

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



Volume 29, No. 2

Printed at

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

July, 1959

### *The Bible*

God's precious Word, God's holy book,  
That gives us light for every look  
Upon its pages filled with love,  
Is sent to us from heaven above.

Oh, precious book that lights our way  
From darkness into perfect day:  
It is a lamp unto our feet  
And makes our happiness complete.

As every day we read, we drink  
The message of God's love, and think  
Of Him who sent his only Son  
To seek and save us every one.

This book of love which God has given  
Will surely guide us all to heaven,  
If we but follow in the way  
That leads us to the perfect day.

God's Word will stand while ages roll,  
And at the Judgment we are told  
This open book we'll have to face  
When we have finished life's short race.

Oh, saints, let us be careful then,  
And not forget to live like men,  
Who for their precious Saviour look,  
According to God's holy Book.

—George W. Stephenson.

### **The Church Built and Spirit-Filled**

We often hear ministers say that the Church of God was built by Christ in A. D. 33, on the day of Pentecost. I wish to say, dear brethren, that on the day of Pentecost He had His Church already fitted and framed together, as they were all of one accord in one place. His work performed on the day of Pentecost was merely occupying His Church with the cleansing, infilling power of the Holy Ghost and making it a spiritual body of members gifted with different spiritual gifts as it would please the Lord, caus-

ing the whole body of believers to function as a unit in lifting up Christ as a sacrifice for a dying world and to the edifying of itself in love. Paul, in writing of the different gifts in First Cor. 12:11, 12, says: "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame spirit, dividing to every man severally [individually] as he will. For as the body is one and hath many members, and the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ." Paul says in Col. 1:24, "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church." His Church in the world today is the spiritual body of believers. In the scriptures it is sometimes called the Temple of God (2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21), the Sanctuary or Tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man (Heb. 8:2), the House of God (1 Tim. 3:15; Heb. 3:6). Peter, in his first epistle, 2nd chapter and 5th verse, plainly tells us that the Church is made up of lively stones and built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Solomon's literal temple was a type of the spiritual Temple of Christ which today is His spiritual body—His house—the Church of God, composed of all those who are born from above and retain His Spirit and life in their souls. They are held together by the love of God and by the keeping of His Word and commandments. They are a separate people from all sects or humanly-organized churches.

The Church of God, which embraces true holiness, was built by Christ Himself. The apostles were foundation stones with Jesus Christ being the chief corner Stone. (Eph. 2:20, 21, 22). When He chose the apostles He used them as foundation stones, and later on we read in the scriptures in the 10th chapter of Luke that He chose other seventy and sent them out before His face. In the 9th verse He says to them, "Heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." These seventy became lively stones in His building with many others who were saved by their faith in Christ as the Messiah, the Restgiver. The sinner

**Attend National Campmeeting, July 24---Aug. 2, at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.**

woman who came to Jesus while in the Pharisee's house and in repentance washed His feet with tears and wiped them with the hairs of her head also became a lively stone in His building, for He said unto her as recorded in the last verse of the 7th chapter of Luke, "Thy faith hath saved thee: go in peace."

On the day of Pentecost there were a hundred and twenty gathered together in one place in one accord. His house or Church was built and ready to be occupied. They were all justified by faith and lively stones in the building. The Spirit of truth was with them. (John 14:17). In Acts 2:2 we read: "And suddenly there came a sound from heaven [the Holy Spirit came 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 [denoting cleansing] and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues [languages], as the Spirit gave them utterance." Thus Jesus occupied His built Church in the form of the Holy Ghost. It all came down from God out of heaven the same as John saw when he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, recorded in Revelation 21: 9 and 10. This occupation of His Temple or Church was prophesied by Malachi in chapter 3, verse one, which reads thus, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me: [referring to John the Baptist]. And the Lord [Christ Jesus] whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple [House or Church], even the messenger of the covenant whom ye delight in: behold he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." You will notice that the prophet uses the same word, "suddenly," which is used in Acts when the Holy Ghost came from heaven with a rushing mighty wind.

When the day of Pentecost came, Jesus had His Church already built and they were together in one accord, and He occupied it in the form of the Holy Ghost. It was a complete institution, having all the officers needed. As each member received gifts of the Spirit, it began to function as His spiritual Body or Church and all that were being saved were added to it by the new birth or by being born from above.

Because the new converts were commanded to be baptized in water, some have made water baptism as the door of the Church, but the scriptures do not give them sufficient foundation for such teaching. Peter tells us in his first letter, third chapter and 21st verse that water baptism is the "answer of a good conscience toward God by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." In the sixth chapter of Romans the Apostle Paul gives us some good instruction on this subject. In the fifth verse we read, "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." Water baptism makes a good picture of one who has died to the world and sin, and is now being buried. As Christ died and was buried in the ground and was resurrected again to life by the power of God, so the new convert goes down into the watery grave and is brought forth to walk in the new life from heaven. Instead of water baptism being the door, it shows

that the new convert has already passed through the door, and is now witnessing this fact to the world by water baptism. Jesus makes it plain in John 10:9 that He is the door: "By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture." It is a positive fact that no literal operation done by any man can be the door to the Church that Jesus built, for it is a spiritual institution and can be entered only in a spiritual manner. Being born from above by the Spirit of God is the only way that any one can enter in at the true door of the Church of God. Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone and the doorway into the true Church of the living God. If you are trying to climb up some other way, please read the first verse of the tenth chapter of John. Believe God's Word and be convinced.

The Jew was born into God's Jewish nation by a literal birth and was reckoned as the Lord's chosen people. This was a type or a shadow of God's chosen, holy nation of people today who are the real Israel of God, composed of both Jews and Gentiles. As the Jew was born into the literal Israel of God by a literal birth, so in order to get into the spiritual family of God today, which is His Church, you must be born from above in a spiritual manner or you are none of His. Paul writes plainly in the Romans 8:9, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Please accept the Bible way to heaven.

—Fred Pruitt.

## Christ or The Church Preeminent?

The Roman Catholic hierarchy teaches that the church, and not Christ, is the authority in all matters of church government. In other words, they argue that they are capable of self-government by divine sanction. In all humanly organized religious systems they are left to their own false ways, because Christ has no connection with them and will not even "smell in their assemblies."

The one and only true Church of God is the divinely organized, spiritual body of Christ, composed of every born-again person, of which Christ is the supreme Head, Governor, Builder, Foundation, Door, Cornerstone and chief Shepherd. Christ has the preeminence in all things concerning the Church. "He is the head of the body, the church, . . . that in all things HE MIGHT HAVE THE PREEMINENCE." (Col. 1:18).

The Apostle Paul uses the natural body (1 Cor. 12) to represent the operations of the spiritual body, the Church. The orders of the natural body originate in the head or brain, and are transmitted to and carried into effect by the members of that body. Likewise, the members of the spiritual body, the church, obey the orders of its divine Head, which is Christ. No man or set of men have been given the divine right or authority to legislate and execute rules contrary to the Inspired Word and Spirit of God. Christ alone governs His Church through the agency

of the Holy Spirit. "The government shall be upon his shoulders." Isa. 9:6. Jesus said, "I will build MY church." Matt. 16:18. He purchased the Church with His OWN blood; therefore, He is the exclusive owner, and directs all of its activities.

A divine union exists between Christ and His Church. The Apostle Paul illustrates this unity by the institution of marriage. He says, "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the CHURCH IS SUBJECT UNTO CHRIST, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. They two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Eph. 5:23, 24, 28, 30-32. The husband is Christ, and the wife is the church. They are joined in holy matrimony, and "they two shall be one." The believer, through the new birth, is married to Christ, and is inducted into His spiritual body, the church, which is subject to its Head in every thing.

The members of Christ's body function by the gifts of the Spirit alone. None have any right or power to act, except as "it is God that worketh in them." If they preach or exhort, it is by His Spirit dwelling in them. Every spiritual service requires a divine call and gift, and that alone is their authority to function. The gospel is the "law of liberty," in which is held inviolate the right of the divinely called and gifted minister to get his message from God and deliver it when and where the Spirit directs. Therefore, there is no need of a human pulpit committee, conference or board to dictate the message and when and where it shall be preached. By the same truth, the one called to publish gospel literature need not be governed by a board in spiritual affairs. (Such does exist in sectism where the Spirit of God is not present to direct.) However, God's ministers do not work independent one of another, but co-operate, advise and counsel one another in the spirit of Christ. They are humble and submissive, even as the Apostle Peter exhorted the elders: "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility." 1 Peter 5:5. The graces of Christian love and courtesy—"in honor preferring one another"—will temper the body together and cause it to function harmoniously.

