

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

The EVENING LIGHT WATCHMAN



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Perfect Trust

I may not always know the way
Wherein God leads my feet;
But this I know, that 'round my path
His love and wisdom meet,
And so I rest content to know
He guides my feet where'er I go.

I may not always understand
Just why He sends to me,
Some bitter grief, some heavy loss,
But, though I cannot see,
I kneel, and whisper through my tears
A prayer for help, and know He hears.

My cherished plans and hopes may fail,
My idols turn to dust,
But this I know, my Father's love
Is always safe to trust:
These things are dear to me, but still
Above them all I love His will.

Oh, precious peace within my heart;
Oh, blessed rest to know
A Father's love keeps constant watch,
Amid life's ebb and flow;
I ask no more than this; I rest
Content, and know His way is best. —Sel.

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God Is Love

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:8-10.

The above Scripture text is given to help us to see clearly that God is love. It does away with all doubt because God proved or made known his love toward us in that he made a great sacrifice for us at a time when our hearts were cold and indifferent to-

ward him; we were in a sinful state and committing deeds that were grievous in his sight. But God loved us with an everlasting love and sent his only begotten Son to be the propitiation for our sins that we might have life through him. And now "we love him, because he first loved us." Verse 19, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. "God is love." "Oh, how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men." Psa. 31:19. If God loved us while we were aliens, and at a time when we had no fellowship with him, how great that love must be since he has redeemed us by the blood of his Son Jesus Christ!

When we consider what great things the Lord has done for us, we are made to ask in the words of the Psalmist: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" We are sure that we can never repay the Lord for his wonderful love to us, nor for the great sacrifice that has been made to reconcile us to himself; but there is something that He requires of us, and that we must render if we are to abide in his favor and under the smiles of his blessed approval. That is: "Hear O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." Mark 12:29b-30.

Love begets love, and inasmuch as God has loved us and manifested that love to us, it is reasonable that we should love him. We see that God not only said that he loved us, but also he manifested his love TO us by the things that he did FOR us. God demands our deepest love and devotion, not in word and tongue only, but also in deed and in truth. He says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me." John 14:21a. "If a man love me, he will keep my words" John 14:23b. It is easy to say, "I love the Lord," and to sing, "Oh, how I love Jesus," but God is looking down into the secret chambers of our hearts. He sees and knows what is going on down in our hearts. He knows there is a class of people that honor him with their lips, but their hearts are far from him. He tries the heart, and when he finds a

heart that is perfect toward him; he is well pleased. God is a jealous God. He does not want our affections to him divided; he wants our entire being, body, soul, and spirit. His love for us is so great, so deep, and so wide, and so true that he can not be satisfied with us unless he has the predominant place in our lives and affections. "He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matt. 10:37.

If some people could tune their ears to hear the still small voice that speaks amidst the bustle and din of the cares of life, no doubt they would hear him ask, "Lovest thou me more than these?" Little by little the trivial things creep into the hearts and lives of some, crowding out that sweet presence, and holy atmosphere they once possessed. Their love and desire for the fellowship and worship of God has waned. It has become so easy to make excuses. That keen desire to be alone with God has disappeared. They still maintain some good works, and put up a pretty good front, but the Lord is saying, "I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love."

There are many things that cause people to drift, to become indifferent and cold toward spiritual things. Jesus said on one occasion, "And many false prophets shall rise and deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matt. 24:11, 12.

Soft and easy preaching that does not expose and show up the exceeding sinfulness of sin and the surrounding lukewarm and careless conditions has taken the upper hand of man. They have neglected to retain that earnestness and fervency that so marked their lives and devotion to God, and it is plain to be seen that their love is growing cold. It is an easy thing to drift down stream. It is easy to follow the course of least resistance; but to go up stream one must use the oars. To follow Christ one must be vigilant. Jude (21a) admonishes us to keep ourselves in the love of God. 1 Jno. 4:16 reads: "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and GOD IN HIM." Amen. Let us not fail to grasp this truth that is contained in the phrase "and God in him." God is love, and it is possible through neglect, carelessness, or slothfulness to let the love of God leak out of our hearts. When the love is gone, God is gone; there is an emptiness there. We are exhorted to be diligent to make our calling and election sure. Keep yourselves in the love of God. Paul declares in the Roman letter that "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost." Again the apostle admonishes, "grieve not the Holy Spirit."

We conclude that if the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts, that God himself is dwelling in us, and that his presence in an individual will cause him to love the things that God loves and to detest the things that are grievous unto him. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a

liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" 1 John 4:20. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor." Love is strong, love will endure, love is kind, love is tender, love can wax cold, love can be bruised, love can be grieved. In order for love to flourish, it must be nourished, it must be reciprocated.

Although God is love, and his love is great, deep, and wide, unmeasurable, unfathomable, boundless, and everlasting, yet he is a God of justice, a God of consuming fire, and he will mete out vengeance and wrath upon those who continue to reject his love and trample his mercy under their feet. Oh, how often would I have hovered thee as a hen doth her brood under her wings? but ye would not. Behold your house is left unto you desolate. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

Thank God, we are yet in the day of grace, in the day of salvation, in a time when men can repent and return to the arms of love that are extended by a kind heavenly Father, who is ready and willing to forgive every one that will leave the paths of sin and despair and partake of the love he has given through the merits of his Son Jesus Christ, that whosoever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life.

—Ulysses Phillips.

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The Corrupt Tree

On the sixth limb of the corrupt tree we will write about "witchcraft" which is one of the works of the flesh or catalog of sins listed in Gal. 5:19-21. In the dictionary it tells us that witchcraft is the practice of witches; supernatural or magical powers, intercourse with evil spirits, art, black magic, sorcery and communion with the devil.

God abhors the workings of witchcraft in any shape or form. Some want to call it God's plan of letting people know the things of the unknown but it is the workings of the devil. The Bible says, "Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards to be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God." Lev. 19:31. This plainly shows us that God is against mediums or "Spiritualist Readers," fortune tellers, etc. If we go to them we will be defiled by them. May we take warning from the Word of God.

"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass thru the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord." Deut. 18:10-12. There are other scriptures you can read on this line. Acts 16:16-19; Acts 8:12-11.

In the light of these scriptures I feel it is wrong for anyone to tamper with anything of this nature. It's sometimes a great sport among young people to go and have their fortunes told. But this is very dangerous and should not be taken so lightly. God is against such and if you go ahead and do so it will

leave its mark upon you. We do admit that the devil has power to do many strange things, but we know that God has greater power than the devil. If people will not obey the Word of God, He will let them become deceived as they tamper with evil spirits.

We find that Saul disobeyed God's commandment and sought after a woman that had a familiar spirit to find out how the battle would come out between Israel and the Philistines, after he had inquired of the Lord for counsel, and the Lord did not answer him because of his sin. (1 Sam. 28:5-22) In 1 Chron. 10:13 we read Saul's fate. "So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it."

May the Lord cause the fear of God to come upon you insomuch that you will never tamper with witchcraft or consult it. Remember the tree will be cut down and cast into the fire. —Mrs. Marie Miles

—oOo— Virtue

I feel God would have me write some on this subject, especially to women. I am a woman and a mother of eight girls and one son, am seventy-four years old. I have had some experience during these years. I am so thankful that I was saved when about fifteen years old and have been living for the Lord these many years. I was saved when I married my husband, a minister of the gospel. We started out with the Lord's help to rear our large family. I do not know what I would have done without the Lord. I pity parents that try to rear their families without the Lord.

The first text on virtue is found in Prov. 31:10, "Who can find a virtuous woman?" It seems that in Solomon's time they needed to be searched for; and if then, what about the present time? I want to quote the remainder of the chapter: "Her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no spoil. "She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ship. She bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night and giveth meat to her household and a portion to her maidens, and she considereth a field and buyeth it with the fruit of her hands. She planteth a vineyard." What man would not like such a woman for his wife?

There are still virtuous women in the world, and you can find them if you will search them out. Praise God! But, sad to say, there are many who are not virtuous.

I would like to say to the mothers of the land: You have a big responsibility to guard your daughters' virtue. I wish to quote what my mother said to me when I was a young woman. She said a girl's virtue was the most precious thing she owned. If she lost it, she lost the most precious thing and nothing could take its place. You might have wealth and many fine things, but nothing could take the place

of your virtue. I praise God for such wonderful counsel from my dear mother who is now in heaven waiting for me. I never forgot what she told me; and how very careful I was to keep my virtue.

Now what is the first steps to take? We need the Lord to help us; so we need salvation to be the right kind of a mother. When we are saved, we are starting right to train our daughters, for we surely need the Lord's help at all times. We need to have the family altar; we need to read the Bible morning and evening and have seasons of prayer. As soon as our little ones become old enough, they will be instructed in the ways of the Lord. That is the only safe place for any one to be.

