

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Joys Beyond

As I look through the windows of this tenant clay,
On the beautiful things of earth,
And see how their glories so soon decay,
Their value but a moment's worth,
I see the people as an angry throng
As they're rushing far and wide,
With all their glitter as they pass along,
They are never satisfied.

For things more beautiful, things more rare,
For pleasures more complete;
They are toiling, searching for the transient joys
That only mean defeat.
For what would it profit you and me
If the whole world we should gain?
Could we carry ought to eternity?
Would it cool the burning flame?

There are treasures more lasting and joys more deep
Than these mundane shores can give;
And after these do the wise ones seek
While in this land they live.
And using this world as a garment loose
That must soon be cast aside,
They seek those pleasures the Spirit produces
Just on the other side.

As we see by the light of the opening day
The stars are all concealed,
So earthly pleasures fade away
When Jesus is revealed.
Beyond the gates on that golden shore
My heart is anchored fast,
Where a robe, and a crown, and a mansion are mine
That evermore shall last. —Ulysses Phillips

An Invitation

What a wonderful opportunity God offered to mankind when he said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor 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." (Matt. 11:28-30).

The Lord is sending forth a call to all, both young and old, small and great, to every one that will come. To every nation, people, kindred, and tongue, "Who-soever will may come." The invitation is to all. No one is left out. This call is to you, my sinner friend. No matter how great your sins may have been, or how long you have lived in sin, "If you will hear his voice, harden not your heart." Let the desire of thy heart be made known unto him, and with the fruits of thy lips confess, and the Lord will satisfy your soul. To those who are sick and tired of sin, there is a fountain open for you where you can plunge in and be washed from your sins. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near: 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." (Isa. 55:6-7).

Remember, the invitation is to all. If there are any who read these lines, who are in sin and feel that there is no hope for you, remember, the Lord is saying, "Come." "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price." (Isa. 55:1).

Listen, sinner friend, man stands without excuse. This salvation is free, without money and without price to those who will accept the invitation according to his word. "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which satisfieth not?"

There are many who work hard, and spend their money for that which is not bread, spend it for things which are hurtful to both body and soul. This ought not to be. God has given us our lives. He has given us strength to labor for those things which we need. It is our duty to honor Him with our lives, with our means and our all; for, it is through his mercy that we are what we are.

Let us all take warning and flee from sin and destruction while time affords us opportunity. "To-

National Campmeeting—Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., July 20-29.

day, if ye hear my voice, harden not your hearts." There are many souls who have neglected this opportunity, and have slipped from time into eternity, into that endless duration of despair and woe—lost, without God, and without hope.

Let me persuade you, my dear sinner friend, you who are without God and without the hope of heaven, seek Him while time affords you opportunity, ere death comes and snatches you away unprepared to meet Him. It may be that you will have not one moment of warning. There are those whom we may call to mind among our personal friends and relation, who have gone in this manner—gone, as it were, without a moment's warning. Sad, indeed, at best; but how sad, if unprepared. Remember, what happens to others could happen to you. Just a few years ago a man left the job, where the writer was working, at four-thirty in the afternoon. He was apparently in good health, but he was found dead in his bed before morning. We have no assurance of our lives, thus it behooves each of us to be ready for death's summons.

"The fear came upon me, and trembling, which made all my bones shake: When a spirit passed before my face the hair of my flesh stood up." This is the condition of the unsaved when death is staring them in the face.

There is a time appointed for man to meet his God. Job said that his days "passed away as a swift ship." "As the eagle that hasteth to the prey." He realized that time waits for no man. Life is compared to a flower: when it is cut down, it fades away; and as a shadow that continueth not. At the longest, man has but a few short years, then he "Lieth down and riseth not, till the heavens be no more."

Dear sinner friend, let us not waste our time away and be lost in that endless duration of eternal hell. Let us not by our neglect, make our leap into the darkness of eternal damnation.

—A. R. Hightower.

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Put on the Whole Armor

The Christian must put on the whole armor if he expects to be able to be victorious in this spiritual warfare. (Eph. 6:11) "We wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12. I believe the reason many fail in living for God is that they do not put on the whole armor. You may ask, What is the whole armor? Read Eph. 13:19.

It means something to fight sin. The devil is going about seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8).

One of the main things needed is faith. Without faith it is impossible to please God (Heb. 11:6). We must believe the Word of God. It is full of promises to His children. We must have spiritual food or we will get weak and fall. I find the best way to fight the devil is to quote the Scripture to him. Jesus did when he walked on this earth (Luke 4:4-8). If Jesus needed to quote Scripture to the devil, we surely do. Oh, how I praise God for his Word. I am standing

on it to take me to heaven, and I know it will stand as long as we need it. I do not know how I would live without it. I am one of God's isolated ones. I do not get to services much, but I am not isolated from the Lord. O! the precious seasons I spend in communing with Him. I find that if the first thing in the morning I take my Bible and read and pray over it, it gives me new courage and strength for the day. When I was rearing my large family I tried to take time for worship morning and night, and have my family kneel and pray after I read a chapter of the Bible. I believe mothers and fathers need to do this today. I taught my children the Bible and their need of obeying it. I am so glad I started out this way, and I am still reading and studying His Word.

O! dear children of God, we need to take time to serve God. It is the best of anything we can do in this life, and thru all eternity. I urge you again to read your Bible prayerfully, and obey it. Put on the whole armor, then after you have done all, the Bible says to stand. Sometimes we need to stand still and let God work. I think we try to do too much in our own strength. We are to wait patiently on the Lord. We can't hurry the Lord. It is my desire to do something to encourage God's children to stand. We are living in such perilous times! so many are falling away, also being deceived. That is another trick of the devil, to deceive. He doesn't care how close we get to heaven, just so we miss it. But we need not be deceived if we will read and study God's Word. It will surely take us through. God bless one and all and help us to walk in the light, lest darkness come upon us.

Your sister, O. K. Myers.

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An Exhortation

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever." Heb. 13:8. "For I am the Lord, I change not." Mal. 3:6. This world is in a changing stage. Every power, whether spiritual or material is being shaken. "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my word shall not pass away." Mark 13:31. Thank God for this one thing that is not subject to a change. The time is at hand when every person, whether saved or unsaved, should be deeply concerned about getting into that structure that cannot be shaken or changed. Regardless of the conditions of this time world, God's power is just the same. David said, "I will look to the hills from whence cometh my help, my help cometh from the Lord which made heaven and the earth." Look at the greatness and power of our God! "Offer unto God thanksgiving and pay thy vows unto the Most High, and call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me." Psa. 50:14-15. Look into your heart and see if you are doing your best for the Lord. He is our only Hope. Many souls need to be saved. Are you praying without ceasing? It is time to awake to the real need of praying with a soul burden inasmuch that it will touch God on the throne through His Son Jesus, that he will work in behalf of his trusting children. Hold fast to God's unchanging Word. Decide to live by it and

decide to die by it. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. Jude 21. —E. V. Phillips

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God, Take Care of Our Children

For some time I have felt impressed to write to "Faith and Victory" on this line, but due to the fact that it is a very touchy subject I have put it off a time or two. Then the Lord would talk to me about it again and again. So I have been going through a siege of affliction for the past two weeks and He has been talking to me about it again. This is the second time since I have been sick that He has reminded me of it, so tonight, by His help, I undertake to write what has been upon my heart for several months.

How often do we hear these words uttered from the mothers and fathers after their children have gone out to face a bitter world, maybe called into the army or gone out to take a job or wherever they may be: "God, take care of my child. Watch over him (or her) wherever he may be." Do you know, I believe that is just what God expected of us when he entrusted them in our care; and I don't believe God will honor a prayer like that if we have been negligent about watching over our children like He would if we had watched over them like he expected us to.

Dear ones, the devil is after our young people, and don't think he doesn't know their weak places, and that is just where he will try them. I consider it a duty of the parents to watch out for our young people. Don't think because your teen age boy or girl is saved that they do not need your guidance and watchful care any more, for they need you more than ever to help watch out for the traps the devil has set for them. So many boys and girls today are just turned loose (to run wild, I call it) just at the most critical time in their lives. Dear ones, let us not allow this to be among the saints. Let us watch over our girls and boys, and then if the devil succeeds in dragging them down we can say we have done what we could. Nothing would be more heart-breaking to me, than to see one of mine go astray, and to know I hadn't done my best. Dear saints, we need each other's cooperation along this line. We surely can help each other if each parent will do what they can in watching over their own children, and teach them the evil that is just ahead for them if they aren't mighty careful.

The devil goes to campmeetings, too. Yes, he is right there, watching for every chance he can get to devour our young saints. He will plan something for the young people to do every hour they are out of service if they will let him. He will occupy their minds during the services, planning up some place to go or something to do between services so they won't get any good out of the meeting.

