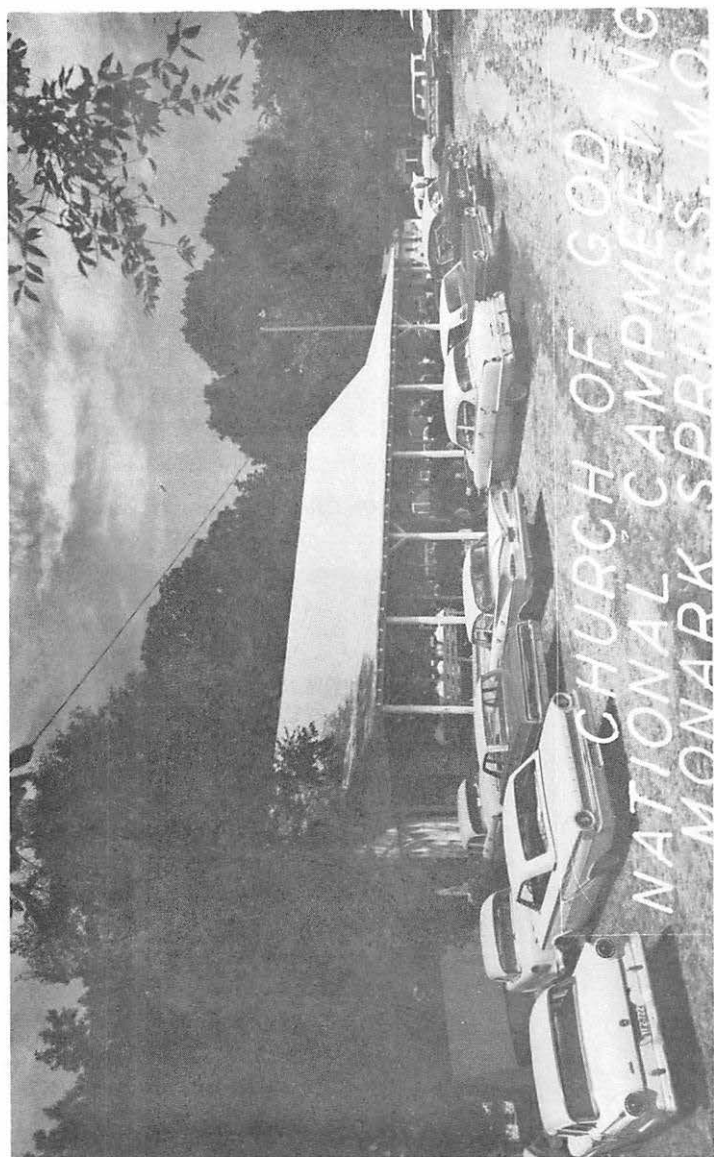
Left to right: Rosalie Johnston, Maybelle Pruitt, Roberta Hightower, and Dolly Brown compiling books from a revolving table, the invention of Bro. Clifford Wilson.