Now I want to say that we need to dress our little daughters in modest apparel. We cannot start too soon. We see little girls dressed so immodest—no clothes on them, that one would really call clothes. As soon as they can walk good their little dresses are so short, no sleeves and low neck, no hose, only little anklets. They must be cold sometimes. In the winter time I have seen mothers with their daughters walking down the street. The mother would be dressed warm and comfortable, but the little daughter with such a short dress and coat, and anklets that her little legs would be almost blue. How can mothers do this to their child? It is just to follow fashion. Then in the summer time they strip them so nearly naked that they may sunburn. As they grow older they continue to dress them after the fashion of the world and expose their little bodies. The little girl does not know what modesty is, has no shame, because she has never been taught what is right. Then when they become young women they continue to follow the ungodly fashions. The daughters have no modesty and the boys and men gaze on their nakedness, and it excites their passions. Is it any wonder that so many girls lose their virtue, also our sons lose their virtue? Wake up, Mothers! These are facts I am writing about. Our high schools are turning out pregnant girls every year. Now who is to blame most, mothers or daughters? We are so ashamed when this happens to one of our daughters; but did we mothers do our best to keep our girl's virtue. I feel that we are to blame almost as much as the daughter if we haven't instructed her how to keep clean and have not dressed her in the right way. Mothers, think about how you are doing. Some mothers set a bad example before their daughters. They dress so immodest with short dresses, low necks, no sleeves. Then they smoke, drink and go out to wild parties. Do you want your daughters to follow your example? Wake up, who is to blame for our daughters acting like they do? I know there are plenty of good mothers in the land, doing their best to train their daughters right; but it makes it hard for us when so many mothers are so unconcerned about how they act and what their daughters do. I pray God that this short message might help some of our mothers to think what they are doing to protect our dear girls' virtue.

Yours in love for our mothers and daughters,

—O. K. Myers.

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

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Editorials

As we did not put a paper out for August we are anxious to send the September paper out to greet our thousands of readers again through the pages of the "Faith and Victory" paper. We have not been idle, for we have attended some of the Hennessey, Oklahoma Campmeeting, the Hammond, Louisiana Campmeeting, and the National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, Missouri.

The righteousness of Christ was on display in the meetings and souls were saved, believers were sanctified, and bodies healed in all the meetings. The healing service at the Hammond meeting will be long remembered by this writer, for I received the healing touch from God for a swollen and inflamed ankle. It was so painful that I could hardly wear my shoe. After I was anointed and the brethren prayed, I had no more trouble. The soreness all left and the ankle was healed immediately. We certainly did enjoy the fellowship and association of the saints at the Hammond meeting. The Lord blessed throughout the meeting.

The Monark Springs meeting was very precious, and the attendance was as large if not larger than last year. The water situation had been corrected and the supply of good pure water was abundant. The Word of God was preached with much power and anointing from heaven. A large number were saved, believers sanctified and bodies healed. One thing that brought joy and comfort to our souls was the many young saints in the meeting, and some of them have been gifted by the Lord for preaching His Word; also with other gifts of the Spirit which were much in evidence in the meeting. The true Church of God is marching on and the gates of hell will never prevail against her secure foundation and the anchor she has within the throne of God. She is built upon the foundation of the prophets and the apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone, and all the saints are a habitation of God through the Spirit. True holiness is reigning within her solid walls and bulwarks. Glory be to God who has given us such high promotion as to be called the sons of God; and we know that some day we shall see him as he is and be like him. Read Romans 8:17.

When Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute the saints of God, he was struck down by the blazing power of God, and he heard a voice saying unto him, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" When he said, "Who art thou, Lord?" the voice said, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Clark in his commentary says that this prick spoken of was a stick with an iron point on the end which was called a goad used to prick the oxen when ploughing. If this be true, which no doubt it is, then Paul was symbolized as the ox being pricked, and also that he was even kicking against the goad used of the Lord to bring him to Himself that he might know that Jesus was the Son of God the Saviour of men, for he, Christ, tasted death

for every man.

In Hebrews 9:9 we read that the gifts and sacrifices offered for sins under the law could not make them perfect as pertaining to the conscience. In the seventh chapter of Romans where Paul was telling his experience while in sin under the law, he states that he was a wretched man. He surely could not have a very good conscience in that condition. It was hard for him to kick against the pricks, or in other words to go against the will of God and do sinful things which he knew to be evil in the sight of God; for he said, "When I would do good, evil was present with me." That indwelling sin that abides in every unsaved soul causes them to often do evil when they even would love to do good; and so their conscience is pricked and troubled.

In Acts 23:1 we read that Paul said before the High priest and the council that he had lived in good conscience before God until this day. Paul had been converted to Christ twenty-five years before that day, and he may have meant that he had lived in good conscience before God since his conversion. Clark takes the view that he was sincere through the whole course of his religious life and that he was not dishonest or hypocritical. This statement is perhaps true as we read in Phil. 3:6 where he said, "Touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." In 1 Tim. 1:13 he said, "I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief." Paul was what we might call a hard-headed Pharisee, a strict keeper of the law before he was converted to Christ. Law keeping without grace tends to make the heart hard, but in Christ the heart is circumcised, made tender and pliable to God's will.

In Matt. 16:18 Jesus said, "And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against IT." Peter had said (verse 16), "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." He did not build the church on Peter, but on the solid rock-like truth that Jesus Christ was the Son of the living God. You notice he said, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against IT." He has just one body of people living in the world that is His. Their foundation is composed of the prophets and the apostles, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone (Eph. 2:20). And he continues: "In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth into a holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye are also builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Peter also verifies this statement in 1 Pet. 2:5, "Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

When the time was come for Christ the Son of God to come, we find that John the Baptist was sent before him, preaching and teaching the doctrines of the new covenant; for it is written in Luke 16:16, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." In Matt. 11:13 we read that Jesus

used similar words. In the third chapter of Luke we read where John the Baptist came on the scene and began to preach the new covenant doctrines—verses four to fifteen.

When Jesus went about preaching the kingdom and the gospel of repentance, many were converted to the gospel and became justified from all sin and had peace with God. On the day of Pentecost there were a hundred and twenty justified men and women in the upper room waiting for the "promise of the Father," the Spirit of truth, the Comforter, the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) to come and dwell in them. Jesus had built his house. His is a spiritual house and should not be confused with the literal temple in Jerusalem, which was only a type of the Lord Jesus' spiritual house or temple which is the real substance as Peter teaches us in 1 Pet. 2:5. They were all of one accord, all joined and fitted together by faith in Christ and his promise of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. They were praying, waiting as the Lord's spiritual house to be occupied fully according to his promise. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4). In the first few verses of the third chapter of Hebrews it speaks of Moses' house and also that we are the Lord's house. Read Eph. 2:22

In the second chapter of Acts we read: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven [his church or family, spiritually speaking are from heaven] as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire [purifying or cleansing] and it sat upon each of them. and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and begun to speak with other tongues [languages] as the Spirit gave them utterance." Thus was fulfilled the prophecy of Malachi who prophesied 400 years before Christ came into the world to build his church as his house and habitation.

In Mal. 3:1 we read, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me: [John the Baptist] and the Lord [Jesus Christ] whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple." The temple or house of the Lord Jesus is a spiritual one. Some seem to think that this has reference to the literal temple at Jerusalem; but teaching of that kind is not Biblically sound; for Jesus refers to that temple as his Father's house (John 2:16; Matt. 21:12) and it only foreshadows his spiritual house that He built which the gates of hell shall never prevail against. You will notice in Acts the 2nd chapter where it speaks of the Holy Spirit coming it says, "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven." The Holy Spirit came from heaven and fills the hearts of justified souls today who are of one accord and living free from condemnation.

In confirming the fact that it was Christ of whom the prophet spoke, the above Scripture goes on to say, "Even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold he shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts."

The Jewish nation was looking forward to the coming of the Messiah, the Rest-giver and was delight-

ing in the expectation of his coming. He did come and began to preach the gospel and build his spiritual house. He occupied it on the day of Pentecost. He said in Matt. 16:16, "I will build my church." He has certainly built it and set it in divine order. When the one hundred twenty received the Spirit of truth on the day of Pentecost, the Church of God was set up and they received gifts of the Spirit and the church began to function in the world. The church was built and members were gifted as officers in the church. It was a complete unit, set up and spiritually organized by the Lord himself as he places the members in the body as it pleases Him. The true Church of God is moving on that way today and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. The Lord adds to the church today such as should be saved, or those who are born from above. To illustrate: A man has 15 sheep that compose his flock. In the spring there are ten lambs born into the family of sheep and he now has a complete family of 25 sheep. A city has ten thousand population. It has all the officers that are needed and is a complete city. It grows to be a city of fifty thousand and is still a complete city even though it has more people and more officers.

Jesus Christ built and on the day of Pentecost occupied his church or spiritual family. It was complete, and now He adds those that are born from above. It continues to be a complete unit, functioning in the world. She will never go down, but some day will go up. Bless God.

Obituaries

Rena Walters, a mother in Israel of the church of God, was born in Louisiana in 1861. She lived to be 96 years. In Oklahoma she heard the full gospel preached by Bro. H. Robinson in 1919. She walked out into the light and stayed until Jesus called her home June 28, 1957.