There are diversities of gifts of the Spirit, differences of administrations, "and there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all." 1 Cor. 12:6. All of the members with their various gifts are necessary, but did the church endow them with gifts and direct their work in the body? Notice—"But now hath GOD set the members EVERY ONE OF THEM in the body, AS IT HATH PLEASED HIM." 1 Cor. 12:18. That which pleases God should be our pleasure, and gladly recognize His choice in bestowing gifts on the "members in particular." To avert schisms, the Lord has

designed that all "the members should have the same care one for another." 1 Cor. 12:25. However, if the devil succeeds in slipping a pair of his green goggles of jealousy upon an individual, he will not be able to see anything good in the member of whom he is envious.

The spirit of preeminence and seeking to be "lords over God's heritage" arose in a congregation of the primitive church. The Apostle John (3 Jno. 9) wrote to the church and rebuked the over-ruling and overbearing elder named "Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them." This same spirit led to the great apostasy and the rise of popery. John points out that Diotrephes was "prating against us with malicious words," which is proof of a bad spirit. Since Christ is the chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4), the under-shepherd is not the "boss man" from whom there is no appeal.

If the church is the authority, independent of the callings and gifts of the Spirit, then Christianity is reduced to a mere churchanity. —Lawrence Pruitt

## Bargain Religion

Have you ever been caught in the crowd around a bargain table when a special sale was going on? Everything seems to be forgotten but getting one of the bargain articles. It's a case of every man for himself—and woe to the one who is timid!

What makes people so interested in bargains? Perhaps there's a natural desire in human beings to try to get something for nothing—a trait which can sometimes get us into serious trouble. Not everything bought for a low price is a true bargain—the quality of the article and our need for it also enter into the picture.

Some people seem to want a bargain in religion. They want the approval which comes with being a church member, but they are not willing to do what is necessary for God's approval. They want the benefits without the responsibility!

Sometimes a purchaser gets a real bargain when regular merchandise is put on the counter at a marked-down price; but the person who accepts bargain religion always comes out on the short end of the deal. There is no substitute for genuine Christianity, for living according to Christ's pattern. —R. Lester.

Ky.—Dear saints of God everywhere,—For several years I was afflicted with heart trouble, and in the last of August, 1958 I was stricken and for several days could hardly live. As I have practiced divine healing for many years I had no doctor, but my grandson whom I reared and who is my support at this time agreed with me in prayer and God brought me out. I can now say I have no heart trouble because God has brought me out, and I give Him the praise, because I used no remedies.

I praise Him for His goodness to me these many years. Many times He has healed me and I mean to trust Him to the end.

In Christ,

Lula Bose.

**"FAITH AND VICTORY"****16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY**

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit this month to attend these meetings) by Fred Pruitt assisted by other consecrated workers at FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 15th of the month prior to the month of issue.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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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.

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

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 24:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Fred Pruitt, or to Faith Pub. House. All offerings and gifts given or sent to Fred Pruitt will be used in the general up-keep of the printing work unless you state that it is for personal needs. We make His work first.

The Faith Publishing House is incorporated under the laws of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious organization.

**FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE**

P. O. Box 713, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Oklahoma  
Phone No. BUTler 2-1479

The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor  
1208 W. Mansur, P. O. Box 210, Phone BUTler 2-3244

**EDITORIALS**

The vacation period for most of the workers at Faith Publishing House will be from June 24th to August 10th. However, your correspondence and all orders will be taken care of by those who remain at the office. As usual, there will be no *Faith and Victory* paper printed for August, but we will, however, send the August Sunday school lessons to all those whom we know use them in rolls for their Sunday schools. Those who are not getting them in rolls and want the lessons, just send us word and we will mail you the lessons. If we have missed anyone and you do not get your roll of lessons by the 19th of July, just let us know, as we have printed extra copies for this purpose.

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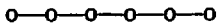
The *Faith and Victory* paper is doing business for the Lord in carrying the gospel of peace and salvation to multiplied thousands of souls around the globe. The demand for the gospel by the printed page is increasing and we are very thankful to God to be able to send forth the unadulterated truth to so many precious souls.

One day as I was operating the Little Giant automatic press, I asked the Lord for a scripture to refresh my soul. Picking up the Bible I opened it to the eighth chapter of Zechariah. In the second verse the prophet gives us the voice of God in which he says God is jealous for Zion (the Church of God) with great jealousy, and also said, "I was jealous for her with great fury." God surely does want Zion, the Church, to be a clean vessel for Him. When Jesus came into the literal temple in Jerusalem and found the money changers there with oxen and sheep, making merchandise in the literal temple (which is a type of the spiritual Temple or Church in which we live today), he became indignant about the matter and fulfilled the scripture found in Psa. 69:9, which was fulfilled and is on record in the 2nd chapter of John, 13-17. His zeal for the literal temple to clearly show forth the clean and pure spiritual Temple or Church, which He was building, overcame Him and He made a scourge of small cords and drove them out of the temple, even poured out the changers' money and overthrew the tables. In the 16th verse He says, "Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." In the 17th verse it says the disciples remembered that it was written, "The zeal of thine house has eaten me up." Truly, Jesus fulfilled all the sayings of the Prophets and the Law.

In the third verse of the 8th chapter of Zechariah the prophet says, "Jerusalem [symbol of the Church] shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain." I thank God that he has made it possible for us to live in this truly clean and holy mountain, which is the Church.

of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. Isaiah, in speaking of the highway of holiness, the Church, says, "The unclean shall not pass over it. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon; it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there and shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isa. 35:8 to end of chapter.

Dear brother, if you have been born from above and are continuing to live a clean and holy life, you are an inhabitant of this City of Zion where the truth and holiness of God dwells, and I beg you, for Jesus' sake and your own good and soul's welfare, not to join up with any man-organized body of people that call themselves a church. There is only one thing in the Bible that we are told to join, and that is to join ourselves to the Lord in a perpetual covenant which shall not be forgotten. (Jeremiah 50:5). Do not defile your soul by trying to climb up some other way mapped out by man, for Jesus says in John 14:5, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No man can come unto the Father but by me." Christ is the door and there is none other name given whereby we can be saved. As the Jew was born into the literal nation of Israel in a literal manner, so are we born into the spiritual Family of God by a spiritual birth. Abide in Him and Him only. Seek Christ Jesus in prayer daily for your needs in living a holy life, for He is our High Priest seated at the right hand of God. He will help you. He tells us that he is touched by the feelings of our infirmities and invites us to come boldly to Him to find grace in time of need. Read the 4th chapter of Hebrews and count Him faithful to fulfill all of His promises.



The Lord has made every provision possible for the salvation of the sinner that he might live holy before Him and be ready for heaven. The Bible says very plainly in Hebrews 12:14 that we are to follow peace with all men and "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." The judgment day will be a sad day for professors who sin more or less all the time. One in that condition cannot fall from grace, for they could not be in grace when committing sin day by day. Such a confession and profession is an insult to the almighty power of God. It is Satan that causes men to sin, and any one who confesses that he sins more or less all the time is ascribing more power to Satan than to God. They insult their Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ who has all power over Satan and all his wicked spirits. They make God a weaker being than Satan and call Jesus their Master. Yet they serve Satan, for Jesus said in John 8:34, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." Satan is the one that causes men to sin and God is the one that keeps a saved man free from sin. In 1 John 3:5 we read, "And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." John said in another place that many deceivers had entered the world. Therefore, he says here, "Little chil-

dren, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; [right here many professors add to the word of God and say, 'habitual sinning', but the Word says no such thing] for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" right out of your heart. The next verse makes it plain that the difference between the children of God and the children of Satan is that God's children do not sin and Satan's children do sin.

Dear friend, whom are you serving in reality? The Bible makes the truth so plain and simple that none need to be mistaken of whose servant they are. Satan has many clever preachers who are ready to explain the scriptures away and make them mean the opposite of what God says. So many use the scriptures out of their proper place to bolster up their unscriptural conclusions and keep souls in sin and away from the real God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is amazing how pious the preacher of Satan can keep the outside polished up and so many will look upon him as though he were an angel from God's heaven and swallow all that he says even as a young bird opens its mouth to swallow whatever the mother bird brings to it. I say shame on the devil and his agents. What a weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth awaits such deceitful workers. The teaching of "once in grace always in grace" or "eternal security" while sinning more or less all the time is leading a multitude of souls to damnation and eternal ruin. Oh, the deceptive subtlety of Satan's work among men!

God deals with men according to what he finds in the heart, and he tells us in his Word to "Keep thine heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." Proverbs 4:23. Those evil thoughts you have toward some one will in time burst forth. The guile and deceitfulness that you think is so fully covered up will show up. That pride in adornment of the body, for which you make excuses, will come to light. The judgment day will declare all things and every man will take his place with the master he has served in this life. The Bible tells us that there is a way that "seemeth right" unto man but it is the way of death. Please do not try to climb up some other way and live here only in the "seem right" way. The minister of God is warned by God through His Word not only to warn the wicked to turn from sin but also to warn the righteous that they sin not. Read the third chapter of Ezekiel. I wish I had power and words to pull Satan and his agents out into the open so every honest soul could get a good look at him. They would surely turn away from him in disgust and turn to the greater power which is Almighty God, the Ruler of the universe. They would surely seek God until all sin was cleansed from their hearts by the blood of Jesus, and look to him for grace and strength to live a clean, holy life and be ready to hear those words of the Savior in that great judgment day, "Thou faithful servant, enter into the joys of the Lord."

