

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Prayer of Thanksgiving

From joyful hearts our songs arise,
Our fathers' God, to Thee;
In fruitful fields and starry skies
Thy bounteous hand we see.

For happy homes with love so bright,
We thank Thee gratefully,
And for the gift of Freedom's light,
The right to worship Thee.

But far above all earthly gifts,
The love of Christ, Thy Son,
Our hearts to highest rapture lifts,
Who our salvation won.

—Selected

Why I Believe The Bible

In this age of the skeptic and the infidel, in this age of doubt and reason, it is necessary for the Christian to know definitely why he believes the Bible to be the true, inspired Word of God.

This is an age when men want a reason for the hope that is within them. The most reasonable thing in all the world is the Christian life—which is the normal life; another life is abnormal. For those who search and observe there are numerous evidences that the Bible is the true Word of God.

I believe the Bible because of its strength over attack. No literature, no book, has ever been attacked as the Bible has been. From the first of its existence until the present the Bible has been, and is being, fought by skeptics, atheists and infidels, many of whom possessed keen intellect and silvery tongues, and yet this precious Book has weathered all the storms, and its pages are still brighter than gold.

Did you ever stop to think what a task a man would have who would undertake to destroy the Bible? God has been so careful to guard it that He has woven it into every fibre and fabric of human history. The man who seeks to destroy the Bible must buy up or confiscate sixty million copies of the Book, printed in

six hundred languages and dialects, and circulated throughout the world. Then after he has destroyed these millions of copies of the Bible, after he has laid waste the art galleries and libraries, and after he has silenced great music, has he destroyed the Bible? Indeed not, for God has provided many ways in which to reveal His teachings. The destroyer must go into the hearts of millions of saints who have found happiness, and contentment in that great Book.

Why hasn't the Bible been destroyed? Because you can't destroy God, and it is God's Word, and you can no more destroy God's Word than destroy the God that spoke that Word.

I believe the Bible to be God's inspired Word because it is the key that unlocks all human mystery. Four of the most important questions that any one can ask his soul are these: Who am I? Where am I? Where did I come from? and, Where am I going? Science cannot answer them. Scientists fail to tell the origin of human life. The Bible is the only book that gives the world an intelligent answer. What does it say? "In the beginning God"—and that is enough. "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," and that is the most intelligent answer for the origin of all things that the world has ever heard about. This wonderful book is the key to all human mystery. If we would but follow the directions laid down in the Bible, we would find order, beauty, music and life.

I believe the Bible to be divinely inspired because wise men of all ages who have studied it say that it is. Gladstone, possessor of the greatest brain Europe ever produced, once said: "I have spent seventy years of my life studying that Book to satisfy my heart! it is the Word of God. I bank my life on the statement that I believe this Book to be the solid rock of Holy Scripture." This is the testimony of a man who had studied it—a man who investigated and practiced the Bible. Andrew Jackson once said: "The Bible is the rock on which our republic rests." Grant once said: "Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties."

I believe further that the Bible is divinely inspired because it is beyond human invention. There is not a man in all the world today who could write

another book as great as the Bible. Take the Ten Commandments—they have never been improved on in all the world of moral and civil law. Before a thing can be invented it must have been thought of and studied. Can any man put the logic, beauty, mystery, truth and the way to salvation that are found in the Bible, in a book? It cannot be done by the human mind. Those who wrote the Bible proclaimed that the Word of the Lord came to them by Divine inspiration. This Book is God-given.

Again, I believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God because it is the finest of all literature. Where did Wordsworth get his songs of joy? From the Bible. Where did Tennyson get the triumph of immortal love? From the Bible. Browning gave us the courage of faith, the keynote to all of his writings. Where did he get it? From the Bible. Longfellow sang the sweet music of the psalm of life. Where did he get it? From the Bible. What does Ruskin say? "All that I have thought of art, everything that I have written, whatever greatness there has been in any thought of mine, whatever I have done in my life, has simply been due to the fact that when I was a child, my mother daily read with me a part of the Bible, and daily made me learn a part of it by heart."