Dear young saints, it will pay you to really settle down in the Lord and let the rest of the world go by. I think it is the duty of each parent to do what we can in settling our young people down. Some are

afraid of what others will say about them if they settle down. But don't the Scriptures say, "Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you. For it is better if the will of God be so that ye suffer for well doing than for evil doing." Maybe some of us read this Scripture lightly, not knowing what the word riot means. It means the same as revelry, or uproarious merry making, or to be wildly gay. I think it would be good for the young saints to search themselves and see if they are really settled down in the Lord or if they are still following after riotous living. I think nothing is more beautiful than the life of a young saint that is really settled in the Lord, so that all that matters with them is to be living a consecrated life to God. Young saints, if you will live a consecrated life to God, he will take care of everything else for you. There is nothing too great or too small for him to do for you.

The burden of my heart for the last year has been for the young saints to settle down. I heard others give in prayer requests for the same thing during the campmeetings I was privileged to attend. I would think, that is the burden of my heart, too; but I believe it is our duty, as parents, to do what we can about settling them down. I mean that we can't let our children just go their way and expect them to keep an experience of salvation. They need our guidance and protective care until they are at least settled to a consecrated life to God.

The devil is walking to and fro seeking whom he may devour. So dear ones, young and old, let us be on guard every day and hour and not let him destroy a one of God's little flock. —Mrs. G. A. Nichols.

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Shepherds, Not Butchers

A party of tourists was on its way to Palestine and the guide was describing some of the quaint customs of the East.

"Now," said he, "you are accustomed to seeing the shepherd following his sheep through the English lanes and byways. Out in the East, however, things are different, for the shepherd always leads the way, going before the flock. And the sheep follow him, for they know his voice."

The party reached Palestine, and, to the amusement of the tourists, almost the first sight to meet their eyes was that of a flock of sheep being driven along by a man. The guide was astonished and immediately made it his business to accost the shepherd.

"How is it that you are driving these sheep?" he asked. "I have always been told that the Eastern shepherd leads his sheep."

"You are quite right, sir," replied the man. "The shepherd does lead his sheep. But you see I'm not the shepherd. I'm the butcher." —Sel.

If anyone has any of the books printed by the Gospel Trumpet Company before 1910, which they will sell, please notify Faith Pub. House, Guthrie, Okla. or Bro. William Summers, 305A North High St., Belleville, Ill.

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Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century: the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the world and entire devotion to the service and the will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ; and separation from all human organizations—such are not authorized in the Word.

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THE BEAUTIFUL WAY

"The Beautiful Way" a four-page leaflet for children is published quarterly in thirteen leaflets, one for each week. Marie Miles Editor, assisted by others.

Subscription price: 60¢ per year for single copies. 40¢ each subscription in quantities of five or more to one address for a yr. (Pay quarterly if you desire).

Editorials

We are very happy to report a good all day meeting at Guthrie, Okla. on Easter Sunday. The Lord gave us a beautiful warm day. The sun, shining in its glory upon His creation, displayed the handiwork of God and His goodness to all men without any respect of persons. The very atmosphere seemed to be charged with His love and goodness as saints and lovers of the truth began to gather into the meeting house. They came from the east, west, north, and south until the building was packed with happy, God-fearing men and women, boys, and girls. Their friendly greeting and spiritual fellowship was evident everywhere. The Spirit of God was in preeminence. The singing was in the Spirit as the saints made melody in their hearts unto the Lord.

Sister Lottie Joiner of Louisiana was anointed with an appropriate message for the morning service,

and the anointing increased in richness as she brought forth the blessed truths, and the saints rejoiced in spirit and had an "amen" in their hearts.

The sisters had brought an abundance of wholesome food, which was served in the dining hall at noon. Afternoon the ordinances of the Bible were observed. First, the baptismal service, which was carried out according to the commands of the Savior on record in Matt. 28:19. Bro. W. Murphey officiated. Then the washing of feet as taught by the Scripture, John 13:13, 14, 15: "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then your Lord and Master have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. [Love to God and His Word makes it a duty, loving service.] For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." In the 17th verse Jesus said, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

Next, the Lord's Supper was observed: the supping of the fruit of the vine (grape juice) and the breaking of bread, which represents His blood that was shed for our redemption and His broken body, which reminds us of His immense suffering. It is written: "With his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24.

Bro. W. W. Crawley of Okemah, Okla. officiated in these ordinances and gave us some good instruction with truth concerning these subjects which all the saints enjoyed. Nearly one hundred happy saints took part in these services, and God was honored and praised above all. A holy quietness and solemnity settled down upon the redeemed as they partook of the bread and supped the juice of the grape. The Scripture says: "He washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes." Gen. 49:10, 11.

Bro. Murphy Allen was used of the Lord in the night service. His message was timely and well given. It was enjoyed by the saints. We appreciate the saints and others that came in to be with us in the Lord's services on Easter Sunday, and the day will be long remembered. Bless the Lord, and let us not forget all of his benefits and gracious goodness to the children of men.

In this issue you will find quite a number of notices of the different campmeetings scattered in different places where the saints are working in harmony for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God among men, which Paul calls the church which is the body of Christ functioning in the world but not of the world.

There are a number of campmeetings to be held in the eastern states by some who call themselves the church of God, but they are split-off parts that the enemy is using to bring about confusion. This condition is often caused by some preacher getting too big for the humble place where God would have him labor, and he builds a little pen for himself where he holds some precious souls so he can "Lord it over God's heritage," speaking evil of the true way and of God's humble ministry to hold souls under HIS influence.

The campmeeting advertised in this paper to be held at Muncie, Ind. beginning July 13th is the only

one I know of in the east where God's free saints will gather this summer to enjoy true holiness teaching, the doctrine of the Bible.

In the 17th chapter of St. John, Jesus prayed not only for his disciples at that time to be one, but he prayed also that all should be one who believed on him through their word. This is what he said, beginning at the 20th verse: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one as thou, Father, art in me and I in thee, that they all may be one in us: [For what purpose, Lord?] that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the WORLD MAY KNOW THAT THOU HAST SENT ME, AND HAST LOVED THEM AS THOU HAST LOVED ME." Jesus was pouring out his burdened heart to the Father for his disciples to be one, and he stressed the fact that they be one that the world might know and see. It is no wonder that the enemy is working so hard to make factions and divisions. He wants to confuse honest souls and hide the true church or body of Christ from the world (sinners) that would get saved if they could see the oneness of God's people. But in this day we hear them crying, "Lo, here is Christ, and lo, there is Christ." A true minister will suffer long and bear and forbear a long time before he will consent to any division. I do not mean by this that a true minister will compromise with the devil, but will suffer and wait upon God to show up the wrong. Many times some will believe or get wrong ideas upon the Scriptures and may act in a way that grieves the minister, but they need teaching in the meekness of the Lord with forbearance until God can get understanding to them. Honest, God-fearing ministers will not be hasty in cutting off any member, but will bear and look to the Lord that it may be healed.

Paul, speaking of the church which is the body of Christ, said, "In whom all the building [not a part of it] fitly framed together [not apart] groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye [saved souls] also are builded together [not apart] for an habitation of God through the Spirit." God inhabits each member and causes all to work together. I think of what the apostle Paul said to those who were beginning to make division in the Corinthian church. Read it in 1 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 in the same mind and in the same judgment." Wherever Satan can get contentions started in a congregation, he is getting division started, and someone, or more than one, is manifesting carnality. In this congregation they were contending, each one for his preacher, as we read in the 12th verse. And Paul, seeing what the enemy was doing, took a stand against the whole thing. No doubt, if Paul had been carnal in any respect he would have used his influence

against the other ministers and brought charges in different ways and pulled off the majority of saints with him into a pen of his own. But consider his humility and his love for oneness. He just told them plainly that Christ was not divided and he would not tolerate any such spirit working. He would not make division for selfish gain or pre-eminence over just a portion of God's heritage. He humbled himself unto God and let Him work out the situation and keep them all together.

In the third chapter he openly declared that they were carnal. In the 3rd verse he says: "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?" Paul declared where there was strife and divisions it was the fruit of carnality, and it is just the same today. He let them know that true ministers are workers together with God and are to be looked upon as such. Each have different places in the body to fill, and after it is all done, it is God that gives the increase and the preachers are left out so far as being followed into division. I can and will declare on the authority of God's word that wherever there is a division among the children of God, it is either caused by carnality, or sometimes through ignorance as to God's leadings or an understanding of His precious Word.