## Obituaries

Bro. and Sister Manley Spears, pastors in Oklahoma City for many years, have passed on to their reward only 16 days apart. She had been in poor health for many months. Bro. Spears felt the heavy burden of caring for her and many other responsibilities, which caused him to have a nervous breakdown before her death and he did not recover. God saw fit to take them out of this world of care to those mansions prepared for His choicest jewels.

Tollie Maupins, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maupins, was born March 25, 1897 in Ardmore, Okla., and departed this life May 13, 1959 at the age of 62 years, one month, and 18 days. At an early age she moved with her parents to Bristow, Okla. She was united in marriage to Manley Spears, Feb. 8, 1917. To this union five children were born.

In 1917, while still a young woman, she yielded her heart and life to God and embraced the truth of the Church of God and here remained until her passing. She was a faithful and devoted wife and mother, and a willing worker among the saints, always ready to testify for the Lord and would often say, "I have enlisted in His service until I die."

Manley Spears, son of Jake and Anner Spears, was born at Ardmore, Okla., July 15, 1898 and departed this life May 29, 1959 at the age of 60 years, 10 months, and 14 days. In 1900 he moved with his parents to Boley, Okla., where he grew to manhood.

In 1917 Bro. Spears heard the truth, and accepted Christ as his Saviour. In 1920, on Christmas Eve, he was called to preach and continued in the service until his home going. In 1934 Bro. Spears was called as pastor of the Church of God in Oklahoma City. He moved his family here in 1937 and served until just prior to his death. He was a faithful and devout Christian, husband, and father, earnestly contending for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints.

Survivors are two daughters: Mrs. Earnestine King, and Mrs. Alverzine Miles, Oklahoma City; three sons: Captain Elsworth Spears, Oklahoma City, William H. and Harold E. Spears, Chicago, Ill.; ten grandchildren, and many other relatives, saints and friends. Sister Spears was also survived by a mother, Mrs. Jennie West, Muskogee, Okla.; and a brother, Garnet Maupins, Phoenix, Ariz. Bro. Spears was also survived by two brothers: Boley Spears, Boley, Okla., and H. D. Spears, Hugo, Okla.; and one sister, Mittie Jackson, Boley, Okla.

Services were conducted by Bro. Zedore Francisco, assisted by others.

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## Campmeeting Notices

### CHURCH OF GOD NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, July 24 to Aug. 2, 1959, on the camp grounds at Monark Springs, Mo. which is five miles east of Neosho, Mo. on Highway 86. We extend a hearty welcome to all who can attend this meeting to come and enjoy this wonderful gathering of God's children where we will be able to feast upon the precious Word of God and lift our voices in thanksgiving and praise unto Him.

This will be a meeting where you can receive salvation from sin, sanctification for complete cleansing, and healing for sick and broken bodies. Come expecting to receive a real blessing to your soul and to be a blessing to those about you. We are expecting God to send

His Spirit-filled and Holy Ghost-led ministers to preach the truth of His precious Word. Then if we walk in the light as He is in the light we will have fellowship one with another.

Those coming by bus or train will find it necessary after arriving in Neosho to either take a taxi cab to the camp grounds or call the Monark Springs grocery store asking for some of the saints to come get you.

Meals will be served in the dining hall, financed by free-will offerings and donations of fruit and vegetables as the Lord directs to be given.

The tents will rent for \$5.00 each, steel cot including mattress, \$1.00, and space in dormitories, \$2.50, which includes steel cot with mattress. Those who can, should bring bedding, for the nights will be cool, especially if we have rain. Those desiring tents or spaces in dormitories should send their orders AT ONCE to the undersigned.

For further information, please write to: Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kans.

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The WICHITA, KANSAS annual summer meeting will be at 1701 North Ash St., July 10 to 19. We are looking to the Lord for good ministerial help. There will be one day service and one night service. We are expecting souls to be saved, divine healing to be done, believers sanctified, and some more of God's sheep that are scattered about gathered back into the fold of God.

For further information contact Bro. Lewis Williams, 1536 Piatt, Wichita, Kans., Phone HO. 4-8481.

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The BOLEY, OKLA. annual CAMPMEETING will be held, the Lord willing, Aug. 21 to 30, or as long as the Lord leads. For further information write Sister Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Box 109, Boley, Okla. We are asking the saints to pray for the success of the meeting.

(Notice: If each of us, in every congregation would remember the funds for the Boley Campground's rest rooms, and contribute as the Lord has prospered us, there would be enough to properly take care of this very great necessity. Your sister in Christ, S. Shaw.)

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The CALIFORNIA STATE CAMPMEETING of the Church of God will be held on the saints' camp ground located at 12312 Osborne Place in Pacoima (a suburb of Los Angeles) beginning Aug. 28 and continuing through Sept. 6, 1959, Lord willing. If it should be your first time here and you need help locating the place you may phone O. B. Wilson, EMpire 9-3608 or Erle Forbes, EMpire 9-5836 for directions upon your arrival.

We hope to have all of the cabins ready for use by campmeeting time. We will, Lord willing, if all of those who have not yet paid in their money for their cabins will send it in immediately so funds will be on hand to purchase all necessary materials for finishing them.

If you own a cabin here and are not going to be able to attend the meeting and are willing for someone else to use your cabin, I would appreciate a letter from you to that effect and naming the parties you expect to use it if you have special arrangements with any particular individuals.

It would be well for those who plan to come who do not own a cabin here to write us ahead of time if possible so we could have arrangements made for you before you arrive.

We urge all saints and all who are interested in and love the truth who are scattered throughout the west to attend this meeting. Also all are invited to come from

farther east with whom it is possible. Hope to meet all of you at the campmeeting and until then God bless all of you and let us be praying for a real good campmeeting. O. B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Calif.

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The annual BAKERSFIELD, CALIF. CAMPMEETING will convene Aug. 7 through Aug. 16. We extend a hearty and sincere welcome to all to come and enjoy a feast from the Father's table.

Place of meeting is at the corner of Brown and Virginia Streets. Virginia and 4th Street is the same. Those driving north on US 99 should turn east on 4th St. one-half mile after crossing California Ave. If from the south on US 99 turn east one-half mile after crossing Brundage Lane. If from the east on Highway 466 turn south on Brown St. Those coming by train or bus should call for someone to meet you. If possible, please bring bedding.

For further information write or call Frances Blackwell, 501 Monticello Ave., phone FAirview 3-2731 or the pastor, Bro. I. C. Chandler, Rt. 6, Box 37, Bakersfield, Calif. phone FA. 4-9044.

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The MYRTLE, MO. CAMPMEETING will begin Aug. 21 and continue through Aug. 30, Lord willing. The camp ground is located one-half mile east of Myrtle off B B Highway two-tenths of a mile. Those coming by train or bus to Thayer, Mo., or Pochontas, Ark., can call Myrtle telephone 600 and some of the saints will meet them by car. Meeting will be run on free-will offering plan. Please bring sheets, covering, and pillows. Pray!

For further information write Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott, Box 223, Thayer, Mo.

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Lord willing, the DOVER, OKLA. campmeeting will begin Sept. 4 continuing through Sept. 13. Location: one mile north, two and one half miles east of Dover. Dover is on Highway 81. We will meet busses if notified in time. Send offerings or donations to Henry Caldwell, or Ulysses Phillips, Dover, Okla. Pray for the success of the meeting.

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The GUTHRIE, OKLA. STATE CAMPMEETING is to convene, Lord willing, Aug. 7 to 16, at Sixth and W. Warner. We are looking forward to another gathering together of the children of God in these parts. We extend a hearty welcome to all who can attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all. Expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Send contributions or donations of food to Bro. M. A. Davis, Rt. 2, Guthrie, Okla. Come praying for lost souls. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor

#### DATES OF OTHER CAMPMEETINGS TO BE HELD

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Akron, Ohio             | June 26 — July 5  |
| Hoffman, Oklahoma       | June 26 — July 5  |
| Hammond, Louisiana      | June 26 — July 5  |
| Green Pasture, Oklahoma | July 10 — July 19 |

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

I greatly desire the earnest and sincere prayers of the saints for my son's serious affliction, that the Lord will heal him, and above all, for him to seek the mercy of God until he will obtain salvation. I know the Lord is able for I have received wonderful help from Him. So I am asking you dear ones to please help me pray.