In conclusion, I believe the Bible to be divinely inspired because it satisfies the human heart as nothing else can do. As Carlyle has said: "It is the one Book wherein, for thousands of years, the spirit of man has found light and nourishment, and a response to whatever was deepest in his heart." And, after all, the question we all must face is this: Does the Bible satisfy me? Is it a pillow on which I may lay my head in time of trouble, need and sadness? Is it a comforter as I cross into the land of eternity? The Bible tells us of Christ—our only hope. What have we to live for if it is not to live again with Him? He not only put us here, but He gave us a guide-book, a stepping stone, that we may not falter or stumble. Tell the infidel, skeptic, atheist: "Do not go to that one who loves the greatest of all books, and steal that pillow from beneath his head, until you have something better to give him, unless you have something to take its place."

In the face of such facts and arguments, I believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of the only God who made us the promise: "Whosoever believeth on me shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

"Repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:16.

—Howard Patrick

Power Through Prayer

Today we are living in a world that is concentrating its efforts toward more power. Car manufacturers are pushing their efforts to obtain more power. Aircraft companies are straining every effort for more powerful and faster jets. Our government is spending great sums of money for our scientists to boost the power of their rockets. So on and on, the world is seeking ways for more power.

On the other hand, God's children are saying, "Look at the power the apostles had, or Paul had, or in the beginning of this reformation; look at the power the old-time saints had!" We seem to be looking backward. We enjoy reading in our Bibles of the great miracles that Christ and the disciples did, but Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." John 5:19. Then He also said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son." John 14:12-13. "I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5.

So we see by the Word of God that Christ got His power from the Father. Then He told us that if we believe on Him, the works that He did we should do also. We believe on Him and abide in the vine when we obey His commandments and live every day according to His holy Word.

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49. Christ knew that the disciples were not ready to go out into the world and face the devil with just a believer's experience. Therefore He told them to tarry at Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high, which was the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had promised to send them the Comforter after He returned to the Father. The Holy Spirit was to provide them with gifts, talents and qualities, etc. that they needed in order to face the world with the gospel of Christ. They all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, as Jesus had commanded them.

"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. Of the fulfillment of this promise we read again, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues [languages] as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4. As we read of the works of the apostles, we are made to marvel at the wonderful things they did through God's Spirit. But the Scripture says that with God "there is no respect of persons." Col. 3:25. This being true, the blame for a lack of power must lay on us. There is something wrong on our part, as God will not give good gifts to disobedient children to play with. We must come of age, grow up in the Christian experience, and not just play Christian, as God sees and knows each heart.

Then we have such scriptural injunctions as, "Pray without ceasing," "I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands without wrath and doubting," and many others that we might quote.

These certainly show us that prayer is the essential thing, and since it is so necessary, it is evident that it is something very profitable and beneficial to us.

God cannot use a dead vine, no, not even a wilted one. Men of all ages that God used were men of prayer. History tells us that Martin Luther arose at three every morning and spent the first three hours in prayer. Wesley spent two hours every morning in prayer. God is not one concerned with superfluities or non-essentials. Prayer is vital to our spiritual life and moral energy, and brings forth spiritual power in our lives. Jesus spent much time in prayer. When the testing time came He had much power and strength to resist the enemy until he departed from Him. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:16. We get it by coming for it. "Ask and ye shall receive." Power will not be obtained until obedience and like conditions are met. It requires complete consecration of self and earthly means. We cannot hold a portion back like Ananias and Sapphira. The consecrated soul has given all to follow Jesus. "Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might." Eph. 6:10. So we see the condition for obtaining God's full blessing is absolute surrender. Are you willing to surrender absolutely yourself and all into His hands? God cannot work His work in you unless and until you are entirely given up to Him. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." Phil. 2:13. He does not ask you to give the perfect surrender in your own strength or by the power of your own will alone; God is willing to work His will in you. Are you willing for Him to work it in you in His own way? If you are not willing, then get on your face before Him and pray, "My God, instill in my heart a willingness to be willing to absolute surrender." You may have doubts and fears, and ask, "Is it absolute?" Then remember there was once a man to whom Christ had said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." But in his heart he was afraid, and cried out, "Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief." Surrender all into His hands. God will take possession if you will trust and believe Him.

Let death to self be the most desirable thing on earth. Be separated—entirely set free from the love of the things of the world. Then, and only then, will God send His Holy Spirit to supply you with God-given talents and power. May God bless each one with His Holy Spirit is my prayer.

—Bro. Earl B. Bliss

"Don't You Care?"

"Yes, I care. I came to your bedside when you were sick and ministered unto you tenderly. I visited you when you were in the hospital. I helped your family while you were gone. I hoed the garden and mowed the lawn. I care."