I have been in the congregation here at Guthrie for the past twenty-seven years. At one time there were twelve ministers in the congregation and at present there are six. We know wherein we speak about these things, because experience has taught us some precious lessons along this line. God wants each of us to have good thoughts toward one another, even as his thoughts are good toward each of us, and to esteem others better than ourselves. We teach the saints here at Guthrie to do this very thing and to practice just what the Bible teaches. We teach and instruct the saints to have respect and love one minister just as much as the other, even though they may and do get more soul food when one preaches than another, as they must remember that God may be feeding some precious souls with this humble vessel whose preaching especially appeals to them. If all will do this, it will head off carnality and division, as nearly all the divisions start among ministers, and is encouraged by the members taking sides with one or the other. He would be a sorry vessel indeed that passed himself off as a minister and would have no influence in a congregation.

I have written it before and spoken it publicly, and I am declaring again that if ministers in a congregation will get really sanctified and retain that experience, there will be no divisions there. When differences come, they will be humble enough to bear and suffer until God clears it out of the way and will hold the flock together. Division is a direct sign of carnality. Some one just wants and will have his way, no matter if the flock is divided and scattered for the wolves to devour. Some preachers manifest themselves like the woman that stole the child and put her dead child in the other mother's arms. Sol-

omon offered to cut the child in two and give half to one mother and half to the other. The mother who stole the child said, "Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it." But the true mother's heart yearned for her son to live, and she said, "O my Lord, give her the living child." Read it in the latter part of the third chapter of first Kings. The true minister loves the flock and is not willing for it to be divided.

Brethren, let us keep filled with the true love of God and move with compassion, fearing God. Let amputation of any member be the last thing, and then only when God makes it exceedingly plain. Be sure that the enemy does not inflate you and you listen to his lying counsel. Jonah, when in the whale's belly with the weeds wrapped around his head, cried unto God and said, "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy."

Dear saints of God, whenever a minister comes among you and begins to talk about this and that minister and speak slightly of different ones, flaring their faults, you may know that he is sowing discord for such is a start of division. And you can safely decide that he has carnality in his heart. Sometimes those that are not ministers do these things also. Let us be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, walk in the Spirit and we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

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Bro. Everett Hilbun of Louisiana and Bro. Wilson of California just closed a successful meeting at Shawnee. Some were saved and a number were baptized. Bro. and Sister Clyde Lea also helped in the meeting.

At present, Bro. Wilson and Lea are holding a meeting at Webb City, Mo. where Bro. Merrill Williamson is pastor. Bro. Hilbun and Sister Lottie Joiner are here at Guthrie having a meeting. We are looking forward for a good meeting and trusting God to work in the saving of souls and the building up of the faith of the saints.

An evangelistic company consisting of Bro. and Sister Carver, Sister Ruth Murphey and Sister Freeman from La. recently went up into the northern states to work in the Lord's vineyard. Bro. and Sister Carver stopped at Anderson, Ind. for a meeting, and the others went to another part of that country.

Bro. Key and Bro. Salvatore are taking their tent into Alabama where they will have meeting, and in other places as God leads them to places that are ready for the Gospel and true holiness preaching. If any one wants a tent meeting in the southeastern states, write to Ray Key, Box 370, Hammond, La.

A letter from Bro. Williams at Wichita, Kansas informs us that the Lord is blessing them there, and the building of the saints' meeting house in that city is moving along rather slowly; but as the weather warms up and is more settled, they expect to progress faster with the building. They need workmen there and funds to get the building completed. Those whom the Lord makes interested may write to Bro. Lewis Williams, 1750 N. Madison St., Wichita, Kansas.

The need of being busy for the Lord is very great, as hungry souls are found here and there that can be fished out for the Lord.

Campmeeting Notices

The Oregon Campmeeting will be held on the saints' grounds in Jefferson, Ore. this year, Lord willing, June 15th to 24th. God in his love and mercy is blessing his work here and we desire the prayers of all saints to agree with us that God send the ministers of his choosing who will shun not to deliver the truth, and will hold every foul spirit that might try to hinder. God has given us cabins for camping, and springs to sleep on, a dining hall to eat in, and it is all his. We make no charge, and all are welcome. We feel that God is going to give us a glorious gathering of his holy remnant, and desire that all lovers of truth will come. God will have his gospel preached, and if it is obeyed, it will bring justification to the sinner, sanctification to the believer, and healing to the afflicted bodies.

For further information write Emma Busch, Scio, Ore. or Noah White or Sam Wilson, Jefferson, Ore.

If saints coming will have their mail come in care of P. O. Box 41, they can get it on Sundays.

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The campmeeting of the church of God in Hennessey will begin June 8th and continue ten days, ending June 17th, the Lord permitting. It will be run on the free-will offering plan. Everyone come prepared as much as possible to help care for themselves. Bring such things as sheets and other things needed in a campmeeting. For further information write to Bro. Thomas Davis or Sister Willa J. Williams, R. 1, Box 113, Hennessey, Okla.

The meeting will be under the pavilion on the grounds of the chapel. Location: 2 blocks south and three east of bus station.

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The 44th Annual Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held on the General Southern Campgrounds at Hammond, La., to begin Friday, June 29th and continue through Sunday July 8th, 1951.

We invite saints and lovers of the truth to be with us, for we are expecting the Lord to save souls, sanctify believers, and heal bodies of the sick, and praying the Lord to send Holy Ghost ministers who are able to expound the Word of God in its fulness. Let us pray earnestly for a spiritual campmeeting.

Hammond is easily reached by the I. C. Railroad and Greyhound bus. If possible, bring your bed linens, including straw ticks and towels. Meals are served on the ground. All expenses are met on the free-will offering plan. Any who feel led to help supply the needs of this campmeeting send donations of money, canned fruit, vegetables, or any other eats to Max Williamson or Ray Key, Box 370, Hammond, La.

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Sister Minnie Brown, pastor of the Church of God at Muncie, Ind. has been led of the Lord to make preparations for a campmeeting at Muncie this coming summer. Ministers and other saints whom she has informed about the matter, generally speaking, are in one accord about the meeting being at Muncie, as they think it is the right place for a campmeeting in that state, and they will back her up with their prayers and means, and in other ways for a meeting to be held there, controlled by the Holy Spirit.

Date: July 13th to July 21st, inclusive. All lovers of the truth that can, are expected to attend this meeting, and all who need help in soul or body are invited to hear the old-time gospel preached in the power and demonstration of the Spirit. Ministers who are out of joint with God and the working body of his ministers need not expect pulpit privileges.

This meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan, and all whom the Lord directs to do so may send their offerings to Sister Minnie Brown for preparing equipment for the meeting. Her address is R. 6, Muncie, Ind. Meals will be served free and all are welcome to attend and enjoy the ten days of meeting with the children of God, on or near chapel grounds, 1637 W. 14th St.

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The annual National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the camp ground at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, July 20 to 29, 1951, followed by two-day ministers' meeting on July 30th and 31st.

If anyone owning lots or cabins on the national camp ground desires to sell them, please inform the undersigned as soon as possible. Several saints desire to buy lots and cabins.—L. D. Pruitt, Secy.-treas.
1116 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla.

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. Date: August 6-11, 1951. Location 6th St. and W. Warner.

See June issue of "Faith and Victory" for particulars.

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MEETING NOTICE

The church of God of Akron, Ohio is having a tent meeting at 1325 9th Ave. June 29 to July 8, inclusive. We are expecting ministers led of the Holy Spirit to preach the old time gospel: justification, sanctification, and divine healing. The meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan. Meals will be served as usual. All are welcome.

For information write C. R. Jones, 740 Roscoe Ave., Akron 6, Ohio.

Bro. William D. Summers of Belleville, Ill. writes that he has received many requests for prayer since his notice went out in last month's paper. The Summers usually spend Saturday and Sunday of each week in fasting and prayer for the sick, and they would like for others to be in agreement with them. When writing for prayer, please tell them whether you are saved or not, as some failed to do this. Do not send cloths, as they will send them out free.

If any of our readers has the book entitled, "The Light of Christianity," by C. E. Orr, and will part with it, please write to Clara Borger, 1202 W. 1st. St., McCook, Nebr.

J. Bunyan Smith of N. C. sends three requests for prayer. Pray for his wife's foot, for his crippled body, and a tent for gospel services.

Obituaries

Samuel Edward Gracey, born May 6, 1886 to Simon Peter and Harriett Emily Gracey at Great Bend, Kans., departed this life April 1, 1951 at Dover, Oklahoma.