—A. E. of La.

Will you pray most earnestly for the Lord to put an everlasting end to a most destructive and deceitful work

in my community and that God will openly expose it and stop it; and that the Lord bless and give me my spiritual desires in every way. Also pray God to make a special financial provision for me.

—One in defence of the full gospel.

My daughter married a high school boy, had a baby for us to care for, and divorced. She now plans to marry again, so pray that God will block this.

—A burdened mother.

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#### NOTICE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Saints, Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. We give thanks unto the Lord and to you for your kind letters of encouragement and for the offerings. The dear Lord will bless you for your kindness. We desire your earnest prayers that this trial will all come out to the glory of God. Your brother and sister in Christ, George and Sylvia Abbott, Rt. 2 Box 46, Bristow, Okla.

#### EXCERPTS FROM MEXICO NEWS LETTER

We greet you today in the name of Christ Jesus and with His love. We feel it is time to give an account of our missionary work in Mexico again but before doing so we wish to take this opportunity to express thanks and appreciation both to God and to you who have so graciously taken this work on your heart and are helping both with your prayers and means.

We have been having services every week in the "new colony" and the interest in the services is good. Also we still have the weekly services in El Almo with good interest. With three services a week at Santa Catarina, one at Rancho Redeo (the new colony) and one at El Almo and the visiting in homes and still doing a little work on the house the workers there are very busy.

Rufino Occhurte is the aged chief of the Kiliwi Indians in Arroyo Leon. He has visited in Santa Catarina quite often, coming almost 30 miles on horseback. He had a real interest and desire to know more about the gospel. The religion his tribe has is so fantastic; yet based on ancient teaching of Catholic missionaries over one hundred years ago. The day he repented and received Jesus Christ as his Saviour, he came to the Mission House afflicted, seeking a remedy to rub on his rheumatic limbs. He also wanted prayer for his people that God supply them with water. The gospel story was told to him from the creation to the resurrection. He said he wanted prayer for healing and salvation. As he arose after prayer a great joy shone in his face. He received an instantaneous touch to his body and joy to his soul. When he arrived, he had fallen and was scarcely able to climb the steps into the house. After prayer, he stamped his feet and rejoiced, repeating over and over, "Que bueno" (how good). He said, "I came for something to rub on my leg, but with faith in God I don't need it." Before he left the Mission Home he said, "Now I must go tell my people." After Bro. Rufino returned home, a man from Arroyo Leon came to the Mission wanting prayer for his brother who is blind, so we felt certain that Rufino had carried his message home.

A little now about the building. Bro. Smith, from Pomona, took a storage tank for water he had made in Enasnada. A few weeks ago he and Bro. Hite dug a well and installed a gasoline powered pump and now with the storage tank we have water piped in the house. This is such a wonderful blessing for we have been hauling all our domestic water from a tiny stream fed by a spring about two miles away over very rough roads. After dip-



ping it up and filling our 5, 2, and 10 gallon cans we would have to carry it up a steep little hill and lift it into the car or jeep. Much of the time there were no men available to do that. Also, the bath room fixtures are in and the septic tanks are finished, and what's more, many of you have had a part in all of this, and again from the deep of our hearts we say "muchas gracias."

Pray that workers be stirred, raised up and prepared, and as you pray, be willing to say, "here am I, Lord." We need teachers and gospel workers in the new colony and in El Almo. The colony is a group of settlers, about 140 people, who have migrated from different parts of Mexico, and are settling on virgin land. They have appreciated so much the food and clothing that has been sent to them. They have no cows or goats to milk for their babies. They have no crops yet, so it is a rugged life. They are receptive to the gospel and want a teacher for their children. —The workers for The Lower Mission.

Baja Mission (Lower Mission), % O. B. Wilson,  
12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Calif.

## The Evangelistic Tent Work Report

We send greetings to all the saints. We are enjoying the presence of God in our lives and have a greater determination than ever to spend and be spent for God. We want to thank all who have had interest in the physical needs of my wife and son. They both have been much blessed of the Lord—have had a few trials of faith but have stood firm against the very spirit of infirmity and God is rewarding.

Lord willing, we will soon be rolling again with the tent. We want all to remember us in earnest prayer that much good will be accomplished for God and truth. Singers and helpers are much needed also. Our hearts are much encouraged to see the co-operation of the saints in different capacities to see this evangelistic effort succeed in reaching many perishing souls. May God reward each one richly is our prayer.

We have moved to Sapulpa, Oklahoma and our new address is P. O. Box 1036, for those who want to keep in touch with us. Yours, for the gleanings of souls.  
(June 11th) —Charles R. Smith

Bro. Ralph Beisly, treasurer of the Church of God National Missionary Fund, has informed us on this date (June 12th) that a new truck and a nice used aluminum, all-weather body has been purchased for the evangelistic tent work—all clear of indebtedness, for which we thank the Lord and all those who so liberally contributed to this worthy cause.

The body will have to be mounted on the truck, along with other preparations, and possibly new tires will have to be put on the house trailer. Bro. Beisly feels that with the Lord's help the equipment will be ready for Bro. Smith and company to start out in the work at least by July 1st.

Bro. Charles Smith writes that he felt led of the Lord for a meeting in Arkansas, and would possibly go there first. The tentative plan for the meeting place is at Concord, Arkansas, between Batesville and Heber Springs, where Sister Lillian Meek of Guthrie, Okla. has relatives. Remember Bro. Smith's request for singers and helpers in this evangelistic effort.

For the continued progress and support of this tent work in new fields, send your offerings to the National Missionary Fund, in care of Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kansas.

Bro. Hensel Olsen and Bro. Albert Nielsen, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon, along with many other burdened saints in the West, are moving forward with plans to have an evangelistic tent project in operation for the Western states. A hundred evangelistic companies should be traveling in every direction to carry this gospel to every creature. This is Christ's commission to the Church. So let us pray for and support in every way possible this effort of the saints in the West to reach the many untouched fields in that vast area. Qualified and consecrated gospel singers and workers are urgently needed. For this special effort, forward your contributions to Bro. Albert Nielsen, Box 34, Jefferson, Oregon.

We understand that Bro. Huskey and Bro. Nielsen are in a tent meeting at Woodburn, Oregon at the present time. Pray that many souls will be rescued from sin.

It is hoped that sufficient funds will become available in the National Missionary Fund so that all these and similar evangelistic efforts can be financially supported, along with the missionary work in Mexico. Let us pray and work toward that end. —Lawrence Pruitt.

## CORRESPONDENCE

Texas—Dear saints,—Greetings to you in the blessed name of God's Son, Jesus. In Eph. 1:3 it reads: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

I would like to tell of the wonderful way the Lord has been blessing me. Recently I had a nervousness that lasted about two weeks. I would call on the Lord and would feel better but the symptoms kept coming back. One night I told the Lord if He would heal me I would write my testimony to the paper. The Lord just wonderfully came to my rescue and I truly give him all the praise. Praise His Holy name!

Surely God is good to us and has blessed us also with spiritual blessings in heavenly places (or things) in Christ. Remember us in prayer. —Mrs. Lloyd Dunavan.

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Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints,—Greetings to everyone in Jesus' dear name. I feel led to send in a word of testimony. This finds us well and encouraged to live for the dear Lord. Truly, living for the Lord is the most pleasant way to spend our life. As the song says, "Where he leads me, I will follow." We want to follow the dear Lord wheresoever he leads. We thank the dear Lord for full and free salvation. We thank the Lord for the wonderful Church of God. It is the most wonderful thing that we can be associated with. We thank God for every born again child of God. We love everybody in the world, but there is a blessed fellowship or tie that binds the children of God very close together. It is the love that flows in their hearts. We ask every saint to pray for us. We do always pray for you. May God richly bless each one and especially the ones that stand in a special need tonight.

We feel the dear Lord has given us a few thoughts that might be a help to some dear child of God and we pray God that we might not do or say anything that would offend or hurt any in any way.

We are living in a very cold and dark world if we are without God and His loving Spirit to give us the light of life. Jesus said, "He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness." How true that statement is. But on the other hand, they that are without God are truly in a dark and sad state. I believe there is one place in the Word that says that gross darkness shall cover the people. It is



truly a dark picture for all that don't have their trust in God. As one that is interested in seeing souls saved and built up in the faith, we want to speak a few words on a most needed subject today: Humility. There are so many ways in which humility has been a very great weapon, in spiritual progress, and we dare not lay it aside in this crucial time in which we now live. When we think of the word humility, we just naturally think of the blessed Lord, for truly his life was precious adorned with humility.

We as saints of God can not truly represent Christ without an abundant supply of humility. Even ministers in many cases, no doubt are lacking in this wonderful adorning. If we should find that we are lacking on this line, we should just cry out to God and He is willing and glad to see that we do not fall short of it, or any of the righteous armors or adornments that a saint should wear.