"I'm very thankful for all of that. It could not have been done better. But you seem to have some-

thing about you that I long to know about. When trouble comes to you it seems that you are able to face it with a calmness that amazes me. You might not have known it, but I have heard you pray to God. Oh, can't you understand? I long to know about God. I can't say this in words, but you seem to care about everything except my soul!"

We read in the Bible about a man who said, "No man cared for my soul." Psalms 142:5. Isn't that sad? Think of it for a minute. Is there some one around you who feels that way? Oh, I hear you say, "All my neighbors are so wicked and don't seem to care a thing about the ways of God." Did you ever think about how the devil causes people to hide their inner longings? Let us do all we can to let people know that we do care for their souls. We do care where they live in eternity. The things of this world are temporal, transitory, and will melt with fervent heat some day. The body will die, decay and go back to dust, but the soul of man will live on some where forever.

"We are ambassadors for Christ" and God "hath given us the ministry of reconciliation." (2 Cor. 5:18, 20). When souls stand before God in the Judgment day, can He say to them, "I sent my servant and he spoke to you about your soul, but you rejected his plea? My servant preached a message of truth to you, but you rejected that and went on in sin? Another servant had the "Faith and Victory" paper and gospel tracts sent to you, but you again rejected the truth and even later you refused to read them? You chose to live after the flesh in your fleeting life, knowing it meant eternal damnation to your soul. Many cared for your soul in different ways while you were in life, but you refused to be reconciled to Me. Now 'depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.'" Matt. 25:41.

Can some one say honestly that we did not care for his soul? Remember the Bible says, "To the one we are the savor of death unto death; and to the other the savor of life unto life." II Cor. 2:16. If people accept the gospel, it will mean life to them, but if they reject it, it will mean death to them. We must continue to show that we care for their souls even if they reject the concern. We are ambassadors for Christ.

Don't let this opportunity pass to let people know that you care for their souls, and discharge your responsibility to them and to God. You owe them the gospel message. Ask for several subscription blanks and send the "Faith and Victory" paper to a number of people for three months, beginning with the January, 1962 issue. We are glad to print and mail them, and do our part. Are you doing your part? Don't let any one around you say truthfully, "No man cared for my soul." —Sister Marie Miles

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Editorials

SPECIAL OFFER: Send ten subscriptions for three months for \$1.00, and select a premium from the list shown in opposite column. Hurry, for this offer expires on December 8, 1961.

In the October issue of Faith and Victory paper we inserted a subscription envelope with lines arranged for ten subscriptions to this paper for three months. On page 4 of that issue and this issue is a list of eight premiums from which you may choose one premium for sending the ten names and addresses with one dollar. Every reader ought to take advantage of this offer and do some missionary work for the Lord. People need to hear and know the truth. It is much later than one might think. We are in the last of the last days, and what we do we must do quickly. The spirit of the world is pulling strong to strangle and deaden the life of Christ in the soul and leave men with an empty profession. Let us stir our hearts to please the Lord and get light and truth to many precious souls.

The three months' subscriptions to the paper will be sent for the issues of January, February and March, 1962. **Send the ten names NOW!**

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The three days' ministers' meeting, which was held here at Guthrie beginning on Oct. 5th, was a success in many ways. More than sixty ministers were in attendance from eight different states. Many questions concerning doctrinal points and other teachings of the Bible were brought before the ministers for consideration.

The question of saints having televisions in their homes was under discussion for most of a day. The ministers discussed the merits and demerits of this instrument which the world likes so much. At the end of the discussion the question was asked, how many would teach against the television's use as an evil and that it should not be in the homes of the saints? All agreed to do that. It did our soul good to understand that the ministers as a body were against every evil worldly thing, whether it be television, worldly dress or any other thing that would defile the souls of men with the spirit of the world and cause them to gradually lose out with God.

Jesus in His teaching was very strong against the spirit of the world and said of His disciples, "Ye are not of the world even as I am not of the world." He also told the religious Pharisees, "Ye are from beneath, I am from above; ye are of this world, I am not of this world." In 1 John 3:3 we read that every one that has a hope of seeing the Lord in peace should purify himself even as He is pure. In order to purify your soul from an evil, you would have to cease to indulge in that evil. In 2 Cor. 7:1 we read, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,

perfecting holiness in the fear of God." Filthiness of the flesh would include tobacco and all other drugs. Filthiness of the spirit would include the television's use and all kindred evils, such as the reading of novels and wild west stories.