She was married to Tony Waldrup in her teens and to this union 16 children were born. Eight children are left to mourn her passing, many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

She was a sweet mother in Israel. When we sang "Is Your Name Enrolled in Heaven" the fire burned in her heart. Our Sister Rena is in Paradise this day. Amen.

I. H. Paul, minister. Scripture: Rev. 14, "At Rest."

James H. Schudy was born December 17, 1869 in Shelby County, Missouri and departed this life June 24, 1957 being 87 years, 6 months and 7 days.

He was one of four children of Jacob and Rebecca Schudy. His boyhood was spent near Clarence in Shelby County and his early manhood was spent in Kansas City. He came to Douglas County in 1892 at the age of 23 and homesteaded one of the last 80 acre tracts in the country. Here he lived alone in a one room log cabin built by the help of the neighbors. In 1902 he married Josephine Clark of Buckhart, a childhood sweetheart who had also migrated to Douglas County from North Missouri. To this union was born seven children all of whom are living.

He is survived by his widow, Josie Schudy, and seven children; three boys, Jake and Elmer of Coldspring, and Dr. Fred Schudy of Houston, Texas; and four daughters, Mrs. Floyd Hitchcock and Mrs. Joe Steelman of Springfield, Missouri, Mrs. Egbert Allen of Diamond, Missouri,

and Mrs. Jess Henson of Mt. Grove; also 24 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren; and one sister, Mrs. Pearl Kemp of Clarence, Missouri. He was preceded in death by two brothers, John and Frank Schudy.

He professed faith in Christ and continually admonished his children and grandchildren in righteous living. His aim throughout life was to make the world a better place in which to live.

Services at the Coldspring Church, burial in the Church Cemetery. Minister, Fred Pruitt. Text: Ps. 139:14.

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Tyler J. LeMelle, was born in Louisiana March 15, 1883, and died June 9, 1957 at his home in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 74 years, 2 months, and 23 days.

On Dec. 4, 1909 he was united in marriage to Dessie Lorena Howard. His survivors are his wife, Dessie LeMelle; 3 brothers, P. L., Harry C., and Merrit LeMelle; 4 sisters, Mrs. Marie Pico, Miss Sophie LeMelle, Mrs. Anne Walker, and Miss Stella Reed, all of Los Angeles and vicinity.

Mr. LeMelle was a shoe maker by trade and operated a shoe shop in Los Angeles until 1956, due to failing health. During his last illness he sought the Lord and gave testimony of having found peace with God.

Funeral services were conducted at Forrest Lawn Memorial Chapel in Hollywood, with Opal B. Wilson officiating, assisted by I. C. Chandler and Laverne Manuel.

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Mr. Ivan Jessie Warren Rich of Carthage, Missouri passed away June 29, 1957, age 48 years, 4 months, 13 days. He was born February 16, 1909 at Pierce City, Mo.

He was married to Sister Hazel Tomlinson April 4, 1952. Sister Hazel Tomlinson is the daughter of Bro. Tomlinson, an old time Saint who is already gone on. Her mother is an invalid. They need our prayers.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, mother, six brothers, one sister, and many friends.

Services conducted by Sister Ersa Carrick. Text: John 11:25, 26; 1 Cor. 15:55.

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Mary Ellen Sanders Watson passed away July 16, 1957 at the age of 70 years. She was the oldest daughter of dear old Mother Ritchie who passed away in 1952.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Bro. Fred Watson; a daughter, Mrs. I. W. LeMasters; three sons, S. H., Paul, and Floyd Sanders; 12 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren; 3 step daughters; one step son; 9 step grandchildren; 10 step great grandchildren; four sisters; two brothers, and many friends.

Sister Watson had been coming to meeting at Webb City since her mother passed away, and was baptized a few years ago by Bro. Merrill Williamson.

Services were conducted by Sister Ersa Carrick. Text: Psalms 116:1, 2, 15; 2 Cor. 5:1.

Sister Susia Jones was born in Louise, Miss. in the year of 1884 to the union of H. Andy and Ella Jackson and departed this life July 3, 1957. Dec. 12, 1903 she was married to Mr. T. J. Jones and to this union 14 children were born, three preceding her in death.

In 1944 she moved to Okmulgee and united with the evening light saints. Sister Jones was seriously ill for four weeks, but never complained and bore her suffering patiently. She was a devoted wife and a loving mother.

She is survived by her husband, T. J. Jones; three sons, William H. of Los Angeles, Calif., James L. of Kansas City, Kan., and O. C. of Tulsa, Okla.; eight daughters, Mrs. Ella Mary Connor and Mrs. Hazel Stanford of

McAlester, Okla., Mrs. Magnola Spencer and Mrs. Willie May Gear of Stockton, Calif., Mrs. Ruth Love of Tulsa, Okla., Mrs. Sarah L. Jones of Los Angeles, Calif., Mrs. Helen Gains of Cassa Grande, Ariz., and Mrs. Ruby Grant of Dallas, Texas; 29 grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and a host of relatives and friends.

Bro. M. Spears officiated using Rev. 14:13.

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Mary Frances Martin, daughter of Steven and Mary Maddox, was born March 31, 1890 at Denton, Texas. She passed away on Aug. the 3rd 1957 to be with Jesus. She moved to Anthony, Kansas in 1898. She was united in marriage to Hurley E. Martin, May 12, 1910, in Anthony, Kansas.

She has been a member of the Church of God at Anthony for a number of years. Mary was always faithful to her church and a loyal neighbor. She was a faithful wife and a kind mother to her family. Her many friends always appreciated the many kind deeds that she was always doing for her neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Louise, one sister and two brothers. She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Hurley, of the home; one son, Gene, of Cleveland, Ohio; two nieces, three nephews and a host of friends and saints.

Funeral services by Bro. Lewis Williams, Scriptures: Luke 8:52; 1 Cor. 15:53.

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Fred Wesley Lefford was born to Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Lefford, Sept. 2, 1894 at Muskogee, Okla. and departed this life on March 19, 1957 at 10:30 p.m. at his home. Bro. Lefford was reared in a Christian home and later heard the truth taught by the Church of God ministers and accepted the truth. On Oct. 17, 1914 he was united in marriage to Miss Ophelia Hampton of Boley, Okla. Two children were born to this union—Lily Lefford and Freddie Lefford. Later in life he lost out with God but through the prayers of the saints and in humbling down before God he was received back by the Lord and lived for the Lord until death. He bore his sickness with patience and would often ask for prayer or a song and would be relieved of suffering. In my visits with him in the last three months I never heard him murmur or complain. His favorite song was, "I'll Live On."

He leaves to mourn his passing a loving wife, Mrs. Ophelia Lefford of Green Pastures, Okla.; two daughters, Mrs. Lily Paul Temons, Okla. City; Mrs. F. Magnus, of Wichita, Kansas, and ten grand children. Three sisters, Mrs. Eva Grace of Tulsa, Okla., Mrs. George Tlase of Boley, Okla., Mrs. Rose Perryman of Tulsa, Okla.; also nieces, nephews, relatives, friends and saints.

"Sunset and evening star and one clear call for me,
May there be no moaning of the bar when I put
out to sea."

Funeral services conductor by Bro. Manley Spears of Oklahoma City. Text: Rev. 14:13.

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HELP WANTED

A Christian lady is needed to live in the home and help take care of my invalid wife and do light house work. This home is close to the Church of God campground in Hammond, La. where they have regular services. The pay will be fifty dollars per month with room and board. Give reference as to reliability. Phone No. 546T.

—Bro. W. S. Miller, Box 264, Hammond, La.

Evangelistic Trailer House for Bro. & Sr. Abbott

The saints are getting money together to purchase a trailer house for Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott who are active evangelists in the gospel work. A trailer house will be much appreciated by them if the Lord sees fit to supply the means. You can send your free-will offerings to this Office at Guthrie, Okla. or direct to them at Thayer, Mo., Box 223.

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Bakersfield, Calif. Planning For New Building

The saints at Bakersfield, Calif. are making preparations for the building of a new meeting house, as the present one is not sufficient for the increasing congregation at that place. Those who are interested in this project and would like to co-operate with them, should write to Bro. I. C. Chandler, the Pastor, and receive full information.
Rt. 6 Box 37, Bakersfield, Calif.

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NOTICE

Mrs. Margie Utley, 401 Galveston, Broken Arrow, Okla. recently lost her dear husband, Reuben D. Utley, and is very anxious to locate one of the phonograph records which he recorded and gave away, so their little daughter will have a record of her daddy's voice when she grows up. Anyone who can possibly give any information on this, please write her at once. —Howard Neilsen

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REPORT OF TENT EVANGELISTIC WORK

Bro. Charles Smith and the evangelistic company held tent meetings in Oklahoma City, Winona, Mo. and Chaffee, Mo. during the months of June and July. The gospel message of full salvation was delivered to many people and a number of souls were saved.