We believe a very good way to help in this is to always remember that we were once a sinner as others and without hope in the world. No matter how great a work the dear Lord calls us to do, we will find that without humility we can not do it as the Lord would have us do it. Some times the enemy might even try and even succeed in getting us to look at what we seem to be doing, especially if the Lord is really blessing through our labors. Remember when the disciples of Christ came in rejoicing? But it was about the wrong thing. They were rejoicing because the devils were subject unto them. But the Lord taught them that they should rejoice because their names were written in heaven. Oh, what a difference can be seen in one when he is rejoicing in the Lord compared to times of rejoicing in himself or something that he has done.

We are told in one place to always abound in the work of the Lord, but the dear Lord would love for us not to undertake such a big job that we could not keep sweet and humble. He loves the world so much that He wants His ministers to always serve very humbly. Oh, how blessed to hear the Word of God come forth on any line when it is coming from a humble saint that manifests that same spirit that our Lord was so richly adorned with. As I write, I think of many different ones of the saints' preachers that the Lord has blessed me in letting me be associated with and hearing the undefiled Word come from their lips.

I count myself unworthy to have received all of the wonderful blessings that the dear Lord has blessed me with along these lines. But, oh, how sad to see some that once were so used of the Lord, but in whose heart a little pride has rooted out the true, humble spirit and made their way dark. How we need to see more of the doctrine of confessing our own faults and not so much of the finding of fault of others. Paul said in one place, "I am determined to know nothing among you save Christ and Him crucified." I feel sure that today in some cases, we might try to learn too much from people. When God shows us a fault in another, we won't feel badly at that one about it. But if we begin to look to people to inform us about others and their faults, we are likely to feel badly at them and then we are in a bad place to try to help them. Sometimes, if we look to men, we might even get misinformed and make a bad mistake in trying to reprove someone when there is nothing wrong.

I feel safe in saying that in the most cases, if we are the right one to reprove anyone on any line that the dear Lord will let us see enough of that individual so that we won't have to have any to spy for us or bring us a lot of information. I believe that God still reveals some secrets. When we stay really humble, He can show us

more truth than we can find out from man in a long time. Also, He will give us a single eye so we don't get a double vision, and we can see more good things.

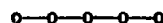
God help us to be humble like little lambs. Jesus spoke of His children as lambs, and we should still feel like lambs when the Lord begins to use in any way. Sometimes we might get in just a bit more of a hurry than the Lord is in some things. When we do, we are likely to get out of step with the Lord, and then we are likely to add a little to what God would have us say. You remember what a meek man Moses was and how he made intercession to God for the people and yet in the latter part of his service, he made a bad mistake in using his rod instead of speaking as the Lord told him.

May we all keep humble before God and keep filled with His sweet Spirit and in so doing, we will please God and be a help to one another, as our fruits will be love. Then how happy we can be! The peace of God will flow in our hearts. The "river of life" is the only river that yields this peace and joy, and true contentment.

May the Lord bless you everyone and supply you according to His abundant riches in glory is our prayer.

Your humble brother,

H. A. McMillian.



Okla.—Greetings to the saints everywhere,—This morning I'm still saved and pressing on for God and would not take a thing for my Christian journey. I am willing to walk in all the light that shines on my path way because I mean Heaven at any cost. I'm living to live again.

I want to thank the saints at the Faith Pub. House for their prayers. Also every one else. I sent in my request during the assembly meeting.

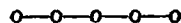
I used to have severe sick spells, but I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would write and tell about it through the Faith and Victory paper. When I would think about writing, something would tell me (which I believe to be the enemy), "Wait and be sure you are healed before you write."

This morning while in bed reading the Faith and Victory paper I got to the place where someone's testimony said they had promised the Lord that if He healed them they would tell it through the paper. A quiet calm voice spoke to me and said, "You know you promised the Lord that too." I believe that is a witness to let me know I am completely healed. Also I haven't had a sick spell for so long that I have forgotten when the last one was. I thank the Lord for healing me. I know He healed me because He was all I trusted in.

I could tell of many things He has done for me. He has never failed to come to my rescue and I mean to never fail Him. Thank every one for their prayers but continue to pray for me, and my unsaved loved ones.

A child of God

Laura Alexander.



Mo.—Dear saints of God everywhere,—By the help of God I am sending a testimony. We are serving a mighty and prayer-answering God. Praise His sweet name. Not long ago I was suffering so that no one knows but our dear Jesus. He knows and cares for His children. I thought of the song: "Further along we'll know more about it, further along we'll understand why; cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine, we'll understand it all by and by." Bro. Edd Whipple called the dear saints at Guthrie to help us to pray for God's Word tells us to pray one for another, James the 5th chapter. The promises are so sweet to His trusting children.

I could not lie down or sit down for some time. The dear Lord would relieve the suffering so I could pray. When the neighbors came in some asked what they could

do for me and I told them nothing, only to pray if they could send their prayers to the throne of God. That is something so many do not do. That was all I needed. They could see how I was suffering and how the dear Lord gave me patience.

My daughter stayed all night with me. She is good to me but not to the dear Saviour. For several years she has never asked me to get help from a doctor. She is willing to call the saints.

The dear Lord healed me of some other afflictions I had and a gathering in my head. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth them out of them all." Ps. 34:10. Thank God for His healing power!

There is much to do for our dear Lord who has done so much for us. Oh, the horrors of hell and the beauty of heaven! I am getting aged and won't have much more time to work for Jesus. I love Jesus. Ever since I have been saved I have prayed much. I go out in the hills to see a precious one. Sometimes I get a ride and sometimes I walk. After the dear Lord healed me I visited with dear Sister Wilson of Oregon, Mo., and stayed a week. She is a precious saint of God. The Lord blessed us together. I love all the saints of God. They are all so precious to me. But there is no friend like Jesus.

I went to Oregon, Mo. on the school bus to give out tracts. The woman who drove the bus was very nice to me. The dear Lord blessed me. I visited two old women the other evening. One was 84 years old. I had known them ever since I was a girl. One knelt down by me in prayer. Her hearing is not very good, but she said she heard every thing I said. Oh, Praise the Lord. They need our prayers. A few nights after that I visited in a home I love to go. I have freedom to read and pray. When they have company God makes a way for us to work for Him.

There is more we could tell but it would take up much space. I pray the dear Lord will bless the dear saints for their prayers. I know He will. I pray the Lord will help us all to melt together in love that when we pray our prayers will go to the throne of God as one prayer. Luke 10:20. I am rejoicing that my name is written in heaven.

—Sister Whitmore.

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Mo.—Greetings of love to all the dear readers of the "Faith and Victory,"—I am happy this morning that I am still saved and living for the Lord the best I know. It has been some time since I wrote for the paper so I feel the Lord wants me to write and tell what He has done and is doing for me. We do thank and praise His dear name for being so good to us. We feel so unworthy of all His blessings from day to day. About a year ago an affliction came upon my body which I thought then and still think was inward cancer. My whole trust was in the Lord. I told Him if He would heal me I would write and tell about it. I was very sick at the Myrtle Campmeeting. I was so glad I was there and got the much needed help the last day of the meeting. It was two months before I was able to go back for all-day meeting. The saints came to me and told me how they had been praying and that encouraged me more than I can tell.

That night the Lord gave me a dream to let me know He was going to give me victory over the affliction and it came. Then at the assembly meeting at Guthrie an old affliction appeared, but I was anointed and prayed for and have been well ever since. Praise our God! Oh, how I love Him and want to please Him in all I say and do.

The dear Lord sent Sister Ruth Murphey here to be with us all last week and we surely enjoyed the few nights' meeting. It was good for our hungry souls. The Lord

knows our needs better than we know ourself and sends the help we need if we are careful to live for Him a life that is pleasing in His sight. We can't please Him if we are careless. We must walk in all the light He gives us. Surely it pays to live for the Lord. I have no doubt but that I would be in my grave if I had not had my trust in the Lord. I am thankful, too, for what the Lord has done for others in the healing of their bodies when they were down at death's door.

My heart is burdened for the ones who cannot seem to pay the price for this wonderful salvation. But, dear ones, heaven is cheap at any price. I am so glad I gave up all for this one true way. I love this way more and more. My desire is to keep faithful to the end. I need the prayers of the saints. Pray for some unspoken requests I have on my heart.

Your sister in the Bible way, —Katie Marler.

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La.—Dear Bro. Fred Pruitt,—Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. I was sick with a bad cold and sore throat, but the dear Lord healed me. My friend said I should go to the doctor, but I told him that the Lord would heal me. Praise the Lord, He did.

I love my Lord. He is a good God. I am so glad to report that I am still saved and happy in the Lord. He is my Saviour, healer, and keeper. I mean by His help and grace to make heaven my home. Please pray for me. I am an old widow lady. I love to read the "Faith and Victory" paper and the tracts. I am so glad that salvation is free. May God bless you all.