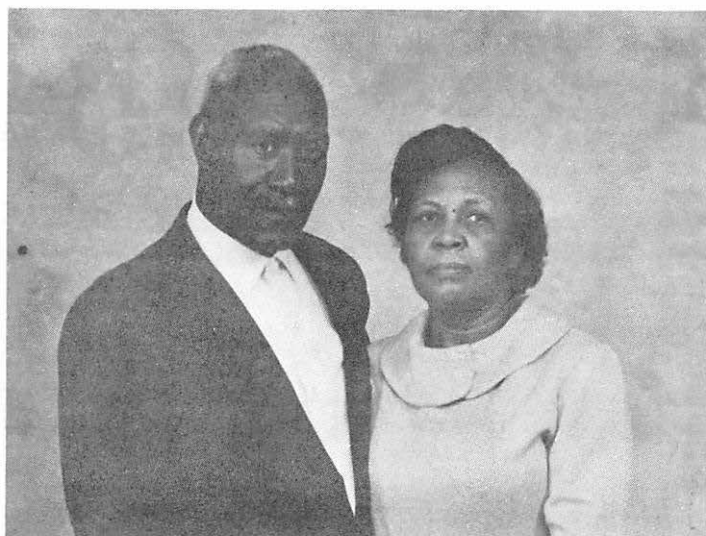


Mildred (Dolly) Brown filling orders to mail



**Gene Beisly (wearing apron) printing
The Beautiful Way papers
487**

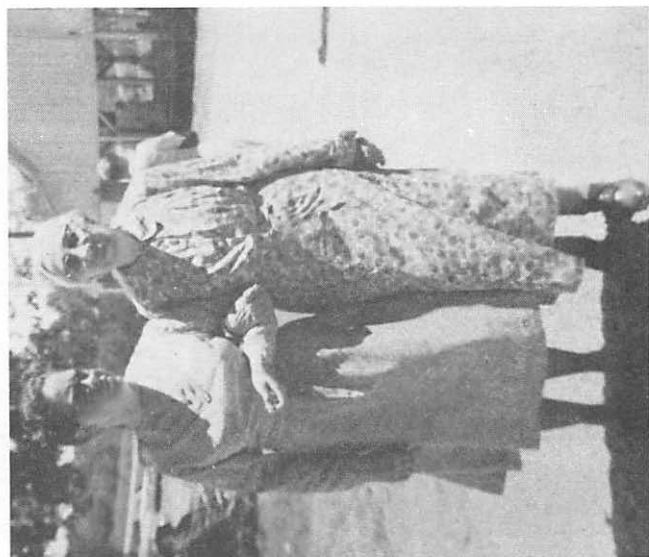




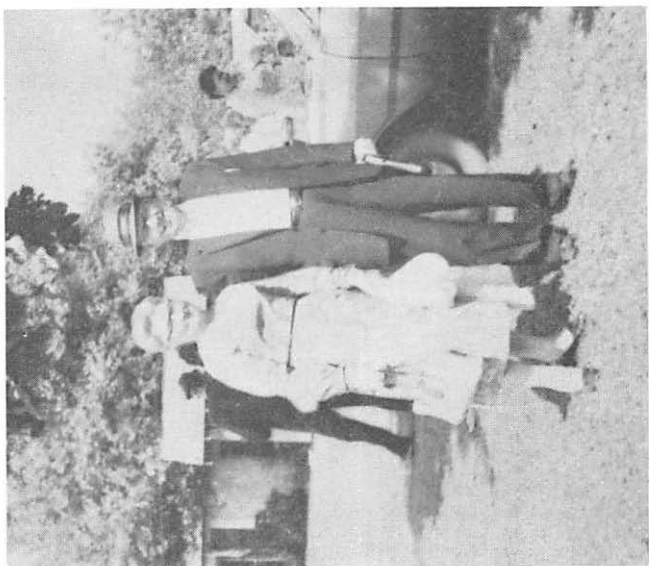
**Bro. Lewis and Sister Cornelia Williams,
pastors at Wichita, Kansas**



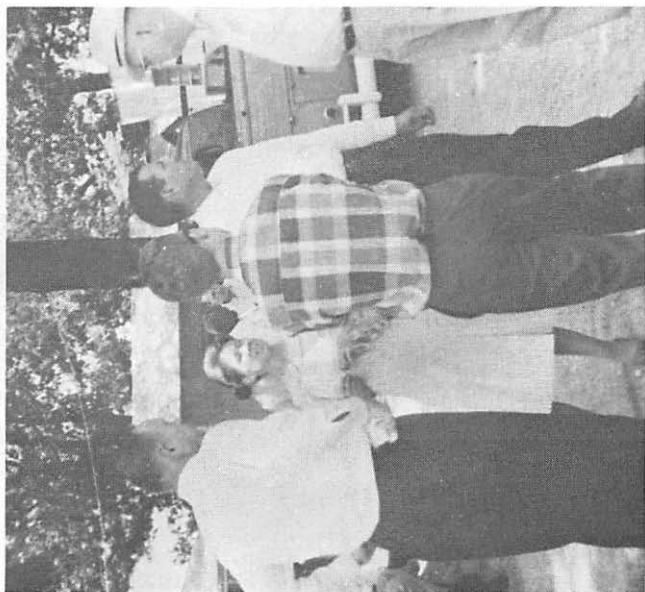
Group at Guthrie Assembly Meeting in Dec., 1970