When Bro. Smith and his family were traveling in his car to the Monark Springs campmeeting, the motor broke down, and since other parts of the auto were badly worn, it was not advisable to have it repaired and was sold at a salvage price which was very little. This was not only an unexpected personal loss to Bro. Smith, but it had been the only means of pulling and transporting the house trailer in the evangelistic work. He had been using his car for this purpose last summer and this summer but a car is not built to pull a heavy house trailer and will not stand up to it very long.

After the Monark campmeeting a brother in the Lord at Senath, Mo. aided with his station wagon in pulling the trailer house to the next meeting at Paragould, Arkansas. The tent meeting there closed yesterday, August 11, and Bro. Smith reported by telephone that five were saved and two sanctified, and much interest aroused in that community. The evangelistic workers plan to start the next tent meeting at Kingston, Ark. next Friday, but they are greatly handicapped without a truck or means to pull the house trailer. Also, Bro. Smith and workers are much hindered without a car to make contacts and visit people in the communities where they hold meetings.

The need of the evangelistic tent work was discussed in the business meeting at the Monark Springs campmeeting and it was the general opinion that a large, late model truck should be purchased that would haul the tent and seating equipment and pull the house trailer as one complete unit. At present the 1937 Chevrolet bus hauls the tent and seating equipment, but it cannot pull the house trailer when loaded, and this 20-year old bus may break down at any time. The urgent need is for a 2-ton truck with a weatherproof bed or body to haul the equipment and pull the trailer. Also, Bro. Smith needs a car

to replace the one he lost, so that he will not be hindered in the work of the Lord.

The truck will cost around \$2500.00 and there is very little missionary funds on hand for this purpose. Would you ask the Lord what he would have you to do about these worthy causes? This is the way to lay up treasures in heaven, so that you can still have them after you leave this world. You may send your free-will offerings to this Office or to the undersigned, and specify whether it is for the truck or the car. Yours for the whole truth to the whole world. — L. D. Pruitt, 1116 W. Wash. Guthrie

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HOFFMAN, OKLA. MEETING NOTICE

The saints at Hoffman, Okla. will not be able to have a campmeeting this year, as the tent they have been using has been destroyed. But they will have a 10-nights meeting, Sept. 20 to Sept. 29th, with all-day meeting on both Sundays and dinner on the ground. For more information, write Sister Earnest Myles, Hoffman, Okla.

—Bro. W. W. Crawley, Pastor

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NOTICE

The small congregation of saints at Goodview, Va. have purchased a lot in the town and are desiring to erect a chapel for worship to establish the Church of God in that place. Bro. Preston and Bro. Haladay are there now in their second revival meeting. They will appreciate any help sent for the purpose of helping to erect the building for worship. Those who feel led to send offerings may send them to C. B. Hall, Goodview, Va.

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Bro. John B. Smith, Gen. Del., West Gastonia, N. Car., a minister in the Church of God, is in need of a tent for gospel work. Anyone who feels led of the Lord to help him get the tent can send their offering direct to him at the above address.

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Testimonies

Okla.,—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of Jesus. This leaves me saved and more encouraged than ever to press on for the dear Lord.

I thank the Lord how He blesses us from time to time. I want to thank the saints also for their prayers. A while back I sent in a request for prayer on fast day in Guthrie, for myself and sister. The Lord wonderfully blessed both of us. She is much better and hasn't had a bad sick spell since, and I feel better also. To the Lord we give all the praise for His goodness to us. My greatest desire is to please the Lord in every way.

The articles and testimonies in the Faith and Victory paper are encouraging.

I ask the saints to pray for our unsaved loved ones, and I also have some other requests I would like the saints to remember in prayer. Pray for me that I will be all in this life the Lord would have me to be.

—Gustava Anderson.

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Ill.—By the help of the dear Lord, I want to write a testimony, telling how the dear Lord has blessed my husband who had diabetes. He was in such a shape he could not sleep day nor night, and was in such pain he just walked the floor most of the time. I wrote to the dear saints to pray for him. I called Bro. Gibson and

he came and stayed from Sunday evening until Thursday morning. He anointed and prayed for my husband and he gathered up all his medicine and burned it. From that day until this he has not taken any more medicine. That was in January, 1957, and he is getting along fine. He eats anything he wants and goes to bed and sleeps well. He works every day. All praise be to the Lord for it all, and I want to thank all the dear saints for their prayers.

Will all the dear saints please pray for me? The Lord knows all about my needs.

Yours in Christ, Bro. and Sister Edward Boling

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Okla.—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name to the saints everywhere,—I am still saved and mean by God's grace to make heaven my home. I realize that it is not God's will that any be lost, but we do have to want to live to please God and be willing to pay the price for salvation that we may live a holy life. When I say pay the price I mean we have to be willing to suffer as Jesus suffered. Old self must be truly slain. We as saints should pray daily for the Lord to help us keep self slain.

If every child of God would like to do something good for themselves and our dear heavenly Father, read Bro. C. E. Orr's little book, "Helps to Holy Living." I have been reading it, and truly I must say it tells things about holy living that I had not even heard before, but I am seeking God daily to help me to measure up. One article which deals with meditating on God and His Word is very good. All saints should learn to meditate. It would surely help to keep self from having its way. I desire to measure to all that I know and understand and ask the Lord to teach me that which I do not know. God knows what we stand in need of before we ask Him.

I feel led to tell of some healing the Lord did in our family recently. The latter part of June my little boy about two years old took what we thought was thrash. He couldn't eat anything nor sleep very well. My trust is in God, so I called mightily upon him and He came to our rescue. The child's mouth was sore less than two days. Thanks be to God and all glory for His goodness to us. On July 1st our little girl became very ill with some kind of stomach trouble. I went to God in prayer for her healing and the Lord healed her over night. I realize my children could have been sick much longer. I am thankful to God who never fails us. Also my oldest child took thrash and God healed him over night. The Lord is wonderful. Saints, pray much for me.

I would like for the saints everywhere to pray that the Lord will work things best for me in a special unspoken request. Also Pray that the Lord will heal my eyes.

Your sister,

Clara Barnett

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Calif.—Holy greetings in Jesus' name.—I surely do thank all of you for your prayers. God has touched my body and I feel much better. Keep praying for me, for I desire to work for the Lord. I have been having this hurting for almost two years. It would leave and come back; but now I feel so much better that I just had to write and thank you for your prayers and send you a free-will offering to help in the Lord's work. Saints, I am saved and going with the Lord. Pray for my family.

Nodia King

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Calif.—Greetings of love to all the dear saints,—This finds me still encouraged to follow my blessed redeemer no matter what the cost is for He is so precious to my soul.

I desire at this time to tell of His wonderful healing of

our daughter Louise. One Wednesday she was stricken with appendicitis. As we have prayer meeting each Wednesday night, we went to services and she was anointed and prayed for. God eased pain but did not heal her. The days following she continued to have severe attacks. Each time we would call for prayer God would ease the pain until she could go to school. Then Sunday she went to meeting at Stockton with some saints, and while there she became much worse. She was again anointed and prayed for twice. God undertook again and eased the pain. All this time there was swelling and much soreness in her side that seemed to lessen very little. On Monday she was to take P. E. in school, which was playing tennis. This was too much for her side and it threw her into a severe attack of pain. The teacher wanted to take her to a doctor immediately, but she refused. He became angry and told her if she did not go to a doctor before the following Monday and bring him a statement to this effect he would give her an F in her grades.

Louise is 19 and we felt she should be guided by her own understanding so left her to decide, although we encouraged her to be faithful. Saturday, the last day to go to a doctor before her next class, she decided to go. Meanwhile I had been fasting and praying much about it. When the doctor examined her he felt he could give her a prescription that would take care of her over the week end. Saturday and Sunday she suffered greatly. Sunday morning she was unable to stay in the services, but lay down in the car. The Lord brought me down to this consecration, if it was His will to take her I could say Amen. At first I could hardly be willing, but He brought before me Bro. and Sister Murphy Allen's consecration in the death of their daughter: "Thy will be done." Praise His righteous name. So I said, "Lord, I too am willing to say, Thy will be done." Louise, too, I know made some promises and yielding to God, because when services had only been started a short time she arose from her seat and said, "Bro. Trotter, if you will anoint and pray for me again I believe the Lord will heal me". Bro. Trotter said, "Amen, we have been praying, Sister Louise, for God to increase your faith." Immediately when he prayed God witnessed to me He had healed her. The heavy burden I had carried for thirteen days was gone and only praise and rejoicing was in my soul.

Before the service was over she testified God had healed her. The soreness and swelling was gone and the pain had left. It was as if she had never had it at all. The prescription the doctor gave her was never filled, so all praise was for our wonderful Saviour. My husband, who is unsaved, saw she was healed before I told him.

How could we forsake such a wonderful God? Oh, how I praise him and love him. By His grace I am determined to continue in this precious way.