He came to Dover with his parents at an early age. He resided in the community of Dover until his death. He was united in marriage to Julia Ann Phillips Mar. 3, 1919. To this union eight children were born, four boys and four girls. Preceding him in death were his wife and daughter Darlene, three brothers, and one sister. Left to mourn his passing are: three daughters, Mrs. Naomi D. Clay, Mrs. Hattie Mae Crockett, and Julia Ann Gracey; four sons, John H., Billye James, Dudley E., and Luther L. Gracey; three sisters, two brothers, seven grand children and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral sermon by Ulysses Phillips. Texts Heb. 9:27; Matt. 24:42; Rev. 14:13. Burial in Burns' Cemetery near Dover, Okla.

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Bro. Charles Bigely, 75 years of age, was born Aug. 10, 1875 in Dade county, Dadeville, Mo., and departed this life March 10, 1951. He was united in marriage to Jora Landers of Dade County, who preceded him in death. Born to this union were four children. Three sons, Ray, Walter, and Carl preceded him in death, leaving one daughter, Mrs. Florence Kerby. Other relatives include ten grand children, twelve great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Bro. Bigely was a precious saint of God. He gave his testimony a few days before his death that all his hopes were on the other shore. The saints at Webb City greatly miss him, but we feel sure our loss is heaven's gain. Sis. Ersa Carrick conducted services, using Job 14 and 2 Cor. 5 as texts. Burial in Carterville Cemetery.

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James Clifford Sorrell, born Jan. 27, 1877, departed this life March 19, 1951 at the age of 74 years, one month, and twenty days. Dec. 18, 1898 he was united in marriage to Eva Roberts, and to this union seven children were born, six boys and one girl. They are: Alsia Sorrell, Lydia Hall, Foy Sorrell, Audie Sorrell and Earl Sorrell of Myrtle, Mo. and Loy Sorrell of Springfield, Mo. Infant baby deceased. On the 7th day of March, 1927 his wife departed this life. Besides the children, he leaves twenty-three grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, two brothers, five sisters, and a number of friends and relatives, and saints.

About the year of 1936 he lost his eye sight, all of these years feeling his way around and through much afflictions. He was very patient and trusted in God for it all. He gave his heart to the Lord several years ago, and believed and stood for the truth to the end. His desire was to go on and be with the Lord, though he said he hated to leave us all. Some of his last words to us: "Be good and stand for the Bible way."

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Darius Gibson and Bro. Murphy Allen in the church of God chapel near Myrtle, Mo.

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Viola G. Endicott was born at Sassville, Mo., Nov. 11, 1879, and departed this life Feb. 2, 1951, age 71 years, 2 months, and 21 days. She was married to J. G. Endicott at Bly, Mo. May 2, 1897, and to this union six children were born: one daughter, Beulah Mae, passed away at Webb City, Mo. Aug. 15, 1907 at the age of 5 years. The surviving ones are: one son, Jay Endicott of Valdez, Colo., and four daughters, Mrs. Teresa Phipps of Valdez, Ruth Ackerman of Rapid City, S. D., Mrs. Wilma Hunter of Creston, B. C. Canada, and Mrs. Edith Laughlin of Trinidad, Colo. She also leaves eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

No doubt many in the vicinity of Webb City, Mo. remember Bro. and Sister Endicott, where the family resided from 1906 to 1916, from whence they moved to Colo. They lived long enough to observe their 50th wedding anniversary on May 2, 1947. Then seven months later, on Jan. 22, 1948, Brother Endicott was killed in the coal mine at Valdez, Colo.

Sister Endicott was a bright and shining light for the Lord and set a wonderful example for her children to follow. Just a week before she passed away, when a minister visited her, she said, "I'm not sure, but what the Lord wants to take me home. I've been searching my heart

to see if there is anything wrong anywhere, and all is clear." Then on the morning God took her, she said to the minister, "How wonderful it is to be ready, and not have to be trying to get ready at the last minute!" She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. T. R. Justus of Trinidad, Colo.

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Our darling little girl Elizabeth Ann, age 6 years, and 14 days was called to be with Jesus March 15, 1951. She was born near Covington, Ind. Mar. 1, 1945. She leaves to mourn her absence here, her father and mother, Morris and Ruth Childress; four sisters, Gloria, Patsy, Margaret, and Mary; one brother Philip; her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Childress, Beecher City, Ill., her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Jackson of Ramsey, Ill. and one great-grandfather, J. T. Jackson of Hunter, Mo. She leaves several uncles, aunts, and cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Little Betty, as every one knew her, was a loving soul and loved Jesus and tried to work for Him. She knew of His great power to heal and help in every way. But this time He had something better for little Betty. Her death was caused from her dropping a teakettle of hot water on the floor, in which she slipped and fell, burning her back, which caused kidney poison. A short time before she got burned she asked me (her mother) to read some of the "Beautiful Way" about Jesus to her. I read some to her. She learned a little poem from them that morning and was spelling out words from them for me to pronounce to her. She was printing, "I love you, Mother" from them.

Funeral services were conducted by H. R. Hills of Rosamond, Ill., March 18th, near Beecher City, Ill. Interment in Spring Hill Cemetery close by. Bro. Wesley Hardy and daughter, and Mrs. Francis Lockwood of Plymouth, Ind. sang, "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," and "Jewels." A jewel here on earth, a jewel in heaven; she'll brighten the kingdom around God's great throne.

Precious darling, we loved you so,

But when God called you had to go.

We know you were glad to leave us

Just to be safe in the arms of Jesus.

We desire all your prayers that God will heal our broken hearts and help us to do more for Him.

Write In The Spirit

To all the holy brethren and sisters who are in Christ, and each of his ministers to whom He has revealed His glorious truths, to the holy remnant of God who love not their lives unto death but worship God in Spirit and truth; Greetings of love and fellowship in Him:

I am persuaded that any article that is sent in to the Lord's print shop must have the anointing of God to be effectual for God and souls. The Spirit surely follows inspired writing. How often we pick up the "Faith and Victory" and there read an article that blesses our souls just like a Spirit-filled testimony, prayer, or sermon.

I remember when I was a boy about when the Trumpet was first published. I handed one to a man to read as we waited for my folks to come home. The man claimed to be an infidel, was a hard sinner, but when I looked at him a little later the tears were running down his face. God had inspired one of his

little ones to write and the Spirit followed that writing to a lost soul, causing him to know there was a God.

Get the leadings and anointing of the Spirit, and cast your bread upon the waters. God will get it to the soul He seeks to save even if he has to have a child hand it to them.

Just recently a sister told me she felt burdened to write on a certain subject and felt she could not. She felt blank, not knowing even how to start. But as the burden increased, she moved to write with her whole heart looking up to God, saying, "Father, you direct and I will write." God anointed so wonderfully that as she wrote tears flowed and she was overjoyed in God. When it was finished she read it and her heart went up, saying, "Dear God, it is not ME, it's you." That same Spirit will not leave that message when it goes into print, but will carry it to the good of souls. This eternal thing that God has delivered to his redeemed children by His Spirit is not of this world, cannot be fathomed by the wisdom of earthly minds; yet, glory to God, He hath revealed it unto us by His Spirit.

I have felt that perhaps the church has not had the burden for God's print shop that we should have. All should earnestly seek God and, by His Spirit of power, help in the publishing work. Perhaps a larger load has been left for Bro. and Sister Pruitt and Co-laborers than should have been. Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, according to nature, are well over the western slope, and ere long will be called to their reward, and I feel all saints should be in earnest prayer for them, and that God will raise up holy servants to carry on his printing work as long as he lets the world stand. And whomsoever the Spirit moves to write should do so, and submit in the fear and love of God. It may be the short testimony that God impresses on any of us, written in the Spirit, will reach a soul that would have been lost, drawing him to God.

The glorious inspired songs of Zion have worked wonders for God years after they were written. One sister testifies that when she was very sick, almost unto death, and no saints to call on, her unsaved husband sat by her bed side and sang two songs which so strengthened her faith that God healed her. The writer at one time met some radical preachers who knew not the truth, but wished to stir up contention. A few of us (saints) were there and felt led to sing for God. After two or three songs, one of them asked if we could sing No. 401 in Select Hymns. We lifted our hearts to God to anoint us with the same Spirit that Bro. Warner wrote it by. God surely poured out his Spirit on us and it shut the mouths of false preachers, who left right away without starting an argument.

About fifty-five years after Bro. Warner got it from God and many years after he had gone to God, it fought a battle for us and truth.

The Spirit of God must go with his printed truth, and it surely is the duty of each saint to humbly seek the leadings of his Spirit and obey him.

Your brother, saved in Jesus and lost in his love.

—Sam Wilson

Young People's Section

Open The Door of Your Heart

Open the door of your heart, my lad,
To the angels of love and truth;
When the world is full of unnumbered joys;
In the beautiful dawn of youth,
Casting aside all things that mar,
Saying to wrong, "Depart!"
To the voices of hope that are calling you,
Open the door of your heart.