It is not good to merely justify ourselves before men. We should see to it that we are justified before God by diligently keeping His Word. The Scripture says for us to "abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thess. 5:22. In Luke 16:15 we read what Jesus said, "And he said unto them, ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but GOD KNOWETH YOUR HEARTS: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." I do not know of anything in this world among men that is more highly esteemed in a universal sense than the television. Let us, dear brethren and sisters, cleanse ourselves from the thing by ceasing to have it in the home. The television has killed more souls than any other instrument known today, and it will keep on taking its toll of souls as this world rushes on to destruction.

Jesus says in Matt. 5:14, "Ye are the light of the world." Again we read in Matt. 6:23, "If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." Brethren and sisters, let us keep the lower lights burning and be not of this world, so that souls may see the right way to heaven.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Jesus used many different parables in conveying to His disciples the truth concerning the kingdom of God, the Church. In Matt. 13:31 He put forth this parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like unto a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field [our hearts are often spoken of in the Bible as a vineyard, land or garden]: which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest of herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." Luke 13:18, "Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? And whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden [your heart is the garden]; and it grew and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it." In Luke 5:11 Jesus says, "The seed is the word of God." In John 1:14 we learn that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. We learn by these scriptures that Christ was the Word or seed referred to as a grain of mustard seed. When we open our hearts to His seed, the Word, it is then sown in our hearts and begins to bear fruit. Others being attracted by this good fruit, also repent and open their hearts and the seed, the Word, is sown in their garden or hearts; and so on, until the kingdom of God or Church becomes likened to a great tree with the fowls of the air (evil spirits) lodged in the branches. They are not a part of the tree or the kingdom, but lodge in the branches. These fowls go along as though they were in the church, causing a lot of trouble. Being right on some points and wrong on others, they have souls believing their wrong way of thinking.

One reason why Jesus referred to Himself as a grain of mustard seed is because the religious people of His day looked upon Him with scorn and disdain. They had so many followers, but He had such a few—so small. However, He knew that the kingdom of God would grow and get large.

Jesus told His disciples at one time, "Behold, the kingdom of God is within you." In Matt. 13:38 Jesus said, "The good seed are the children of the kingdom." Therefore, those who have the Word, the seed, in their hearts constitute the kingdom of God. In Luke 12:32 Jesus says, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It can easily be seen by this parable and other scriptures that those who possess the Word, the seed of God—Christ—in their hearts are the children of the kingdom, the Church. They are divinely organized and held together by the love and Spirit of God, and not by a man-made institution called a church. When we get into God through Christ and God in us, He becomes our all and in all. Bless His name!

In Matt. 17:20 and in Luke 17:6 the Lord, in symbolic language, seems to refer to Himself as a grain of mustard seed. He told the disciples that if they had faith as a grain of mustard seed, they could say unto a mountain, remove hence to yonder place, and it would be removed. If they had faith as He had, they could move a mountain.

Some say that the reason Jesus referred them to mustard seed was because the mustard seed will not mix with other seeds—in other words, a faith unmixed with doubts. Don't you think that the point is somewhat weakened from the fact that there are many other seeds which will not mix with another, even as the mustard seed?

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The marriage of William Weir and Viola Atnip was an event of Sept. 23, 1961 at the Church of God Chapel here at Guthrie with your editor performing the ceremony. The wedding was well attended, after which those present were invited to the dining hall where the couple opened and displayed an unusually large number of gifts which they had received.

Viola was one of our key workers here in the office of the Lord's Print Shop. She had been with us here in the work for nearly six years. Needless to say, she is now greatly missed both in the office and in the home as well as in the congregation here at Guthrie. Bro. William Weir also worked here in the print shop for several years, but in the last few years he has made his home near Stark City, Mo. where they are now at home together.

All the workers here at the print shop certainly do wish them a long and happy life together with the Lord as the Head of the home.

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Your editor was 80 years old on October 4, 1961 and the Lord through His saints and our many friends made this a very enjoyable day. Our daughter, Anna Marie Miles, decorated and arranged a large birthday cake in the form of the figures "80" for the oc-

casian. We had many visitors that day wishing us a happy birthday. To each we served a piece of the cake and a cold drink.