Your sister in Christ,

Hazel Cones

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Ore.—To all the saints scattered abroad, greetings in Jesus' dear name,—I feel that God would have me send in a report on the Jefferson Campmeeting, just over, and a personal testimony for the encouragement of all the true children of God. May it encourage the saints to press on to higher heights and deeper depths in Christ Jesus than ever scaled or fathomed hitherto. Paul wrote to the Philippian saints, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14. And again in Rom. 11:33, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God." Then in Isa. 7:10, 11, "The Lord spake again unto Ahaz saying, Ask thee a sign of the Lord thy God; ask it either in the depth or

in the height above." But because Ahaz would not, we read in the 14th verse, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel," or "God with us," And, though the Lord said in Isa. 55:9, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts," yet we know by the written Word of God that we can now have the mind of Christ rather than our own carnal mind, which is enmity against God. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" Phil. 2:5. And I can say that I am rejoicing that I am counted worthy to bear the reproaches and suffer the afflictions of the righteous, knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" Rom. 8:28. And again as the Psalmist David said, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psa. 34:19. I have tried the road and proved the dear Lord true to all his promises, finding that "our sufficiency is of God" 2 Cor. 3:5, and "By the grace of God I am what I am" 1 Cor. 15:10. Therefore this grace is all sufficient to the salvation of our souls, the sanctification of our natures, the caring for and healing of our bodies, and as Jude has said, "Unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with eternal joy."

The Jefferson Campmeeting began several months ago in the hearts of God's little children in the form of weekly and daily prayers and earnest petitions before God for the salvation of sinners, sanctification of believers, healing of sick and afflicted bodies, etc.

We sent special invitations to none, but in a general notice to all the saints through the "Faith and Victory" paper, called on no ministers, evangelists, or speakers, but looked to God to supply the workers He could use the best. Thank God, He did not fail His little ones but abundantly blessed with men of God to bring the words of life and light.

There was no mention of monetary needs nor collections taken, but God again blessed and supplied all our needs on the campgrounds both in money and dear consecrated saints to care for the material needs, to whom also we add a word of thanks and appreciation.

But now, in case you are wondering if any lasting good and benefit was done, there were six souls gloriously saved and prepared for a home in heaven. All six were new converts, not reconsecrations of backsliders. There were also some dedicating their lives to God, some for sanctification, many bodies healed; and I believe I can say without reserve, everyone present was blessed and benefitted for their attendance. Surely we give God all the praise and glory, realizing that without "Christ in us the hope of glory" all our labour is vain. During this series of meetings we surely heard enough truth spoken to save a world of sinners many times over; also to keep a world of saints faithful and true to God through the deep waters or the fiery furnace, through praise and applaud or through censure and reproach. Thus we are now accountable for more than ever before, and it behooves us to walk a closer, more consecrated life than ever.

May God bless and encourage his little children to be faithful and true at all costs under every circumstance.

Pray for us. A child of the King, Albert W. Nielsen

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Ore.—Dear Saints of God everywhere, greetings in Jesus' precious name,—This morning I am writing my testimony of being very sweetly saved yesterday. Oh,

how wonderful it is to have that sweet peace in my soul! Praise the Dear Lord.

The campmeeting here at Jefferson, Ore. has been such a blessing to me. I desire the prayers of the saints, that I may remain ever true to the end.

If we could just get the unsaved to see that when God calls them under conviction to be saved, how dangerous it is to put it off. I almost waited too long. Oh, praise the Dear Lord for his mercy to us!

I would like to say to any unsaved that seem to be very happily married and so much happier than most couples of the world: please look to God today and place the extra love in God Almighty. It is such a little thing to be standing in your way at the Judgment Day. Believe me, God will leave you a sufficient amount of love for each other. Oh, how sad it is to love our companion so much more than we love God.

Oh, praise God for the tender love and mercy He has for us! God has been so merciful to me, and I give Him all the praise and glory.

Dear ones, I desire your prayers for my unsaved husband; also for Sister Loretta Miles' unsaved husband. Sister Loretta Miles and my husband are brother and sister.

Your Sister in Christ, Beverly Wattenbarger

Ohio—Greetings, dear saints,—Truly the Lord has been good to me and my family since I last wrote. He has healed me and the children, and has supplied our needs and blessed us in different ways. Awhile back I was sorely afflicted in my body. The saints here in Dayton and other places prayed for me. God reached down and undertook for me and raised me up. I have felt better the past two weeks in body, and surely I give God the credit and praise for it.

We just closed a meeting in Dayton in which the Lord richly blessed. Bro. and Sister M. Allen and family came and started the meeting, then Bro. and Sister Abbott came. During the meeting many sought and found help from God. Fifteen souls were counted at the altar for help. Some were saved, others came for sanctification, and some were prayed for for healing. Bro. O. B. Wilson stopped over and brought a wonderful message. The saints rejoiced much in the meetings.

Now we look for the devil to get real busy and try to overthrow all he can who found help in these meetings. Dear saints, let us pray much for the young saints because the devil has so much to present to them and he is so tricky and deceiving. God has grace to give to us all that will keep us during trials and temptations. I love the dear Lord and want to be faithful in all He would have me do. I desire your prayers that I might be an example that Jesus might be lifted up in all I do or say.

Christian love,

Earl L. Sharp

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Calif.—Dear saints of God,—Today and every day I am made to be thankful for this blessed privilege of being saved. I am really enjoying this free salvation and have a desire to follow in Christ's footsteps so that I may continue to enjoy it.

I felt impressed to let you dear saints everywhere know how wonderfully the Lord is blessing me and my family. Approximately a year and a half ago my husband and I had been praying to the Lord for a house of our own. At that time we were staying with someone else. Sometimes it seemed as if the Lord wasn't going to answer our prayers, but we held on to the Lord anyway. We continued praying and fasting for quite awhile. It began to get close to the time for my baby to come. About a week before I went to the hospital we received a call about a house. How we did thank the Lord. We moved

into the house the same day I went to the hospital.

At that same time my husband was going to school and did not have a job. We had been praying about this a long time, too. I began to wonder why the Lord would not bless him with a job. I began to wonder if I was hindering the Lord in answering this prayer. On his last day of school his cousin came by and asked him if he wanted to work at the hospital. Of course, he did. Thank God, our prayers had been answered. We learned a lot from these few trials. It taught me to wait and have patience, for I realize now that I cannot rush God, and He knows just when to answer our prayers. He will come just in time, but it may seem to be quite long and that he is never going to step in and help us.

We have been married a year and ten months, and the Lord has wonderfully blessed us in our home, for which we thank Him over and over again. We have decided to let the Lord guide us in marriage as well as in our spiritual life. The Lord blessed us with each other. When you seek the Lord for your companion you always come out better. He knows whom to choose and just when to choose him or her. I can truly say that I have found this to be true. But first we must "set our affections on things above, not on things on the earth." See Col. 3:1.

I need your earnest prayers that I may be in the center of the Lord's will at all times.

Your sister in Christ, Rose Etta (Eddens) Randle

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Va.—Dear brothers and sisters,—Greetings again to you from a sister in old Virginia! Glad to be a child of God and on my way to heaven. I am glad I saw my lost and undone condition seven years ago and repented.

Saints, pray for God to intervene in behalf of my body. I am still waiting upon the Lord for the complete touch. I want to thank the ones who wrote the nice letters and encouraging words. I got mail from several different states. I am glad all of God's children have not bowed down to "Baal." My little children need me to care for them and teach them the Bible way, so hold on to God. I am praying for each of you. I have another special request, too. Will you talk to the Lord about the needs and healing of a little sickly frail widow who is on the holiness highway with me? She is on fire for God and needs help and prayer. Anyone caring to help her would be blessed I am sure. If God speaks to you about this, send to my address and I'll see that she gets everything you send. The devil will get no part of it, I assure you.

My little girl seems to feel some better, so dear folks continue to pray, and thanks for the prayers you have prayed. If it had not been for Jesus and his mercy I might not have been here today. I am glad I am a Christian. God bless one and all.

The little widow has three children at home. She could wear a size 16 dress. One girl is eight years, one is 12, and one 18 years, who would also wear size 16 dress.

Edith Melvin

Mechanicville, Va.

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Ind.—Dear brethren in Christ,—We are praising God for victory! My wife became ill with kidney and bladder trouble. I requested prayer for her and she was much better, but July 2nd as I was washing dishes the Lord gave me a burden to pray. Immediately I laid down the dish cloth and went to the living room where my wife lay on the sofa. I saw at once that she was sinking. I went on into the bedroom, knelt down and began to pour out my heart to the Lord. It seemed that the blackness of hell surrounded me. Then I remembered what the Lord said, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." I did,

with all the power that the Lord gave me, and I believed he went. Praise God. My wife was so weak that she could hardly stand on her feet, but she managed to come into the bedroom and help me pray a few minutes, then had to go back to the sofa. I laid our lives out before Him and called His attention to how we had dedicated and consecrated our lives, all we have and all we ever expect to have, that the devil knew this too and was trying to separate us. About this time my wife came in and prayed a few minutes more, and said, "It is all right now, darling."