Open the door of your heart, my lass,
To the things that shall abide;
To the holy thoughts that lift your soul
Like the stars at eventide.
All of the fadeless flowers that bloom
In the realms of song and art
Are yours, if you'll only give them room.
Open the door of your heart.

Open the door of your heart, my friend.
Heedless of class or creed,
When you hear the cry of a brother's voice,
The sob of a child in need,
To the shining heaven that o'er you bends
You need no map or chart,
But only the love the Master gave;
Open the door of your heart.

—E. E. Hale

Bible Rhymes

Who Are These Men?

When his mood was black and his voice was sharp,
young David could soothe him with his harp.

A man of wealth and power and pride; sweet Ruth
of Moab was his bride.

He was not a prophet, a king, nor a sage—he simply
lived to a very old age.

He gave a message to Pharaoh's waiter, and re-
ceived the answer two years later.

When Moses died, he led the band over the river
to Canaan's land.

He dipped in the river—four plus three—and he
was healed of his leprosy.

He proved to the people on Carmel's height that
the God he served was the God of might.

He told the captives to "carry on" by the waters
of pagan Babylon.

He buried the body in Egypt's sand; and held back
the sea by the rod in his hand.

In Benjamin's place a slave he would be, but the
viceroy of Egypt set them free.

Dear young people,—May our Heavenly Father bless
you every one and encourage your hearts daily.

Surely I have much to thank and praise the dear Lord

for tonight. He is my all in all. As the apostle Peter said, "Lord, to whom would we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." Thank the Lord for his guiding hand and his comforting words, as we travel through life's pathway. Surely this would be a rugged pathway and would deal a miserable life without the Lord to bless and comfort our hearts. The Lord has blessed many times in my behalf for both soul and body. Surely I want to be thankful to him as I ought to be and ever walk in the pathway of humility and godliness. Let us all pray for each other and not faint by the way.

The Lord has been working in our midst here in Midway, and surely we owe the praise to him. He blessed one woman to walk after confinement to her bed for about six months, and lately she had not been able to raise herself up to let someone put a pillow under her head. Surely we do thank and praise the Lord for this, and also for saving this woman's soul. We realize that the souls of mankind are most important of all, so let us labor on in hope. The Lord said, "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.

Your saved and sanctified sister, Aquila Green

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Dear young people,—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am thankful to say this finds me saved and encouraged to go all the way with the Lord. I find no desire in my heart to go back to the world and its ways, but I want to press my way onward in this Christian life. Life is short, so let us spend it in a way that glorifies God.

For some time I have felt led to write my testimony for the Lord, but have neglected. I'm thankful for the privilege of working in the Lord's Print Shop where the love of God is found. Surely the Lord has been near and precious to me here. I count it a great blessing to be with God's saints and be in services with them. I have often heard the saints testify how the Lord would speak to them in a way that they heard his voice aloud. I too wanted this experience, but didn't know how or when it would happen. One night about 2 a. m. I awoke feeling cold so I lit the heater in my room, then went back to bed. In about thirty minutes (but it seemed it had been longer) I was awakened by a voice saying, "Get up." I couldn't understand why I'd have to get up, I was so sleepy, so I made no effort to move. Again I heard the voice, only a little louder, say, "Get up!" This time I obeyed and found I had turned the fire too high. My room was so hot, that had I not obeyed the voice I feel I would not be here today to tell of the Lord's goodness to me.

Dear young people, let us always listen for the voice of the Lord and obey it. If we are disobedient we will be punished. I'm so thankful for his tender care toward me. My heart says "Amen" to all the will of God. The desire of my heart is to always be able to hear the Lord and then obey his voice. The Lord is my Physician, Comforter, he is everything to me.

I have felt the Lord's presence so near the past few weeks. It has just seemed so wonderful that words cannot express it. I don't say that I haven't had trials, but I have found God's grace to be sufficient for each one. The devil is fixing traps for the young people, but it is

our privilege to stand out against his cunning ways and look to the Lord from whence cometh our help. If we stay true to the Lord he will be true and a present help to us. Let us keep pressing on.

I do need your prayers that I keep humble at the feet of Jesus. I love this straight, narrow way more each day.

Your sister in Christ, Lois Whipple

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Calif.—Dear young saints: Greetings in Jesus dear name. I thank the Lord for being saved and encouraged to press on for him. Truly the Lord is just and merciful. All the obedience and humbleness in which we could walk before him seems hardly enough, he is so good.

Recently a young man, a very close friend of mine, was critically injured in an auto accident in which five others were killed. Realizing that the Lord was the only one to help him, all the congregation went in prayer for him. For several days he was unconscious, but we continued to look to God. Several times word was received that he had passed. The doctors had little hope for his recovery. But the dear Lord in his mercy and pity spared his life. Praise his name. He is unsaved, so young saints, help us pray that he will realize how close he was to eternity and give his heart to God.

To you who are unsaved, do not procrastinate. One of the young men that was killed had been in eight previous accidents, but it seemed he had hardened his heart against God. In his dying hour it was said that he pleaded and begged God to have mercy upon him, but it was too late then and he had to go into eternity unprepared. Oh, how sad! God's Word tells us that when we set at naught all his counsel and heareth not his reproof, he will laugh when our fear cometh. So let us be sure to seek the Lord while he may be found.

Your saved brother, Edward Davenport

CORRESPONDENCE

Miss.—Dear saints,—I wish to send my testimony. I am praising the dear Lord for the many good things he has done for me. When I asked the saints to fast and pray with me, God healed me and took all of the asthma trouble out of my system. I do praise the dear Lord and thank all the saints for their prayers.

I have lost my dear husband. It was God's will to take him. I am submissive to his will and I look up to the Lord for his help to me in my sad and lonely hours. I have taken a cold since he went away and need your prayers. I am saved, sanctified, and kept by the mighty power of God. I have a renewed determination to serve God better. Your sister in Christ, Hattie Legg.

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Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' name. He is the best friend that I have ever had or ever will have. He does so much for us and is so good to us. He has helped me and I promised him I would testify of it if he would. On Thursday morning at the factory I was sitting on a slide and about the time I started to get up the skid slipped, struck my wrist and skinned it. I didn't think much about it but went downstairs to the nurse and she bandaged it. (The company wants all small wounds given first aid so they won't be held responsible if anything might happen.) Each morning and evening when I went to the nurse to have it dressed, it seemed no better. I took it to the Lord in prayer Sunday and told him I would testify of it if he would place his healing touch on it. This morning I went in and it was still tender and watery but I know God knows best. This afternoon I went back and praise God it looks dry as though it is al-

most well. Nothing is too hard for the Lord to take care of. Praise his name! Your brother in Christ, Ray Wilson.

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Ohio—Dear saints,—Greetings to you in the name of our blessed Lord. I am happy to write my testimony today of God's goodness to me. What a mighty God we serve. I thank him for saving my soul when I gave myself up unto him. Oh, how happy am I with my Saviour so nigh. I love him today with all my heart. He is my strong hold in time of the storms of life, my shelter, and hiding place. It is good to know I am his and some blessed day I shall ever be with him in that place he has prepared for the redeemed by his blood.

I can see how the devil, the enemy of our souls is working to get us cooled off. In Matt. 24:12, it tells us, "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." God help us amidst it all to keep the fire of God burning in our hearts until he calls us home. We must fight if we should win and my prayer is that God will bless every one of the saints with much strength to press on to the end. Our God is strong. All we have to do is just follow him and keep our trembling hand in his. A true and safe leader is he. In Nahum 1:7-8 it reads, "The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. But with an over-running flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies." I do thank God for the fear of God upon my soul.

Our hearts are rejoicing over the good meeting the Lord gave us. Three were saved. Bro. Lewis Williams was with us and the Lord wonderfully used him. All the saints were much edified. Please pray with us for these young people that gave their hearts to God that the Lord will keep them encouraged.

Your sister, saved and sanctified, E. Hudson.

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Okl.—Dear saints,—I wish to testify how the dear Lord blessed and gave me work in his name and to his glory. I have to be here because of my invalid father's need and care. While praying that the Lord would give me something to do to work at for his glory Christmas season came and with it the news that our boy (an orphan boy we took in our home at the age of six in 1930) had been killed in action in the Korean war. A decision came to dedicate my life to the youth of the land in memory of him. Oh, how the dear Lord blessed and comforted my heart. Then a call came to open a Bible School after much prayer. (An unexpected opening.) The Lord provided one child at an earlier date than we expected as no date had been set so we began our work that day. All praise and honor we give to the Lord. At this time the Lord has increased our number to ten. I desire your prayers.