Your Sister in Christ, —Viola Pasquet.

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Mo.—Greetings to all the saints in the name of our Lord and Saviour,—We are thanking the dear Lord for salvation and for victory over sin and the devil. We desire to tell a little of God's goodness and mercy to us, that it might be a means of encouragement to someone else. On the morning of last Dec. 6th before I arose from my bed, I had a dream of visiting in the home of one of the saints. There were several sisters there and when I looked upon their faces they were like white marble. I recognized each one but I was puzzled and wondered why their faces were covered with those white masks. Then as I looked around the room everything was white. The walls were covered in white and I walked to a bed on one side of the room and gazed down upon a child lying there dressed in white and everything on the bed was white as snow. When I awakened about 4 a. m. I wondered what my dream could mean. My heart felt burdened but I knew not why. I earnestly looked to the Lord in prayer.

After we arose and went about the duties of the day my heart was still burdened and I sought the Lord in prayer. My husband had taken our two sons and gone to the saw mill for some lumber. He came home around 10 o'clock and said that our youngest son, 9 years old, had broken his leg near the hip. We had not had any experience of this kind before and did not know what to do. I felt that we should have the bone set but husband was not sure just what we should do as he did not want to bring reproach on the cause of God. We had prayer and then called different ones of the saints for prayer. The enemy was not asleep for we had trouble getting some of the saints and we knew not what to do. We did not even know how to get the child out of the car and into the house. It was very cold weather and we knew he could not stay in the car so we pleaded with God for wisdom. It came to us to get a board and slide him from the seat where he was lying down, onto the board and we carried him into the house and placed the board on our

dining table and there he lay from about 10:30 a. m. until about 9:00 p. m. Dear ones, it was marvelous how the Lord undertook for him and how little he suffered.

I so desired to get his jeans off so I could look at his leg and the Lord just helped us get him undressed and into his pajamas without hurting him. Sister Bowers, our Pastor, and Bro. and Sister Barton and Dorothy came to be with us and Bro. Barton said it would be all right to have the bone set. So he and Dorothy went with my husband to see a doctor. We had trouble getting him into a hospital as they did not have the right kind of equipment to take care of a break of this nature. We took him to Springfield, a distance of about 50 miles. We asked that they not operate or put pins in his leg and the doctors co-operated with us as much as possible. It was a very bad break, the bones overlapping some over three inches, but the Lord worked in such a way that he only stayed in the hospital about 12 hours. Then they let us bring him home.

They gave him an overdose of ether when they set his leg and the second day after he was brought home the doctor said he had pneumonia, caused from the ether. One lung was completely filled up and the other was filling rapidly. I was home alone when the doctor came, and he talked pretty rough to me. He told me he would go to the highest laws of the land and would take the child where he could have medical care. I am naturally shy about speaking up, but the Lord gave me boldness and I said, "Doctor, I can understand how you feel, but we are trusting in a mighty God and He is able to take care of our child. We have him in God's hands and you can only go as far as God allows you to, for His glory. You can not touch this child unless the Lord permits it." The doctor didn't answer me a word. Sister Ruth Murphey came in about that time and I felt so thankful to have her with me.

The child's temperature was 105 degrees so we called the saints for prayer and then Sister Ruth and I spent some time in prayer. His temperature dropped two and one half degrees while we were praying. The next morning the doctor came real early, ready to take Michael to the hospital. He took his temperature the third time before he could believe his own eyes, for it was only 100 degrees then. He tested his lungs and said, "Why, that congestion is almost completely gone from his lungs." How we did praise God! Dear saints, this pneumonia was gone. When the doctor was here around 4 p. m. Michael was very sick and when he came back about 8 a. m. the next morning the child was healed.

Oh, I can't take space to tell all the blessings the Lord showered upon us during this time of testing. Michael was in a cast over his body from the waist down and over this one leg for three months and during that whole time he never had any pain at all. The doctors got ether in one of his eyes and burned the skin around it so that the eye was swollen shut when he came home from the hospital and looked bad, but the Lord healed that too. Praise His dear name.

The Lord worked such a miracle that our neighbors and the attending doctor were amazed and said they never saw anything like it. After the Lord healed the pneumonia the doctor co-operated with us in every way and was nice and kind to us. The leg healed nicely and Michael does not limp or have any trouble of any kind with it. The neighbors were all looking on and most of them were very kind and helpful. They showered Michael with food, books, games, toys, cards, etc. Everyone was watching to see whether he limped or how he did.

Many of the saints came long distances to be with us and we'd like to take this means of thanking each one that gave of their means to help pay the hospital bill, sent cards and letters of encouragement, helped out in the duties of the home and drove miles to help us fight the good fight of faith. Only God knows what it meant to us to have the saints standing by us and encouraging us and helping us win the battle.

We would also like to thank Bro. David Madden and the saints at Springfield. You can not know our deep appreciation for the help you dear ones were at this time. May God richly reward every one for their deeds of love to us. Pray for us, dear ones, that we keep humble and live so God can be glorified in us.

In Christian love, —Bro. and Sister Ben Goldsberry.

o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—Dear Brothers and Sisters,—Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I feel led to testify for the glory of God. I have been saved in the Bible truth many long years. I was born in the Church of God found in Revelation 2:1. I have trusted in Him for both soul and body for many years. I have been very sick for about three weeks. Bro. and Sister Sammons took me to my daughter's, Mrs. Anna Noble. I took very sick at her home. Some of the saints came every day from Dayton and Springfield and brought my husband over to see me, but I was too sick to go home. Sister Sammons, Bro. McFarland, Bro. Paul, and Sister Lulu Lambert prayed for me and I began to amend the same hour. The second day after they had prayed for me they helped me up and I couldn't stand up. My daughter helped me back to bed. In two days more I wanted to go home very badly so they led me out to the car and brought me home. I will be 94 years old August 30.

I want to keep filled with the Spirit of God. I want to be like Paul and keep the faith until my work on earth is done. I desire the prayers of all the saints for myself and my family. I want to meet them all in that Home Jesus went to prepare for us all.

Your sister, —Amanda Jones Basye.

o—o—o—o—o—o

N. Y.—Dear Brother Pruitt and co-workers.—I am a firm believer in divine healing! In the year of 1903 I was on my home farm, a young married man, but sick and could not work. My neighbors advised me to go to a doctor. The doctor said to me, "A Lord that made such a disease as you have ought to make a remedy for it. I can't take your case." He did not charge me anything. I went to another doctor and he gave me a small bottle of colored water, I guess, and said, "If this doesn't heal you, it won't hurt you any." It cost me \$2.50. I drove home, took the bottle out, put it to my lips, and after finding no taste I threw it out the open window. Then I began buying patent medicines until I had ten in a row. I got no help from any of these.

One day I walked into the barn driving in 15 cows to be milked, and lightning struck the barn and it was on fire. The three cows I had stanchioned were burned to death and the other twelve saved themselves. The next day, while sitting in a rocking chair thinking over what had happened to me, I struck the right thought: a determination to live close to God. I was healed instantly. I jumped up out of the chair and ran out of the house to tell the neighbors what the Lord had done for me: a material loss for a spiritual gain. (Six buildings and all my hay, which was 55 tons, and no insurance!)

Other times I have been healed, too. Even last winter I had arthritis in my legs so that I could hardly get about the house. I don't feel any of it now at 83 years of age. God can and will do it if we have faith, and pray and trust.

Keep up the good work. Don't give up to the old devil. Overcome evil with good. —Percy B. Budlong.

o—o—o—o—o

Idaho—Dear Bro. Pruitt,—I am going to write my experience. It may encourage someone else to obey at once. If we obey God when He speaks, it brings forth fruit and a blessing. If we disobey, it brings on disaster and a curse.

I had suffered a heart attack in 1950 and was still not able to work or walk to speak of in 1952. One night I felt the Lord was going to heal me, so I turned over in the bed and said a very short prayer for my healing, short, but to the point. The next morning when I awoke, I said to myself, "I'll just turn over and pray for my healing again." To my surprise an audible voice said, "Why pray for your healing; you are well." It was then I realized I was really healed. I got out of bed and began to walk around and do a few little things. Formerly, I could hardly walk across the street without assistance. (I am 80 years old now.) In about a week or ten days I took the bus and rode fifteen miles into the city. I walked twenty-eight blocks then rode home on the bus and was none the worse for the day's undertaking. I was really healed.

A few days later a voice said, "Why not send your testimony to the paper." I said, "I believe I will." I immediately sat down and wrote my testimony and sent it off. Here is where immediate obedience paid off.