I said, "Has the Lord really touched you?" She said He had. Through my tears I looked and saw what I could hardly believe. Her eyes were as bright as usual, and what a beautiful smile! We rejoiced together. We went into the kitchen and finished the dishes and prepared supper, then went ten miles to prayer meeting. She has been feeling fine ever since. Praise His name forever.

The neighbors were very kind. They brought things to eat and sat with her for hours. When they came again they looked in amazement while we told them the story. They said they had never seen anything like it. We are praying that they will accept the Lord.

Let as many as reads this testimony rejoice with us and pray for our good neighbors and our children to be saved.

Joe N. and Sarah J. Beever

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Utah—Dear saints of God,—Honest confession is good for the soul. I want to confess to all who have known me that I have been a hypocrite for the past three of four years. To those of you who put confidence in me, I humbly ask forgiveness. To those of you who saw through the thin profession I was trying to hide behind, but loved me anyway, and held me up to the throne of God, I humbly offer thanks. To those of you who may have stumbled because of me, I pray the Lord will help you up again.

Tonight I am saved and on my way to heaven. Praise God. The load I carried was a heavy one, imposed by the devil, who tried to make me think it was impossible to put down. The dear Lord continued to deal with me through the years, but I wouldn't listen. Then last Thursday night I was taken very ill suddenly, with my second relapse of the flu. I suffered violent pain, and thought I would die. I was very much troubled, for I knew His Word enough that I knew I would go to hell in the condition I was then in. I soon began confessing and calling on God. He forgave me all my sins and spoke peace to my soul. By the grace of God I will live for Him all the days of my life, and dwell with Him in heaven through all eternity.

I want to say my love for the saints was true. I loved you even when I may have spoken rather short to you. Now I love you even more, and desire your prayers that I ever be all that the Lord would have me be.

Kenneth Jack Cook.

Mo.—Greetings to the saints of God in Jesus' dear name,—I wish to tell you that God has saved me from my sins. He saved my brother and sisters at the same meeting. The next Sunday we were all sanctified. My mother was saved when she was young. I am so glad God called after us until we came to him. We surely need the Lord in these last days. Though I may never meet many of the saints on earth, I hope to meet them in heaven. I want all the saints to pray for us and pray for our un-
saved loved ones that they will come to him before it is too late. One who loves the Lord. Lois Holdt.

o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Greetings in Jesus sweet name to the saints
and love,—This finds me saved and sanctified and

walking again in the true and holy way. Praise God. I told the Lord if He would save my soul again I would write my testimony and ask the saints' forgiveness for how I had hurt them.

You know dear ones, the Lord is so merciful to us to call after us again when we go back on light and do things to grieve Him and His children. Oh, if He had not had mercy on me I would not be in His true way today, but lost and undone before God. I was afraid to lie down at night, afraid I would go unprepared to meet God.

We know we grieved the Lord and began to go back into sin when I went to the hospital for an operation. I tried to lay the blame upon my husband for going, but it really laid upon our lack of faith when I lay at death's door. I know it was the mercy of God that I lived, for I know that man cannot save our lives when it is time for us to go. While upon the hospital bed the saints still cared about us enough to visit us. One dear sister asked me about my soul, and I was so ashamed to look at her and lie that I turned my head and said that I felt I was still saved, knowing I had committed sin. I felt bad about it afterward, but wouldn't say anything, knowing she would talk to me about my soul. I asked her forgiveness after that.

When I was first saved and accepted the truth some fourteen years ago the Lord took me out of sectism, but after going back into sin I went back to sectism, which I knew was wrong. I am very thankful the Lord so condemned me that I never would join any of them. It seemed I could not break loose from going there, so I asked some of the saints to pray for me, and the Lord began to deal with me again. On June 27th I surrendered all to the Lord and He saved my soul. Oh, what joy and peace I had, and such love as I had never had before. I had hate in my heart before until I wished some were dead and out of my way; but, praise God, he put deep love for these into my heart.

Rev. 2:5, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works." I am so glad I have repented and have followed the Lord in baptism, and am sanctified, filled with His Holy Spirit.

I want to thank you for the tracts. They were a help to open my eyes. I also want to thank each one that prayed for me that I might get back to God and His true church, the One Body, the Body of Christ.

I need your prayers that I might go on in this beautiful way and live an humble life that I might be used of God; and that I might live before my family that they might want to accept this true way. The song, "My Surrender," page 131 in Evening Light books is my testimony tonight.

Christian love,

Mrs. Norma Allen

o-o-o-o-o

Texas—My husband and I have just celebrated our 19th wedding anniversary. We have three girls: five, twelve, and eighteen years old.

I was always promising things to the Lord—was going to turn to the Lord, take my family to church and hear God's Word. We were going to repent and get saved, but somehow kept putting it off until another time. The devil would always help us pick out somewhere to go on Sunday so he could keep us out of church services. Christians would come to our house and invite us to meeting. We would tell them we were coming some day. We would go once or twice and then no more for two or three months.

It seemed as if all the trouble happened to us and not to anyone else. When my oldest girl was about three years old we ran over her in a car. I had to carry her around on a pillow for a long time until her little leg healed. When she was eleven her dress caught on fire

and we had to put her in a hospital because of a third degree burn on her body. When I realized how badly she was burned, if someone had talked to me about being saved, I feel as if I would have turned then. I do not know though, it takes more than that to show some people.

We still did not attend church services, and then my husband got hurt while working. A piece of steel cut one of the blood veins in his arm and he could not work for weeks.

I had an operation in 1952. When my last little girl was born we had to have her mouth operated on for four years. She is doing fine now and can talk very well. Thanks to the Lord! In 1956 I had to have another serious operation. It was then while in the hospital that I promised God if he would let me live and get well to go home I would live for him and become a Christian, and with his help would bring my girls up to be Christians also.

At the hospital a preacher would visit different rooms and have prayer. Oh, how I waited each day for the time to have prayer. He would explain to me how understanding God was, and this helped me through my sickness. God let me get well and come home after I had spent twenty-nine days and nights in bed in the hospital. As soon as I was well enough to walk I verified my promise to the Lord and went to services. On Easter Sunday night in 1956 I stepped out, took Jesus as my Saviour. My husband, two oldest girls, and my mother came, too. We all repented, believed, and were saved that wonderful night. Thank God!

God did not say we could get by without sickness. After I got saved I learned to let God have his way with me. I became ill again and went to two doctors. They said I had ulcers. One said if the ulcers did not get better I would have to have another operation. I told him to wait a few days. Then I told God that I knew he could heal me and that I was going to have faith in him. I was anointed and prayed for, also sent for an anointed handkerchief. I am well now. I want to thank the people who prayed for me. I am doing a kind of missionary work here at home now. I go visiting people and help them in any way I can and deliver tracts after I have read them. I enjoy this work for the Lord.

Dear ones, if you do not know the love of God, turn now to him before it is too late. I love him and trust him. Matt. 8:17, "And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness"—read it, and if you are sick, tell God to heal you and tell him you know he can and will if he sees fit.

I hope someone will get help from reading this.

Hurmey Reese Pearse (condensed)

o—o—o—o—o

Dear Bro. 'Pruitt and Sister Marie: Greetings in Jesus' dear name, and to all the saints. I feel led to write my testimony of God's goodness to me and my dear husband. I prayed for his salvation over 40 years. He tried hard at first to break me from serving the Lord, but the last 18 or 20 years he did not hinder me in any way. But just would not go in church. He would come and sit outside until church was out and be there to come home with me. He was terribly upset over some of the ministers breaking away from the saints some years back, and it was a stumbling block to him. He had little to say about it only how some were a question in his mind. He really loved these ministers. I had asked the saints in Los Angeles and Pacoima to please pray for his soul as his health had been failing for a number of years.

Six years ago my niece and nephew had him to a Doctor who took x-rays and all kinds of tests to find out what was the matter with his stomach, as he suffered terrible with his stomach and bad cough. The Dr. gave

him medicine and when it was out, he would get the prescription filled. He would get a little relief; at times he suffered terrible. The Dr. told my niece that Mr. LeMelle had cancer of lungs and liver.

A year ago last January and February at the time Sister Evans was so sick, Bro. Wilson and Opal his wife were there quite a bit to help sit up with Sister Evans. As a rule, they would stop to see Mr. LeMelle. One evening Bro. Ostis was so terribly concerned about T. J. as he looked so badly. On their way home he remarked to Opal how bad T. J. looked (and he really did). Bro. Ostis could not get him off his mind. Poor T. J. kept getting worse. Sister LaVerne Manuel came to see us, too.