M. Agnes Williams.

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Mo.—Dear ones in Christ,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name who is so good to us all. I feel like writing to tell what the Lord has done for us lately. I am so glad I am still saved and trusting in the Lord for body and soul. I'm so glad to know his promises are sure. I'm encouraged this morning to go on with the Lord.

Several in our congregation have been sick with the flu as it has been going around. The dear Lord came to our rescue and healed for which we do thank him. One of my daughters isn't saved and has five small children. They have so much faith in Jesus that he heals them almost instantly every time they get sick. One little girl, just four, asks us to pray when she or the other children get sick. About three nights ago she had fever and asked us

to pray and we did. She got up, ran to her mother and said, "Mama, did you know I feel better?" The Lord completely healed her without the use of medicine. About two or three months ago my other daughter and I were afflicted with itch. We wrote to some of the saints for prayer and I promised the Lord if he would heal us I would write and tell about it, so the Lord truly healed us. The Lord protected the rest of the family from taking it except my daughter's little girl that I have been telling about. She came one night and they put her in bed with me and prayed for the Lord to protect her from taking it. My daughter was washing her one morning and she had it pretty bad on her arms but it disappeared and she never did have it any more. I just can't thank and praise the Lord enough for what he is doing and has done for us.

I thank the Lord for the privilege of being in meeting with the saints at different places. Two weeks ago we were at Myrtle, Mo. in meeting with the saints. Last week-end we were at Silva and Shook, Mo. for meeting. We pray the Lord to bless his children everywhere. Pray for the saints here at Senath that the Lord will supply our every need and have his way in our lives. Above all things I want to keep my heart filled with God's love. We could do a lot of things but without the love of God in our hearts it would profit us nothing. Keep encouraged.

A sister in the one true church, Katie Marler.

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—Greetings to you all in Jesus' dear name. We trust these few lines find you all encouraged in the Lord. We feel that God is upholding you and will uphold you by his precious love and grace. We fully realize that God does set the members in the body as it pleases him. I am thankful to report victory in my soul for over thirty years. In this length of time the enemy has been constantly battling with us but I have overcome by the blood of the Lamb. I feel that the prayers of the saints have followed me and will follow me and all others as long as we endeavor to hold on to God. My wife has gone ahead to Glory and I follow on to Glory. Blessed be his holy name. Your brother in Jesus, Rinhart Priem.

Calif.—Greetings to all the dear saints everywhere,—I do thank the good Lord this morning for salvation and for the joy and peace I find in living for him. He is all and all to me. I surely thank and praise the good Lord for healing my body in January. I had hemorrhoids very bad and had had for some time. I had been prayed for at different times but didn't seem to get victory over them but I do thank the good Lord for giving me complete healing. I told the Lord if he would heal me I would write my testimony in the paper. I am surely praising him for his healing power and saving grace. Praise his sweet name forever. I want the dear Lord to have all the praise. He has been our healer for many years and has healed many serious afflictions. Some of our children are not saved and I desire the prayers of the saints that they will be saved. I thank all the dear saints that prayed for my healing. My desire is to live pleasing to the dear Lord in all things and be of some help and encouragement to some that don't know the Lord. I want to be ready when he calls me home. A sister in Christ, Dora Stubbs.

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints,—Greetings to all in the name of the Lord. I received your letter and was glad to hear from you all. I prayed and asked God to save my soul and he answered prayer. I thank the Lord and you for your prayers. I have been praying ever since

I received your letter. I prayed for God to save my soul and after he saved me I have still been praying and thanking God. Pray for my husband that the Lord will save him too. Your sister in the Lord, Clara Barnett.

Ark.—Dear ones in the Lord,—Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I have been receiving the "Faith and Victory" paper for a year and I do enjoy reading it more than any other paper I get. It has so many good testimonies and articles that it is joy to read it. I am still saved and looking to God for everything. I am thankful for what he has done and is still doing for me in many ways. He is so precious to me. I am sending a request for prayer for my unsaved husband and children. Pray that they will get saved before it is too late. I have been having stomach trouble and it keeps getting worse and I also have trouble with my eyes and nose. I am looking to the Lord to heal me. Please remember me in your prayers. I want to press the battle on until the victory is won. I need the prayers of all the saints that I'll have more faith and that my life will please the Lord. May God bless each one that reads the "Faith and Victory."

Your sister in Christ,
Mrs. G. C. Holliday.

Calif.—Dear saints,—How I do thank and praise God for victory in my soul. He is so precious to me. Each day I feel the need of my saviour a little more and as I humble my heart more I feel his presence a little closer to me. Thank God, this is for all who will deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Him. We can not live for self and expect to make it into the heavenly home. May God help all the saints to have an open heart that the Lord might show them as he has shown me what humility really means. Some people think they are humble and they obey the word to the letter and live the word as God's ministers preach it but they are only doing the word and not really living it from the soul. They obey because they feel they must to be obedient children. Then when everything doesn't just go to please, they make me think of spoiled children. If they can't have their way they cry out to the Father as a child would to their earthly father and instead of humbling their hearts before Him they want self pity. Oft times our Father will let them have their way to their own destruction. God cannot use a heart like that. The kind of humility he wants us to have is the kind that comes from obeying him because we love to. If we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength we will have that deep fervency within us that will cause us to want to melt down, just nearer to the feet of Jesus. We find that a child that is fed just two or three foods all its life is undernourished and puny. It has to have all the vitamins and minerals that several different kinds of foods supply to be healthy. So it is with the spiritual life. We need to feed on all the different spiritual vitamins. God supplies us with love, patience, meekness, joy, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, and temperance. If we will only feast on humility we will receive these necessary spiritual vitamins. God wants his children to be healthy. If they are puny they cannot manifest the power of God. A "puny saint" is not growing like they should. Saints, let us be up and doing for our Father that we might fill the humblest place he would have us to fill.

Oftentimes I think the saints who have been taught this truth from childhood do not humble themselves to feel the sweetness and completeness in drawing so very near the Lord but only living the word because they have

always been taught to obey the word. How much difference there is in being dutiful and having that deep love in our hearts. The Lord has surely taught me a lot along this line. Let us each one search our hearts daily that we can humble down a little nearer our Saviour. How sweet he is to me this very hour. My whole desire is to be just what the Saviour would have me to be. I just want to fill the lowliest place and be on the spot for God at all times.

The Lord showed me several months ago how I needed to be very careful to be in just the place that God would have me to be and never go any place where the Lord couldn't go along. How we need to be careful that we can always have the Lord's presence with us. Many of the showers, weddings, family reunions, etc., are carried on with so much of the world's foolishness that God will withdraw himself from us when we attend them. I made a covenant with God that I only intend to go where I can feel his presence with me. The devil is a crafty fellow and is working these things in among the saints of God as little "no harms." May God put a mighty stir in our souls.

I would like to report on how the Lord is blessing us here at Orland. The saints are being stirred up and really on fire for God and conviction is on the unsaved. How we do thank God for sending Bro. and Sis. Huskey and family to be with us.

We had a precious day in Zion Easter Sunday. Bro. Trotter from Fresno and several of the saints from Stockton were with us. The Lord blessed us in the ordinance service in the afternoon and truly it seemed like a little bit of heaven here on earth as we rejoiced in the Lord. How good it is for the saints to get together and feast on the manna from heaven.

The Lord is also blessing here in the school and how we do thank God that he has made ways where it seemed there were no ways and worked everything out for the school. Pray for us. A sister in Christ, Minnie Mae Terry.

o-o-o-o-o

W. Va.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am happy to say I have victory in my soul. The way gets better every day. I have my decision made by the grace of God to press on to the end. I know God is able to keep me by his grace. I love him more every day and he has done so much for me. I have been saved, sanctified, and stood on God's promises forty years. I have been healed of blood poison, flu, shingles and high blood pressure. Sister Key anointed me, prayed the prayer of faith and I haven't been bothered with it since. Praise God. I have no fear of trusting him with my body. My body doesn't belong to me so when the devil afflicts it and God permits the devil to, it is for his glory and it is our duty to trust him to heal. If we aren't able to trust God to heal our bodies, how will we be able to trust him when the judgment shock comes. When we get pride and everything out of the way then we are going to be able to look steadfast on God's true promises and take God for our healer. Praise God! I have a hoarseness in my throat and can't speak above a whisper. I am trusting the Lord to heal me and ask an interest in your prayers. Also pray for a brother and sister who are both sick in body. I ask the saints to earnestly remember them in prayer.

Georgiana Sayre.

o-o-o-o-o

Ala.—Dear saints,—I am writing you in the name of our dear Lord and Saviour to let you know how the Lord healed me. In Oct. 1949 I had a stroke. I wrote for the saints to pray for me and the Lord raised me up. I

can do all of my housework and walk without a limp or a cane. Two of my fingers are stiff so continue to pray for my hand to be completely healed. I know that God is fully able to heal. I have never consulted a doctor nor taken any medicine for Jesus knows more about me than any one. He knows the cause and all about it and I surely do trust him. I am asking the saints to pray a special prayer for the healing of my husband's body. His feet and legs are swollen and his face was swollen this morning. He is trusting the Lord to heal him.