Having received nearly 200 birthday cards and letters through the mail, a large portion of the day was spent by wife and me opening letters with birthday cards, reading the verses and personal sentiments, and taking note of the sender. We have endeavored to send an acknowledgment to each one. Some, no doubt, have been missed as we found no return address on some of them. We take this means to let you know that we appreciate your good thoughts toward us—your unworthy servant—and pray that God's rich blessings will rest upon you and yours.

My eightieth birthday will be remembered as a most enjoyable day. The Lord keeps us in very good health and we keep going from 12 to 15 hours per day. We have a good appetite and sleep well. To God be all the praise. We feel indebted to all men.

—Fred Pruitt

REPORT OF MINISTERS' MEETING AT GUTHRIE

A general ministers' meeting of the Church of God was held at Guthrie, Oklahoma on the 5th, 6th and 7th of October, 1961, with more than sixty ministers present.

It was felt by all that the ministers' meeting was very profitable to the ministry and to the work of God. It was quite well attended by ministers from all parts of the country. Bro. Gene Harmon expressed at different times that it was the best ministers' meeting he had ever been in, and several others said "amen."

The entire first session of the meeting on Thursday morning was given to a lively and spirited discussion of missionary work and the lack there has been along this line in the church for the past several years. There were several good exhortations on the subject. Bro. Harland Smith of Pomona, Calif., who is engaged with others in the missionary endeavor in Baja California, Old Mexico, was present and was invited to give a report from the field and to express his burden along that line, which he did.

This was very interesting, and we hope it will, along with the discussion and exhortations on that line, be effectual in firing the hearts of all the ministers, and through them reach every saint, with a zeal for missionary endeavor both at home and abroad. An active, working church from the ministry on through every member is what is needed if we are to have God's blessings and power in it.

There was much just good plain instructions and teachings to ministers in regard to the duties, general conduct and behavior of a minister, and also how to carry on the work of God, deal with souls and handle problems which may arise occasionally in the congregation, etc. We feel all of this was also very profitable.

In the Saturday afternoon session Bro. O. B. Wilson presented Bro. Harland Smith of California to the assembly for ordination. Then every California minister present arose in turn and gave their commendation of him. Some also who did not live in California but had been there in meetings and knew Bro. Smith, spoke in his behalf. Then Bro. U. Phillips presented Bro. A. J. Bowman of Wichita, Kansas to the assembly for ordination. A number of ministers from the mid-west spoke commendations in his behalf. It was pointed out how he came from another movement to the saints but never brought a

single problem when he came, but dropped all former practices, customs, etc. that were not compatible with the whole truth and fully accepted the teachings of the saints and their way of life, and had worked in complete accord and cooperation with his pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, and the congregation ever since coming to the saints. There was not a dissenting voice against either of these brethren, so they were both ordained to the ministry.

The entire closing session was given to a discussion of the subject of "Unity, Unity, Unity," and dealt with the unity of the faith, unity of the Spirit, and unity of co-operation, and we feel that this discussion was real edifying. We trust that good fruit will be borne from it.

Several subjects of importance were discussed. A good spirit prevailed through the meeting and all were conscious of God's blessings upon it. There were seasons of shouting and rejoicing at different times.

There was a lengthy discussion on the evils of the television, and it was concluded solidly by all present that the ministry should teach against and oppose the use of the television in the homes of the saints.

—Ostis B. Wilson, Ira D. Stover, Fred Pruitt

Obituary

Nellie (Mitchell) Masters was born in Hancock County, Mississippi on October 4, 1900 and passed from this life on September 17, 1961 at the age of 60 years, 11 months and 13 days at Jena, La.

When she was a child, the family moved to Jena, where she married Will Masters on August 5, 1917 and lived there until death.

Sister Masters is survived by her husband, three daughters: Mrs. D. L. Cox of Ferriday, La., Mrs. F. M. LaCroix and Mrs. Troy Gentry of Jena, La.; four sons: Millard of Tullos, La. Alvin of Alexandria, La., LaVelle and Ocie, both of Ferriday, La.; twenty-one grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was saved several years ago. During her illness she acknowledged that she hadn't been as diligent as she should have been and renewed her experience with the Lord.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Merrill Williamson, assisted by Bro. Ben Goldsberry, at the Church of God Chapel in Midway, La. Interment was in Belah Cemetery.

La.—Dear Saints: I want to take this opportunity to thank the different ones who were such an encouragement to me during the recent illness and passing of our dear mother, Mrs. W. V. Masters. Surely it has proven that when one member suffers, all the other members suffer with it.