The testimony came out in the paper just three weeks later. Then just one year later I received a letter from a woman in the Philippines who had received that copy. She said it impressed her so much that she kept the paper and searched the Scriptures to see if these things were true. Through that testimony she was saved and healed. Then her eldest daughter was saved and received her call from God to be a missionary. The mother said, "We are so poor we cannot pay our children's way through high school." I felt very keenly about it and one day as I sat in my chair praying and wondering if I could handle it, all at once that family seemed to be before me and a voice said, "Now, what are you going to do about it?" Immediately I said, "Lord, I'll do it." I meant it with all my heart but didn't know where the money was coming from. I wrote and began sending money, a little each month until the girl was through high school. She became a missionary. Now that isn't all, for the father and mother and three children are saved, along with a neighbor man and wife. One summer this girl and another student went into four localities and held classes for young people in which thirty-six young people accepted Christ as their Saviour.

I often think what would have happened to me had I refused to obey God, and all those precious souls could have pointed their fingers at me and said that they were lost because I didn't obey God. Dear ones, let us obey God when He speaks. He owns the cattle, yes, everything, and He is able to make a way where there is seemingly (to us) no way. I have really enjoyed this task, though it has meant sacrifice on my part, but I've never gone hungry or wanted for anything. The Lord provides.

Yours in Christ's service,

—L. M. S.

### The Mind of Christ

Mr. D. L. Moody, in one of his forceful scriptural addresses, speaking about the value of the Precious Blood of Christ, said:

"I do not believe there is a word in the Bible that Satan fears more than the word 'blood'.

"If you will read your Bible in the light of Calvary, you will find there is no other way of coming to Heaven but by the blood. The Devil does not fear ten thousand preachers who preach a bloodless religion. A man who covers up the Cross, though he may be an intellectual man and draw large crowds, cannot touch the heart and conscience. Those who preach the doctrine of the Cross, holding up Christ as the sinner's only hope of Heaven and as the sinner's substitute, God honors, and souls are always saved where that truth is preached.

"I would rather give up my life than give up this doctrine. Take that away and what is my hope for Heaven? Am I to depend upon my works? Away with them when it comes to the question of salvation. I must get salvation distinct and separate from them, for it is 'him that worketh not, but believe.' None will enter Heaven but those washed in the blood."

God honors the blood that was DRAWN from the body of His dear Son, as every drop was spilt for us. (Luke 24:31.)

We need to magnify the blood of the Lamb, for the devil and his army of demons and men are arrayed against it, seeking to hinder faith for its efficiency in the pardon of sin, in the cleansing of sin, the healing of the body, the removal of infirmities, and the sanctification of the Spirit. Satan, in these last days, is seeking to destroy the bodies of the saints.

Beloved, let us be true to the shed blood of the Lamb. Let us apply it to every part of our being and keep under its shelter, in the secret place, so that no evil dart from the enemy can touch us. (Ps. 91:1-10.)

If, through carelessness or failure, pain or fever touches us, let us declare in a mighty faith, that the blood is our remedy now. God's remedy cannot fail. Jesus' blood does now destroy the works of the devil. As we hold steadily to this testimony of faith, the pain will go.

"Behold the Saviour of mankind

Nailed to the shameful tree,

How vast the love that He inclined,

To bleed and die for me!"

—Sel.

### The Hallowed Life

By C. E. Orr

"I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the Lord which hallow you." —Lev. 22:32.

"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts." 1 Pet. 3:15. To sanctify, or hallow, God in the heart, the soul must have such a vision of His moral excellencies, of the beauty of His holiness, as to awe it with a feeling of admiration, reverence, devotion and love, and to dedicate the life and all possessions to Him in loving service. Then, the promise from heaven is, "I will hallow you." It is the law of reflection. As an object throws itself back upon the plate in the camera that opens toward Him, our life is hallowed to the extent we hallow God. A hallowed soul is one that God has reflected Himself back upon and stamped with His own moral beauty. It is one that is permeated through

and through with heavenly properties which make that soul an heavenly light radiating everywhere the glory of God which falls as a blessing upon men.

This is the great secret of life. It is man rising to the full measure of his being. It is man elevated to his rightful plane. It is man rising to the full strength of his capabilities. Christianity is a life. It is a distilling of the holy nature of God in and through the nature of man, bringing him into perfect fellowship with Him. It is God hallowed in the soul, and the soul hallowed in God. God images Himself in the soul that is opened toward Him as the sun images itself in the flower. The flower hallows the sun by throwing open all its life to the sun and receiving into its depths the light, and the sun hallows the flower by shining in and imparting its own beauty to the flower. Christianity is something more than the speaking of words and doing of deeds. It is a sacred inward life from which words and deeds flow, bearing the tone and character of Divinity, and are in beautiful harmony with the perfections of God. All in the life of a saint is sanctified by the holy presence of the Lord in the heart of which they are the issue. The Christian life is not an idle dream. It is full of heavenly realities. It is not spent in self-gratification, but in doing the will of God. The Christian spends his life here in sowing the seed from which he expects to reap a harvest through the eternal years.

Those live most saintly who have God most profoundly hallowed in the heart. Those live highest who think deepest about God, feel the greatest inward sacredness, and act the holiest. Those are farthest separated from the world, and brought nearest heaven who meditate most profoundly upon His law day and night. Nothing elevates the soul like visions of God through contemplation of Him. A church that has hallowed God and is hallowed by God is the Church of God and none else is. In such a Church there is naught but love, humility, holiness and oneness. Self, pride, envy, jealousy, strife, and division can not come in among a people only as they fail to keep God sanctified in their midst. A hallowed Church is a bush on fire with God and all around is holy ground upon which no unholy thing dare tread. The unseen presence of God forms the border line around about His people over which no worldly thing can pass. He is a fire round about His Church and the glory in her midst. See Zech. 2:5. The glory of God's Church is not in the splendor of the architecture, the charming ritual, the pulpit eloquence, or artistic music, but in the hallowed presence of Jehovah. This is the consuming fire in which no unholy thing can live. A hallowed Church is not to be profaned by fellowship with any unhallowed thing. Woe to those who would attempt to bring any unholy thing into the Church of God.

The most holy are those who can say from the deepest experience in the heart, "Hallowed be thy name." To say this with the lips and not with the heart is to profane God's sacred name. To say it from the heart is to have the inward consciousness that all

is dedicated to God and that the Lord has come in and filled the temple of the soul with His glory. He walks in the light of heaven which is shining within him. In God's light he sees light. This is God's sacred temple. Woe to the man who would profane this holy temple by doing one act in the interest of self, or to the gratifying of the flesh. A hallowed people are in the world, but they are not of it. They are strangers here. They are dead and their life is hid with Christ in God. It is plain to be seen that the people of the world live amid the things of the world. Behold their acts and listen to their conversation. It is plain to be seen that saints belong to an heavenly kingdom. If an angel were to come down from heaven he would experience no difficulty in separating the Christians from the world. Their conduct and conversation plainly tell where each belong. Would he have any trouble to tell of which class you are a member? Christians are clean cut from the world. They have sold their garments (all things that are earthly) and bought them swords (the sword of the Spirit) with which they are utterly cut loose from the world. (Read Luke 22:36).

#### THE HALLOWED PLACE

Every hallowed life has its hallowed place. The soul has a secret place, a sort of laboratory, wherein life is hallowed by the mingling of heavenly properties with that of its own. And, no one can live a truly hallowed life who does not have some select place where they can retire frequently for meditation and prayer. It may be a leafy grove, a quiet room, a nook, a corner somewhere, but no one can have that hallowedness of soul who does not have his closet hours with God. He can and will go into the secret place with God in the midst of the crowd or thronged thoroughfare, but besides this he needs to have an especial appointed place where he meets and talks with his Lord. That place becomes very sacred. It is a hallowed spot. Maybe the after years will carry him to some distant country, but that place will ever be a bright spot in his memory, and into every place he comes he will select a place for converse with Christ.

It was the practice of Jesus to rise a great while before day and depart to a solitary place to pray. It is as natural for the Spirit-filled soul to seek this solitary place as it is for man to seek the table spread with food for the body. Christ was never too busy to pray. He never neglected the feeding of His soul. He may have had tired limbs and weary mind, but regardless of this He sought the solitary place for the refreshing streams of heavenly grace. There has never been man or woman who rose to any great degree of piety or hallowedness of life who did not have a chosen spot somewhere to which they frequently retired to pray. The beautiful lives we read about in books were made beautiful by the sacred communings with God in the secret place. The early morning hour is best of all, but any hour can be hallowed, and any place. When in the solitary place the soul is to be quieted, the mind called in from every earthly

thing, and the heart be brought into the contemplation of God. The excellencies of His righteous character are to be brought before the vision of the soul until it is filled with admiration of His beauty. There must be a heart-felt consciousness of a living dedication of life and all possessions to the Lord. It is then that the soul will be hallowed by Him. It is there that you open up your entire nature to God, and He opens His entire nature to you and you flow together and become of like nature. You will go out from that secret place with much of heaven upon you. It will shine out in your words and deeds. All who come into your presence will feel that they have come into the presence of some heavenly personality.