Sister Evans passed and the ministers were holding a meeting in Whittier. Mr. LeMelle came home from work looking so bad, and ate very little supper. I sat up a while, then went to bed. I had gone to sleep. He got up and came in the kitchen, and had a light stroke, and fell on the floor. He managed to get up and fell again on the living room floor. He called me and said, "Dessie, I had a stroke." There he was and I could not lift him. We struggled together and finally got him in a chair. I called for the ministers and could not get a one as they were all over to the Whittier meeting. I called Sister Clark; she and her niece, Sister Cordelia Ragsdale, came over, had prayer two or three times, crying and begging God to heal Mr. LeMelle. God healed the stroke and the stomach trouble at the same time—a year ago last March. Praise the Lord; it was so wonderful. His cough still lingered. Poor man, had no ambition; seemed as though he lost all interest in life as well as his business. Our business was a complete loss. After all bills were paid we had a very small amount to buy me a coat and him a suit. Oh, bless the Lord, he was so good to us.

He quit smoking over a month or more, thinking it was cigarettes that caused the terrible cough. Poor dear seemed to grow weaker and weaker. I would beg the saints for prayer for his soul and body, to please pray at any cost for his soul. He sat around day in and day out, and had no interest in anything. I would try to get him to go to church and he would say, no. Sister Opal said, "Sister LeMelle, you were always begging the saints for prayer and kept it up without ceasing over these many long years (and I did), and it surely paid." I just could not see him lost. Oh, bless the Lord, oh, my soul, bless His holy name! How I do praise Him and thank Him.

The Assembly meeting came and I tried to get him to go with me to church. He always said, no. I went to the meeting during the days and came home at nights. Poor man looked for me like a little child for its mother. All this time I suffered terribly with my limbs. Some of the saints would say, "Sister LeMelle, I don't see how you drive the car suffering like you do." I would say it is the Lord, and it was.

After the Assembly meeting I took down very, very sick with a cold. My trust was in my God. While I was so sick, my poor husband came down with such a pain in his right lung and between his shoulders. Oh, such coughing you never heard. I began to fast and pray for dear Teal and the dear Lord healed me completely almost instantly. Bless the Lord, my cough and cold was gone. I was sitting by him and something said to me, "Where is your cough and cold?" Saints, it was gone; praise the Lord. Right away Mr. LeMelle said, I don't want a Doctor and I want to stay home. He was so sick. He quit smoking also. Poor man kept getting worse and worse with his cough. I wrote to Sister Marie, Bro. Chas. Smith and all the saints around California for prayer for his soul and body. I asked them to pray at any cost for

his soul. The dear Lord healed that terrible pain in the right side and between his shoulders. I called his brothers and sisters. They came, and I told them he refused a doctor; he also told them he did not want a doctor. They did not like it, but I tried to do as he wanted. He got so bad with strangling and coughing until he could not lie down in bed. He sat up three months and two weeks, night and day. Only God knows my heart ache and sorrow. God was so good to him and also to me.

While he was sitting in the chair our social worker, Mrs. Jackson, came by to check on us. The house was very dirty as I was not able to keep house and wait on him day and night. Sister Opal would do our washing and some of the saints would pick up and dust a little, but things were not clean. I testified to Mrs. Jackson of God's goodness to us, and how He had healed T. J. "Oh," she said, "this is a real inspiration to me, and your need is great. I do not have to have you investigated, as I can see the need is great." Without us saying a word, she had me get a woman to come twice a week to clean house, wash and iron and they paid for it. She tried to get Teal to get a doctor and he said, no, I do not want to go to the hospital. She told him it would not cost him anything, as the county would pay the doctor. He said, no. Wasn't God good to us? Praise His name!

Not long after that, Sister LaVerne and Jim Manuel came to see him, and how he cried. They were so upset over his condition. I asked her and she wrote three different ministers for prayer for his soul. I would call the saints here for prayer and when I would lie down in bed (as my legs hurt me so badly), he would say, "Dessie, are you asleep?" I would say, no, dear, do you want me to come and sing? He would say, "Yes." So I would sing God's praises to him, then he would drop off to sleep. Some times I would pray and sing. This was every night and day all the time he sat in the chair. Oh, it was wonderful how God would bless us both. At times he would go sound asleep, then I could go to sleep, too. We would both sleep two or three hours so soundly without any sleeping powders or dope of any kind to help us rest. Just the love of God—isn't it wonderful? What a mighty God we serve!

From the very first of his terrible coughing he would say, "Please Jesus" so sweetly, and most of the time when he would repeat this, God would quiet his coughing. I said, "Dear, you do not have to thank Him out loud, but thank God for all He does for you."

Oh, the dear saints were so very good to us. They would have fasting and prayers for his soul and body. Oh, I could call them at any time both day and night. I would say, "At any cost save his soul." Bro. and Sister Wilson were so faithful to come once a week and sing and pray. The other saints would come, too, and sing and pray. The saints got under the burden when the dear man sat so long in the chair, for God to help him to lie down. We finally got him to lie down. It was wonderful how our Father stopped that awful strangling. I sat up with him the first night he lay down. At 10:30 the devil started that terrible coughing. I called the saints to agree with me in prayer. Saints, do you know he would cough, but not like he did at first when he took the chair. Poor dear man sat so long that he did not know how to straighten out his legs. At midnight he said, "Sweetheart, come and see if I have my legs straight." He said that three times. God bless his dear heart, he was so glad to get in bed, like a child.

From the very beginning he was always cheerful and when asked, "How are you, T. J.?", he would say, "fine" or "pretty good." Oh, how I do thank God for his

wonderful love and tender care to both of us. I had a roll-away bed put in the room with him as he did not want me out of his sight. Six weeks before he passed there was such a change in him. He was so much more friendly and tender toward the ministers, telling them good-bye and to come back. Bro. and Sister Chandler showed their love to us as well as all the saints.

Sister Laverne Manuel came Wednesday and stayed all day; she was so touched and could see the change. Sister Opal Wilson came Thursday night and stayed with me as I was growing very tired and in so much pain as I had been all by myself waiting on dear husband all these months. She came again Friday night. There was such a change in him Saturday morning that she stayed all day and night and on until he passed at noon Sunday. Saturday, the day before he passed, he turned to Sister Opal who sat on one side of the bed and I on the other, and said, "I have asked Jesus to forgive me." He said it several times. Then Opal began to talk to him and to tell him how ready the Lord was to forgive us when we turned to Him and asked for mercy. Before she finished talking the doctor came, as I had called one to be able to get a death certificate. After the doctor left, my dear husband had such a sweet smile on his face. Sister Opal said, "Sister LeMelle, did you notice such a change come over him?" It was so sweet. He tried to talk at times. We could not understand him at times, as his tongue would get so thick. I would say, "Darling, we just can't understand you." He was always so patient and kind.

While sitting by him in the night he looked so sweetly at me and waved good-bye. He had such a hard coughing spell during the night. I had called the saints to pray with us. He got quiet, then he started to cough again and I said, "Oh Lord, please don't let him cough so hard," and bless the Lord, he looked me in the face and said, "He will."

Saints, my heart was so heavy; I just was not satisfied. I wanted more assurance that he was saved. Oh, how I did cry and told God I was not satisfied. I was crying and dressing and praying. Sister Opal said he never took his eyes off me. I said, "Darling, I will be by you as quick as I get my hair combed." He kissed me so sweetly and said, "It is our business to stay together." Then I asked, "Are you ready to go to heaven so we can live together in heaven?" He answered, "Yes." Then he said again, "We must stay together." Then I asked again, "Are you ready to go so we can be together in heaven?" He answered enthusiastically, "You BET." How he kissed me and kissed me. Oh, how I do thank God. Sister Opal asked, "Now are you satisfied?" (She was satisfied from the talk on Saturday p.m.) I asked her a question and she answered me by saying, "Jesus said to the thief on the cross, 'Today thou shalt be with me in paradise.'" So all my doubts left. Praise God.

He had such a sweet smile on his face in his casket. Oh saints, wasn't God good to me, and all of us who prayed so earnestly for his soul to be saved at any cost? I do thank God over and over for hearing and answering prayer.

I want to take this opportunity to thank every saint for their earnest prayers all over the United States, and for all the kind remembrances and sympathy cards. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name, for what He has done. I just haven't told all God did for us.

May God bless all you dear ones for your prayers.

—Lovingly, Sister Dessie LeMelle.

To Sister Holdcraft:—

A dear sister I know you've been,
To all your loved ones, and all your kin.
But God loves you more than all,
I know He blesses you when you call.

To visit you it was so nice,
Anna Bell is God's delight.
To care for you and do what's right,
May God bless her is my prayer at night.

Even though you two are alone,
God is watching you from His Throne.
Don't be discouraged, dear ones there,
God's dear mercy is every where.

You may be sick and weary here,
God will call you, where there's no tears,
All will be gladness, no sorrow there—
God will welcome you to His sweet care.

You were a great encouragement to me,
Although you were blind and could't see.
I can see heaven in view—
A beautiful home waiting for you.

May God bless you. Love —Edith Robinson.

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50; Lesson cards, 10c

JOSIAH: STATESMAN AND REFORMER

September 1, 1957

Printed Portion:2 Kings 22:1, 2; 23:1-5, 25.

2 Kings 22:1. Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath.

2. And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left.

1 Kings 23:1. And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2. And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.