Your sister in Christ,

Sis. Willie L. Parker.

o-o-o-o-o

La.—Dear saints,—Greetings in Jesus' precious name and love. Today finds me greatly encouraged in the Lord. I find the Lord a very present help in every time of need. I have been with the saints eighteen years and have trusted the Lord for the healing of my body and he has never failed me. Praise his dear name! I enjoy being with the saints and in the services of the saints. I always get food to my soul when I feast at the Lord's table. I always enjoy the camp meetings at Hammond. I haven't had the privilege to attend camp meetings at any other place but have enjoyed meeting the saints that would be there from other places.

I am burdened for lost souls and want to keep saved and live close to the Lord that I may be able to get my prayers through to the throne of God. I also want to be able to know God's will in my life. I do not want to fail or grieve the Lord, nor be disappointing to the dear saints of God. I intend to trust the Lord as long as I have the right use of my mind to do so by the help and grace of God.

Now I have a very special request for prayer, one for myself, one for my daughter who has been in bad health for some time and for my husband who has a weak heart and isn't able to do any work. I was called to my daughter's bed side several weeks ago as she was in a very bad nervous condition. Not being saved they had put her case in the hands of a doctor and was in a hospital. I was not or had not been well myself for sometime but the Lord was good to me and gave me strength to keep up and work until Christmas. I quit my job as the work was too heavy for my condition. I have had an affliction on my body for the last twenty seven years. Before I met the saints I had not taken an operation which the doctor had told me I needed and since I have met the saints the Lord has wonderfully taken care of this affliction and gave me strength to care for my family and do my house work. However, the Lord has permitted this affliction to check me up when I would become somewhat careless about reading and praying or giving too much of my time to the toils and cares of life.

I am especially fond of flowers and do confess I have spent too much time digging in the yard when I should have been doing something for the Lord. I would soon get my lesson and see where I could do better. I would then confess to the Lord and ask him to heal me and he has never failed me. I realize as I get older my body gets weaker. I am still looking to the Lord to heal me when I am sick. I have been bothered with this same affliction for some time, also a weak heart and nervousness. The saints in Hammond have been praying for me and I am able to be up some but haven't been able to get complete victory. I am asking all the saints to please pray for my healing. I have been told by different ones that this affliction could cause a cancer, but my trust is in the Lord. He has healed me of many other afflictions. I trusted the Lord with my children and he healed them

many different times. Praise his dear name. I also want the saints to pray for my only son, who is away from home and I do not know where he is. I haven't heard directly from him since December, 1946. I am still trusting God to take care of him and if he is living, he will write to me. My three children are unsaved so please pray God will save them before it is too late. My daughter is much improved but her nerves are still bad.

Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Lillie Mae Miller.

o-o-o-o-o

Miss.—Dear bros. and sisters in the Lord, also to you that are not saved,—I enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper. I enjoy the testimonies of those that are living for the Lord and want to send in my testimony. The Bible says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." I praise the Lord today for the power he has to redeem us but we must seek him with a repenting heart. I was once lost and bound by the powers of Satan (or enemy). My soul overflows with joy when I think of the time I was redeemed (or saved) about nine years ago. Sometimes my heart is so full of God's love it seems like I just want to put my arms around the world and tell the poor lost boys, girls, men, and women that Jesus suffered and died on the cross that we might be saved. So many people are not concerned about their soul or where they will spend eternity.

I often think of the writing of Solomon. He said, "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." Dear friends I see Solomon as he looks upon this field that is all grown over, just for the lack of a little work. I suppose his thoughts went back to the hearts of those who were supposed to be children of God. They were all stained with sin. We as Christians can so easily let the enemy sow little seeds in our hearts and they will grow and soon have the love of God pushed out, also joy, and peace follows love and there will be nothing left but the things of the world. Just a little sleep and a little do nothing and we fall back in the power of Satan. He has little traps all along the way to try to get God's people. We are the ones he is after. We have to work, watch and pray that we enter not into temptation. We notice that Paul says, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation." Neglect is why the field was all grown over.

Children of God pray for me. I must hold the light high. My husband and children are still wandering in darkness. I'm doing my best to hold the light that they will see before it is too late. I have two precious boys that are now in training at Fort Jackson, S. C. for this awful war. I have faith in God to believe if they get killed that they will repent and accept God before the end comes because I am asking God to save their souls. I know as long as we are praying for some one to be saved we are not praying against his will for he said it was not his will for any to perish. Remember me in your prayers.

Your sister in the Lord, Flora Keller.

o-o-o-o-o

Pa.—Dear saints,—Greetings in the precious name of our Saviour who does so much for us and such a little we have done for him. I promised the dear Lord if he would touch my body when I had the flu I would testify of it,

through the "Faith and Victory" paper. I was taken ill on a Thursday in March and oh, how I suffered in my body with pain, so I asked the Lord to touch me and if he would I'd tell it. Not long after that I began to get better and the suffering wasn't as bad which I thank the Lord for. I was sick about a week and had such a deep cold and cough with it but thank the Lord I am almost over it now. The Lord is our great physician and does wonderful things for us. As the song goes, "It's truly wonderful what the Lord has done, glory to his name." I mean by the grace of God to live for him. I ask you to pray that I will be all God would have me to be.

Your sister in Christ,

Avis Tinsley.

o-o-o-o-o

Dear saints,—We are sending in a prayer request for Sister Parker. She is failing and has trouble with her eye. She grows more helpless each day but this eye gives her so much pain until it is almost unbearable. Remember her in your prayers.

Sister Barton.

o-o-o-o-o

Ohio—Dear saints,—Greetings of holy love in Jesus' dear name. I want to say that I received help from the Lord through the prayers of God's people. They are the dearest people on earth to me. I had a bad spell with my heart on the 27th of December if I have it right. In two weeks I had another one. This was on Wednesday and I stayed with my daughter, Nellie until Friday then went to my son's home. On Saturday I had another one. They called the saints. Bro. Hilbun from Louisiana, Bro. and Sis. Abbott came and had prayer two or three times. The Lord touched my body. I got up and went downstairs, ate my supper and sat up late. I went to bed and slept until one I think. My daughter-in-law came in and asked me how I felt. I said, "just fine." By 1:30 I was suffering untold pain through my arms and chest. They called Bro. and Sis. McCoy so they came about four and stayed until about six thirty. I would get just a little help then it would come back again. They prayed several times.

My son wanted the doctor just to find out what was wrong. I told him he could call for if I died they would have him but I wouldn't take any medicine. He told the doctor I wouldn't take medicine so he came sometime after noon. He examined me through my chest, under my shoulders, and took my blood pressure. He said I had heart trouble, high blood pressure, and hardening of the arteries. My blood pressure was one hundred and ninety. He said I had over worked that caused it. I told him I knew that I had and asked the Lord to forgive me for it. He asked me why I didn't believe in taking medicine. I asked him if it said to send for the doctors. I told him the Bible said to send for the elders of the church and the Lord gave me so many scriptures. He told me he could give me a shot that would ease me. I told him my Lord suffered for me and I want to suffer for him. He wanted to put something to my nose that wasn't medicine. I said it would be wrong for me so he went downstairs and said he had never seen anyone like me. I could quote more scripture than anyone he had ever seen.

While I was suffering the Lord surely gave me grace for it. I was like the song, I was ready to stay or ready to go. I was so glad I was ready. I am so happy in my Savior in his love and peace. Oh, I am encouraged to press on. Thank the dear Lord for his redeeming blood and grace and for all the saints prayers. I must close by saying still pray for me. My heart is still weak.

Your sister in the one body,

Martha Jenkins.

One leak will sink a ship; one sin will destroy a sinner.

New Draft Regulations

A recent presidential executive directive has changed the order for classifying those registrants who are entitled to IV-E classification (total objection to military participation). They will be first considered for all other deferred classes for which they may be eligible before they are placed in IV-E, which is the last deferred class. In fact, all those who are now in IV-E will be reviewed by their local boards with the idea to placing them in other deferred classes for which they are eligible. If the registrant is not eligible for any other deferred class, he will be retained in IV-E. If at any time an objector is placed in I-A or I-A-O, which are not deferred classes, he should make a written appeal to the local board within ten days, and ask for his case to be reviewed and placed in the IV-E class to which he is entitled. If a conscientious objector accepts a deferred classification lower than IV-E, he does not forfeit his rights as an objector. For instance, if he accepts II-C or III-A he can be considered for a IV-E later on if men in II-C or III-A are called out of these classes and made liable for immediate drafting. We suggest that, when an objector accepts classification lower on the list than IV-E, he write a letter to the local board stating that he accepts this lower classification (for example, II-C or III-A) as a matter of following the regulations and not as an indication of his willingness to give up his conscientious objector claims in the event of being taken out of this lower class.