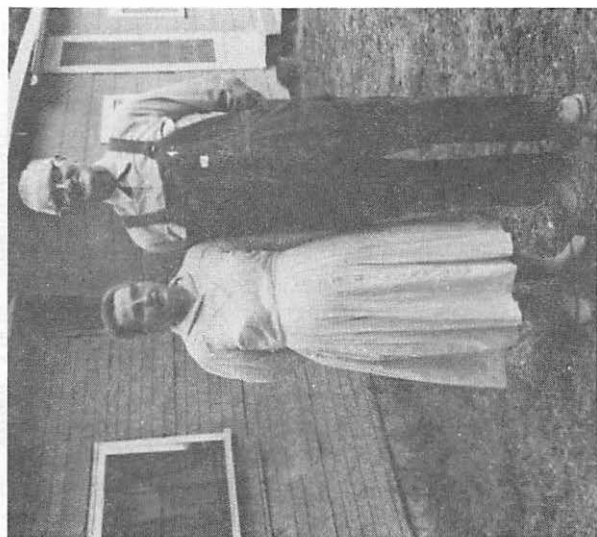
Sisters Dolly Brown and Nellie Poulos
at the National campmeeting



Brother Ira and Sister Ruby Stover at
Tulsa, Okla., campmeeting



Group at National campmeeting in 1968,
Lawrence Pruitt on the extreme right



Bro. Ralph M. and Sister Inez Beisly. He
was business manager of the National
campmeeting many years and kept his
work clothes on for duties on the grounds.

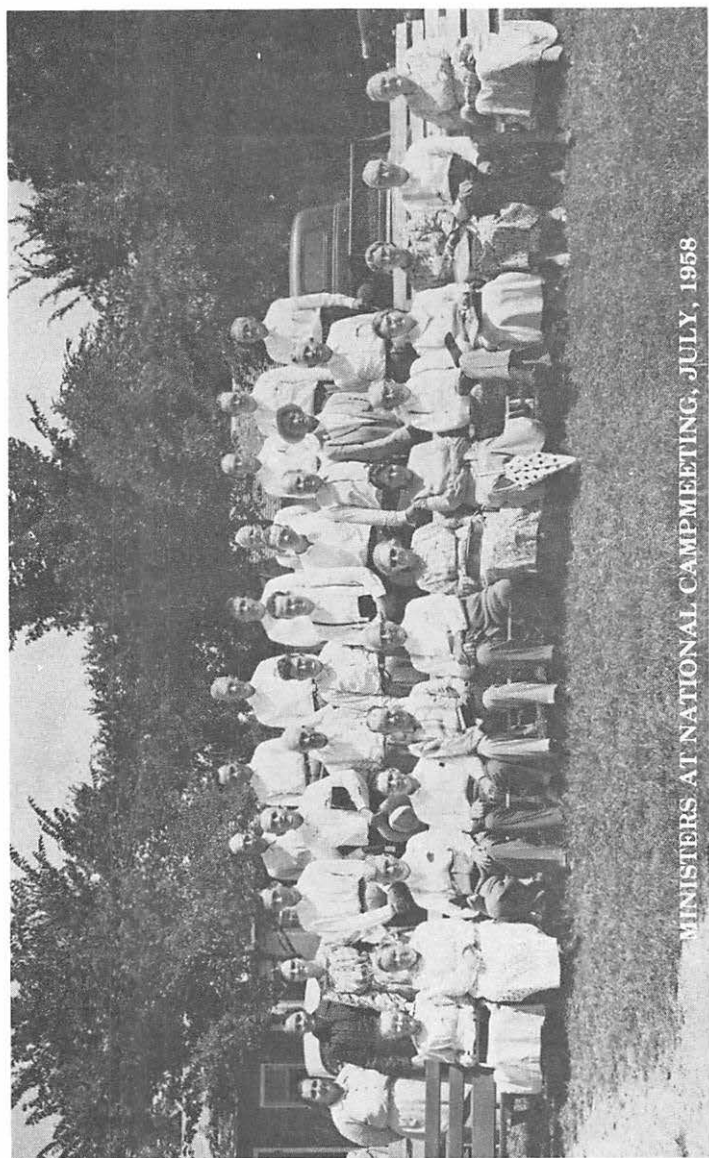


Bro. Harland Smith, left, and Bro. Willie Murphey eating their supper by kerosene light at El Alamo, Mexico, mission in 1967



Left to right: Bros. Egbert Allen, Earl Bliss, and Cecil Carver in Florida, Feb., 1978





MINISTERS AT NATIONAL CAMPMEETING, JULY, 1958





MINISTERS AT NATIONAL CAMPMEEETING, JULY, 1968