3. And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

4. And the king commanded Hilkiah the high priest, and the priest of the second order, and the keepers of the door, to bring forth out of the temple of the Lord all the vessels that were made for Baal, and for the grove, and for all the host of heaven: and he burned them without Jerusalem in the fields of Kidron, and carried the ashes of them unto Bethel.

5. And he put down the idolatrous priests, whom the kings of Judah had ordained to burn incense in the high

places in the cities of Judah, and in the places round about Jerusalem; them also that burned incense unto Baal, to the sun, and to the moon, and to the planets, and to all the host of heaven.

2 Kings 23:25. And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.

Memory Verse: I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts. Ps. 119:63.

Practical Truth: Religious reforms naturally follow a desire to put into practice the teachings of God's Word.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson is about a great reformation that took place because a book was found and when read to the king his heart was touched and the fear of God came upon him. We do not find that he cared what the people would think of him but he fearlessly went about to let them know what God required of them and then destroyed the worship of idols out of the land. God is able to use those who turn to Him with all their heart, soul and might.

Many homes today have a Bible but they do not know what is written in the Bible. It is a lost book to them. Others may study their Bible carefully but with a point in view of using their information for purely intellectual or critical purposes. How sad it is to thus use God's Word. Those of us who have read the Word of God and have put it in practice know that it is the living Word of God and it has brought about a change in our lives as we obeyed each day its commands.

True and lasting happiness in this life comes from delighting ourselves in the Word of God. "Oh, how I love thy law! It is my meditation all the day." Ps. 119:27.

BARUCH, A FAITHFUL SECRETARY

September 8, 1957

Printed Portion:Jeremiah 36:4-8, 22-26, 32.

Jer. 36:4. Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the Lord, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

5. And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I am shut up; I cannot go into the house of the Lord:

6. Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the Lord in the ears of the people in the Lord's house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities.

7. It may be they will present their supplication before the Lord, and will return every one from his evil way: for great is the anger and the fury that the Lord hath pronounced against this people.

8. And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the Lord in the Lord's house.

Jer. 36:22. Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and there was a fire on the hearth burning before him.

23. And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.

24. Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

25. Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them.

26. But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of Hammelech, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the Lord hid them.

27. Then the Word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying, Take these another roll and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

Jer. 36:32. Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.

Memory Verse: Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men. Col. 3:23.

Practical Truth: We have a moral responsibility to do our work faithfully and well.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

There are those unseen persons behind the preacher, missionary worker that hold up their hands and help them to be a great blessing to many. Just as Aaron and Hur held up the hands of Moses in the battle with the Amalek's until they won, the same is needed today. "We are workers together with God." A word of encouragement will go a long way and helpers make it possible to spread the gospel.

In our lesson today we see Baruch who helped Jeremiah, the great prophet of God, to deliver his messages. Jeremiah was shut out of the temple and could not deliver his messages but Baruch was a member of the family of nobility and he could go different places.

Baruch would fearlessly take the roll that he wrote Jeremiah's messages on and read them to the people in the temple and to the assembled nobles. Jeremiah told them that the king of Babylon would come to destroy the land and man. (Jer. 36:29) No wonder they did not like the messages. Nor did they destroy God's word when they burned the roll. Today people do not get rid of God's judgments upon sin by burning the Bible or ignoring it. They will have to face God someday and give an account of their deeds. Today we need to be workers together with God and spread the gospel.

THE WORK OF A PASTOR

September 15, 1957

Printed Portion:.....Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-5; 34:11-16

Ezekiel 1:1. Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

2. In the fifth day of the month, which was the fifth year of king Jehoiachin's captivity,

3. The word of the Lord came expressly unto Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans

by the river Chebar; and the hand of the Lord was there upon him.

Ezekiel 2:1. And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

2. And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

3. And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day.

4. For they are impudent children and stiff-hearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God.

5. And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 34:11. For thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I, even I, will both search my sheep, and seek them out.

12. As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

13. And I will bring them out from the people, and gather them from the countries, and will bring them to their own land, and feed them upon the mountains of Israel by the rivers, and in all the inhabited places of the country.

14. I will feed them in a good pasture, and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

15. I will feed my flock, and I will cause them to lie down, saith the Lord God.

16. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away, and will bind up that which was broken, and will strengthen that which was sick; but I will destroy the fat and the strong; I will feed them with judgment.

Memory Verse: Ye my flock, the flock of my pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Lord God.

Ezekiel 34:31.

Practical Truth: To faithfully proclaim God's messages is an important part of the work of a pastor.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The prophetic careers of Jeremiah and Ezekiel overlap in time, though the call of Jeremiah to be a prophet was about 28 years earlier than that of Ezekiel. Ezekiel was taken with the captives by Babylon in 598 B. C. While there, he received his call and prophesied for 22 years. The first part of Ezekiel is a message to the people of Israel about their prevailing sins and the destruction of Jerusalem.

The last part of our lesson brings a hope to the children of Israel of the day when Jesus would come and be a shepherd to them, seeking out the lost and bringing them home. God let the prophet see the things that were to come upon God's people and that a time would come when it would be "cloudy and dark," spiritually speaking. Today we know God did bring His people out of that day and has brought us into the full light of the gospel. We, today are feeding on the "good pasture" and are living "upon the high mountain" of God in this world. We are "lying down" with full satisfaction to our souls. Everything our souls long for is supplied through Jesus, our Redeemer, Lord and Master.

As a shepherd gives individual attention to each sheep so does the Lord care for us individually. John 10.

STANDING FIRM IN CRISES

September 22, 1957

Printed Portion:.....Daniel 5:1, 5, 13-14, 16b, 17-18, 22-28

Daniel 5:1. Belshazzar the king made a great feast to a thousand of his lords, and drank wine before the thousand.

5. In the same hour came forth fingers of a man's hand, and wrote over against the candlestick upon the plaister of the wall of the king's palace: and the king saw the part of the hand that wrote.

Daniel 5:13. Then was Daniel brought in before the king. And the king spake and said unto Daniel, Art thou that Daniel, which art of the children of the captivity of Judah, whom the king my father brought out of Jewry?

14. I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

Daniel 5:16b. Now if thou canst read the writing, and make known to me the interpretation thereof, thou shalt be clothed with scarlet, and have a chain of gold about thy neck, and shalt be the third ruler in the kingdom.

17. Then Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation.

18. O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour.

Daniel 5:22. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this;

23. But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified:

24. Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written.

25. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.

26. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it.

27. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.

28. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Memory Verse: Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Ephesians 6:10.

Practical Truth: It is the duty of everyone to stand firmly for the right in times of crisis.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Daniel was only fourteen years old when he refused to defile his conscience and soul with the king's strong drink and meat. God blessed him as he does all today who will firmly purpose in their hearts to obey God's commandments. I believe we have some Daniels today.

At the time of our lesson Daniel was about 90 years old and had been in Babylon for 70 years. Daniel's influence for good was great upon the kings that he served during those years. His witness continued right on during the Persian rule as well. We find that Daniel stood firm in all the crises that he met. He would not yield to man and was cast in the lions den but God delivered him. Praise the Lord. God will deliver us today if we will stand firm for God and obey Him.

In our lesson God brought the nation to an end because they dared to knowingly disobey God. God weighed them by His Word and they were found wanting. Today God is looking at you and He is weighing your actions, deeds, thoughts and words. Are they according to God's Word? We need to search our hearts and see that we are not found wanting because the day is coming to all when it will be too late to pray and measure up.

PATRIOTISM IN ACTION

September 29, 1957

Printed Portion:.....Nehemiah 2:17-18; 4:6; 13:19-21

Nehemiah 2:17. Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

18. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

Nehemiah 4:6. So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

Nehemiah 13:19. And it came to pass, that when the gates of Jerusalem began to be dark before the sabbath, I commanded that the gates should be shut, and charged that they should not be opened till after the sabbath: and some of my servants set I at the gates that there should no burden be brought in on the sabbath day.

20. So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.

21. Then I testified against them, and said unto them, Why lodge ye about the wall? if ye do so again, I will lay hands on you. From that time forth came they no more on the sabbath.

Memory Verse: Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work: for I am with you. Haggai 2:4.

Practical Truth: Great things can be accomplished when people have a mind to work.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It would be good to read the whole book of Nehemiah to be able to get the background for the few verses used in the lesson.

Nehemiah lived in luxury, ease and held an high office in the king's court. He was trusted as the cupbearer to the king. He could have continued to live in this place where he would not lack anything but he was very distressed when his brother told him the Jews in Jerusalem were in great trouble and shame. He fasted and prayed and appeared before the king with sad countenance, and said, "The city, the place of my fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste." This touched the heart of the king because he loved Nehemiah. The king made it possible for him to get provisions to rebuild the walls and restore the city of God, and gave him the authority to commission help. We find when he started the work it was finished in short time because the "people had a mind to work."

Today we need leaders of God's work like Nehemiah of old with a burden and a vision that are willing to consecrate to leave home, deny the flesh and launch out for God. Then we need others who are like the people of old, "had a mind to work." All working together will bring great results for God. If we can't go, let us send someone.

—Mrs. Marie Miles