On March 9th a bill passed the U. S. Senate providing for universal military training and ending deferment for IV-E's and assigning them to "work of national importance under civilian direction." This bill must pass the House of Representatives before it becomes law. The final outcome of this legislation cannot be predicted with any certainty.

Under the present Selective Service Act which is now in force, the President has the authority, at his discretion, to establish civilian public service camps for all those classified IV-E and determine whether or not these boys shall be paid for their work in these camps.

We want to repeat a statement that was stressed at the last Guthrie assembly meeting—that every minister of the church should become familiar with the Selective Service regulations affecting conscientious objectors so that he may be able to properly advise the Christian young men with regard to the draft classifications and rights to which they are entitled under the law. Because of a lack of diligence and concern in these matters on the part of the ministry, a number of sincere Christian conscientious objectors, not knowing their rights under the law, have found themselves in army camps where they do not want to be and should not be. Therefore, we exhort every minister, as well as every Christian young man, to address a request to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, 1000 Eleventh St., N. W., Washington 1, D. C., asking them to send you literature interpreting the Selective Service regulations affect-

ing conscientious objectors. Also, subscribe for the "Reporter" paper, \$1.00 per year, which will keep you informed of all new changes in the law and pending legislation before Congress.

If you would like a copy of the "Official Statement" of the Church of God in regard to participation in war and a 20-page tract entitled, "A Challenge to the Church on the Question of War," send your request to this office. —L. D. Pruitt

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"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:32, 36.

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BIBLE STUDY

THE UNITED KINGDOM

May 6, 1951

Printed Portion.....2 Samuel 5:1-5; 8:15;
1 Chronicles 22:17-19.

2 Sam. 5:1. Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh.

2. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the Lord said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel.

3. So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the Lord: and they anointed David king over Israel.

4. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

5. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.

8:15. And David reigned over all Israel; and David executed judgment and justice unto all his people.

1 Chron. 22:17. David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying,

18. Is not the Lord your God with you? and hath he not given you rest on every side? for he hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the Lord, and before his people.

19. Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the Lord God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the

Lord, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the Lord.

Memory Verse: 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.
1 Chronicles 28:9.

Practical Truth: United we stand, divided we fall.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The united kingdom lasted about one hundred years. It began when Saul was anointed king and finished with the death of Solomon. It is supposed that Saul reigned about twenty years and David, his successor reigned forty years and Solomon had the throne forty years and at his death the kingdom was divided. Before the united kingdom, God ruled Israel through a line of judges from about 1425 B.C. to 1095 B. C. It displeased the Lord very much when his people clamored for a king for they had contended with Samuel for a king. Samuel was grieved because they had asked for a king to take his place but God told Samuel they have not rejected you but they have rejected me.

How much better it would be if we would always let God have his way. But some times when his people are contentious God lets them have their desires as he did when he let them have a king over his protest. Later he told them, "I gave thee a king in mine anger and took him away in my wrath." In spite of it being a united kingdom they had plenty of trouble through the one hundred years that it lasted. Read 1 Sam. 8:10-22.

THE NORTHERN KINGDOM

May 13, 1951

Printed Portion...1 Kings 12:20; 16:23-28, 30; Amos 6:1-6.

1 Kings 12:20. And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only.

16:23. In the thirty and first year of Asa king of Judah began Omri to reign over Israel, twelve years: six years reigned he in Tirzah.

24. And he bought the hill Samaria of Shemer for two talents of silver, and built on the hill and called the name of the city which he built, after the name of Shemer, owner of the hill, Samaria.

25. But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him.

26. For he walked in all the way of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin, to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger with their vanities.

27. Now the rest of the acts of Omri which he did, and his might that he shewed, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Israel?

28. So Omri slept with his fathers, and was buried in Samaria: and Ahab his son reigned in his stead.

30. And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him.

Amos 6:1. Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

2. Pass ye unto Calneh, and see; and from thence go ye to Hamath the great: then go down to Gath of the Philistines: be they better than these kingdoms? or their border greater than your border?

3. Ye that put far away the evil day, and cause the seat of violence to come near;

4. That lie upon beds of ivory, and stretch themselves upon their couches, and eat the lambs out of the flock, and the calves out of the midst of the stall;

5. That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of musick, like David;

6. That drink wine in bowls, and anoint themselves with the chief ointments: but they are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

Memory Verse: Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34.

Practical Truth: When people follow a wicked leader it won't be long until they are all wicked.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

At the end of the united kingdom when Solomon died then the kingdom was divided and the written portion of the lesson today deals with the northern kingdom or the kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam, Solomon's son took the kingdom over after his father's death. The old men came to him and asked him to be good to them. They gave him good advice and showed him that they would be loyal to him if he would listen to them but he forsook the counsel of the old men and accepted the counsel of the young men who advised him to tighten the yoke that Solomon had put on them. So Jeroboam told the people that "My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins." He said, "My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions." When the old men saw that their counsel was rejected they lost faith in their king and returned to their homes with sad hearts. The northern kingdom existed from about 933 to 722 B. C. Jeroboam and most of the kings that followed him were wicked kings and things went from bad to worse. The kings caused the people to corrupt themselves until God had little left in the northern kingdom. Many of them became rank idolaters and shut the true God completely out of their lives. Their bitterness against God caused them to turn away from God to their own destruction.

THE SOUTHERN KINGDOM

May 20, 1951

Printed Portion.....2 Kings 18:1-7; Isaiah 31:1-3.

2 Kings 18:1. Now it came to pass in the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Hezekiah the son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign.

2. Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Abi, the daughter of Zachariah.

3. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father did.

4. He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan.

5. He trusted in the Lord God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him.

6. For he clave to the Lord, and departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the Lord commanded Moses.

7. And the Lord was with him; and he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.

Isaiah 31:1. Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the Lord!

2. Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.

3. Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

Memory Verse: One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. Psalm 27:4.

Practical Truth: It pays big to follow the Lord and seek after him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the written portion of the lesson today of the southern kingdom or the kingdom of Judah we get a much brighter picture than we had in last Sunday's lesson. King Hezekiah was a good king and he did that which was right in the sight of God and God prospered the kingdom under his reign. Hezekiah destroyed the places of idol worship and restored the true worship in Jerusalem. We are sure to prosper when we turn to the Lord with our whole heart and worship him only. When we do that which pleases God then God looks on us with pleasure.

The southern kingdom or kingdom of Judah existed from about 933 to 583 B. C. Hosea was the last king of the northern kingdom (the kingdom of Israel). The king of Assyria came against Israel and Hosea went down to Egypt for help. After a siege of three years the king of Assyria took it and brought the kingdom to an end. How true it is that if we will seek the Lord with all our heart he will be found of us but as David told Solomon, "If you forsake him he will cast thee off forever." So we are warned, "Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help." Turning to Egypt means turning away from God. This warning still holds good today.

THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

May 27, 1951

Printed Portion.....Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14.

Jer. 29:1. Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;

4. Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon;

5. Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;

6. Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to

husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished.

7. And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the Lord for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace.

8. For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

9. For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord.

10. For thus saith the Lord, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

11. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

12. Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.

13. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

14. And I will be found of you, saith the Lord: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive.

Memory Verse: When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: . . . The Lord hath done great things for us whereof we are glad. Psalm 126:1-3.

Practical Truth: We always feel so blessed when the Lord gets through chastening us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We sometimes wonder why God deals so harshly with his people but it is always for their good. God's people refused to listen to him though he had begged and persuaded and entreated them to turn back to him so it would be well with them but they rebelled against him more and more until God finally had them carried away captive to Babylon. It was then they realized their awful mistake. No doubt they thought God wouldn't permit such a thing to happen to them but they finally woke up to the fact that they had really been taken from their homes and carried away into Babylon. Then we hear them lamenting the sad state of affairs God in love had led them into. Reading from the 137th Psalm we get a picture of their sad condition. Listen to what they were saying, "By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof." The music wasn't sweet to them like it was at home.

God showed them that his thoughts toward them were good thoughts. His thoughts were of peace and not evil and he promised them an expected end of their captivity when they again would return to Zion and rebuild their city. God's people could have escaped all this trouble if they had hearkened to his voice. Even now in this awful time of trouble we hear God saying to them, "And ye shall find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart." We hear God say, "I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the Lord; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive."

G. S.