There are very few sincere Christians today who do not mourn the loss of sacredness of life. Doubtless, there are many who regard themselves as saints who have become so dull and stupid that they have lost all consciousness of loss. All healthy souls are aspiring to a more heavenly citizenship amid the busy cares of life. There needs to be. The great task of the Holy Spirit at the present time is to keep the saints up into a conscious heavenly place while transacting the business of the day. They get a little way up into an heavenly state while in prayer but too often the first person of the world they meet with, they drop down to an affinity with them. We need to be so hallowed through and through in soul and life that there rises a resentment within us when we come into the presence of the frivolous and gay. We can not breathe freely in such an atmosphere. We feel that it contains a poison that is harmful to spiritual life, and we escape as soon as propriety will admit. We seek the society of the righteous. Oh, how blessed is the association of the saints. How good it is that you can breathe freely of the atmosphere laden with an heavenly ozone which is constantly surrounding the people who are hallowed by the Lord. How many times dear saint, have you felt that the worldliness of a frivolous society had put some distance between you and God, and their gayety had almost stolen your harp of praise? Our earnest exhortation to all God's people is to seek to secure greater sacredness of life. The ocean diver carries with him the atmosphere from above which he breathes while in the depths below. Surround yourself with the atmosphere from Zion's holy hill, and cease not to breathe it in while among men whatever their spirit may be.

A living relationship by faith, with God makes all things real in the spiritual life. The soul is brought into living contact with the Lord and is hallowed by His holy presence. It is only this that can fill the heart of man with that sweet, heavenly sacredness for which the soul hungers. When the soul is kept wide-open heavenward so all the rays of light from the presence of God can shine in, hallowing it, it feels a sacredness which puts a sobriety, a gravity, an heaviness in all they say and do. Keep that hallowedness of soul everywhere you go. Do not allow contact with the world to take it off, so that you feel like some sacredness of life had been lost.

## ARTICLES FOR SALE

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|---|---------|
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## BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.50: Lesson cards, 10¢

July 5, 1959

### A NATION UNDER GOD

Printed Portion ..... Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 8:17-19; 11:1

7:6. For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

7. The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people:

8. But because the Lord loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

9. Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

10. And repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face.

11. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day, to do them.

8:17. And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.

18. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

19. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

11:1. Therefore thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and



keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always.

**Memory Verse:** Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, and keep his charge, and his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments, always. Deuteronomy 11:1.

**Practical Truth:** People who love the Lord and keep His commandments are His chosen ones today.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson today was spoken by Moses to the new generation of Israelites just before they entered Canaan. The older ones who had heard the commandments given by God from Mount Sinai died because they did not have faith to enter into Canaan and take the land.

Moses told the people that they were a chosen nation and an holy people. God had not revealed himself to other peoples on the earth as He had unto them. He made them know that they were to live on a higher plane than others because they were His own possession above all others. God reminded them that he had been faithful to help them and he expected them to keep His commandments or they would be punished.

Notice how God reminded them that they were the "fewest of all people." We should not be troubled today because we are the fewest of all people. Of course we would love to see more loving the Lord and walking in the strait and narrow way but it has never been so that multitudes served the Lord. Jesus had multitudes following him but one time he said they followed him just for the loaves and fishes. Jesus said one time, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32.)

In Noah's day only eight people out of the whole world were ready to be saved from destruction. Only two out of 600,000 men besides women and children had faith enough to enter into Canaan. The others died in the wilderness. We could name others down through the ages who were few in number that stood for God. Thank God for the few then and today who will be willing to obey God.

July 12, 1959

#### DECISIONS DETERMINE DESTINY

Printed Portion .....Deuteronomy 30:15-16; 31:7-13

30:15. See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16. In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

31:7. And Moses called unto Joshua, and said unto him in the sight of all Israel, Be strong and of a good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord hath sworn unto their fathers to give them; and thou shalt cause them to inherit it.

8. And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

9. And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and unto all the elders of Israel.

10. And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles,

11. When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt

read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

12. Gather the people together, men and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

13. And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

**Memory Verse:** The Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee; fear not, neither be dismayed. Deut. 31:8.

**Practical Truth:** To choose the Lord, with all that is involved therein, is life's important decision.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Some critics of the Bible say that Moses could not write but the Bible plainly says in verse 9 that "Moses wrote this law." History tells us that the Babylonian king wrote in 1690 B. C. so surely Moses could write long afterwards. We thank God for how He has had His Words preserved for us down to this day.

Today, God is still setting before us life, good, death, and evil. We can choose which we will accept. Only God has power to bring to pass that which was promised or threatened as the result of our decisions. We should fear God and keep His commandments. If we love Him we will fear to hurt or wound His great love.

Joshua was given a big job but he was comforted in knowing that God would go before him, directing and preparing the way. Today God is calling each of us to obedience. By obeying we sometimes face hard things, but let us remember that God will be with us and never forsake us, so we need not fear or be dismayed.

The year of release (Deut. 15:1-11) was a time when every creditor released what he had lent to his neighbor, though he still might have exacted payment from a foreigner.

At the time of the Feast of Tabernacles or Booths in the fall of the sacred year the law was to be read. (Deut. 16:13-15; Lev. 23:39-43). Today even children are taught to read and have Bibles or Testaments of their own. We should thank God for the privilege of reading for ourselves about how to get to heaven.

July 19, 1959

#### BLESSING FOR AN ALIEN (RUTH)

Printed Portion ..... Ruth 1:19 to 2:3; 4:14-17

1:19. So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

20. And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

21. I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

22. So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter in law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab: and they came to Bethlehem in the beginning of barley harvest.

1. And Naomi had a kinsman of her husband's a mighty man of wealth, of the family of Elimelech; and his name was Boaz.

2. And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me



now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter.

3. And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech.

4:14. And the women said unto Naomi, Blessed be the Lord, which hath not left thee this day without a kinsman, that his name may be famous in Israel.

15. And he shall be unto thee a restorer of thy life, and a nourisher of thine old age: for thy daughter in law, which loveth thee, which is better to thee than seven sons, hath born him.

16. And Naomi took the child, and laid it in her bosom, and became nurse unto it.

17. And the women her neighbors gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**Memory Verse:** He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:18-19.

**Practical Truth:** Being friendly to newcomers will be helpful to them and pleasing to God.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

For a few Sundays we will take portions from some of the smaller books of the Bible. It would be well for each book to be read so we can get a background for our small printed portions.

The book of Ruth is a beautiful story. It is said that Benjamin Franklin read this story in France before a social gathering. Everyone expressed delight over the story and one asked where he had obtained it and was astonished when he told them he took it from the Bible. Many today are in darkness concerning the Bible.

Ruth came to a place in her life where she had a decision to make. She chose to leave her country, home, and relatives and go with her mother in law to a strange land. God blessed her in a special way for the right decision. She chose God. "Thy God shall be my God." Young people should choose God first in life then choose your life's work. After making these choices you are ready to choose a companion who will be a help in keeping your decisions, and facing society and the business world.

The U. S. has been built up with aliens. There are now 2,850,000 aliens in the U. S. We should treat them with friendliness. They have previously lived under terrible conditions. They now need God in their souls and we have a responsibility toward them.

July 26, 1959

#### COURAGE IN CRISIS (ESTHER)

Printed Portion ..... Esther 4:1-3, 10-16; 9:20-22

4:1. When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry;

2. And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth.

3. And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes.

10. Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him

commandment unto Mordecai;

11. All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or woman, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.

12. And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.

13. Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.

14. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

15. Then Esther bade them return Mordecai this answer,

16. Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

9:20. And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,

21. To establish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,

22. As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

**Memory Verse:** Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? Esther 4:14.

**Practical Truth:** In the extension of the kingdom of God on earth we should be willing to exhibit courage in times of crisis.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A decree had been made that all the Jews were to be killed. Mordecai, who was Queen Esther's cousin, asked her to go to the king and beg for help for her people. She knew that if she appeared before him without the golden sceptre being held out she would die, but we find that she made a decision and said, "If I perish, I perish." She forgot herself and thought of others. God is expecting each one of us to live that way every day. Paul said, "I die daily." He meant he died out to self and his desires for self. Self says we should not be treated the way we are treated. Self gets all hurt and down. Self needs to be crucified. Paul meant that when he said, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20) There is so much in this verse. By the help of the Holy Spirit we can die out to self.

In the time of crisis we need to fast and pray. Esther knew this and when the people of God looked earnestly to the Lord a great deliverance was given them and their lives were spared. The feast of Purim was established because of this deliverance.

The golden sceptre is always held out to us by God. "Let us . . . come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16)

—Sister Marie Miles.