We want to thank all the dear saints for the cards, flowers and sweet encouraging letters, and the many kind thoughtful deeds. Many of the saints here at Midway brought food that was much appreciated, and were so faithful to visit and help pray for her. May God bless each one is my prayer.

Please pray for us that we will be faithful unto the end and be ready to meet Mother in heaven.

Your sister in Christ,

—Viva LaCroix

Prayer Request—I am quite distressed over financial problems. Please pray that I can sell a piece of property which has given me much worry; also that God will provide me with a suitable job and improve my health so I can hold it. Thank you.

—A Louisiana Reader

SEND YOUR CHRISTMAS ORDERS EARLY!

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PRAYER REQUEST

Missouri—Dear saints abroad, we greet you in Jesus' name:

We are much encouraged to press the battle on, and desiring to spend our lives for the cause of Christ.

We both are afflicted. Some days we can hardly stay up all day. We have been this way for some time. We desire for all of you to be earnestly agreed with us in prayer that the Lord will heal us to His glory.

We have a burden for the saints abroad, and want to do all we can to encourage you to live close to the dear Lord. He has been very good to us, and we surely do appreciate Him and the saints everywhere. We want to spend the rest of our time in the service of the Lord.

Yours in Christ, —Murphy and Natalie Allen

Meeting Notices**HAMMOND, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING**

The annual Assembly Meeting at Hammond, La. will be held, Lord willing, on Nov. 19 to Nov. 26, 1961, inclusive. The chapel is located on the General Southern campgrounds in the southwest part of Hammond. A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this meeting. Meals will be served on the grounds and sleeping quarters provided for all who come.

We are looking to the Lord to burden the hearts of the ministers whom He would have to come.

For further information, write to Bro. Max F. Williamson, 203 White St., Hammond, La.

LOS ANGELES REVIVAL

The annual revival of the Los Angeles Church of God will convene, the Lord willing, on Nov. 24 through Dec. 3, 1961 at the chapel located at 1381 Walnut St., Los Angeles, Calif. Everyone is welcome. We solicit your prayers.

For further information, phone or write to Bro. I. C. Chandler, phone Temple 12166, R. 6, Box 37, Bakersfield, Calif., or to Bro. T. R. Summers, phone Pleasant 88319, 207 E. 76 Place, Los Angeles 3, Calif.

OKEENE, OKLA. MEETING

The Okeene, Okla. meeting will be held, Lord willing, Nov. 3rd through Nov. 12, 1961.

We are expecting Bro. I. C. Chandler, and other ministers of the Lord's choosing, to be with us to bring the Word of God in all its fullness.

This meeting house is 7 miles east of Okeene and 2½ miles south, or 17 miles west of Hennessey on Highway 51 and 2½ miles south. For further information write to Louis Droke or Loyd Wilson, Rt. 1, Okeene, Okla.

All-Day Meeting at the Sapulpa Road Chapel

An all-day meeting will be held on the 5th Sunday of October, the 29th, at the Sapulpa Road Chapel at Sapulpa, Okla. Dinner will be served on the grounds at noon. Everyone is welcome. —Richard Madden, Pastor

Meeting Reports

DOVER, OKLA. CAMPMEETING REPORT

Dear saints and readers of the Faith and Victory, greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. May His blessings rest upon each of you is our prayer.

The Dover, Okla. campmeeting is now numbered with the events of the past. We believe it was one of those meetings that will long be remembered by those who were in attendance. Nineteen ministers were present, some going and coming. We will mention the out-of-state ministers: Bro. Curtis Williams and Bro. Henry Chaney of Ohio, Bro. Lewis Williams and Bro. Bowman of Wichita, Kansas. The Lord anointed for the preaching of His Word, and the saints were edified as the old-time truth fell from the lips of His faithful servants.

A Sister Hann from Canon City, Colo. felt impressed of the Lord to come to the meeting, and was rewarded for her obedience. On the last Sunday of the meeting one soul came forward to the altar, and testified that she had received pardon for her sins.

The Lord wonderfully provided for the table, etc. through the liberality of the saints and friends. In the language of the prodigal son, there was "enough and to spare."

We would have rejoiced to have seen more souls seeking for salvation, for truly it was a season of grace. All excuses were removed. We are free from the blood of all men. Everyone must give an account of himself to God. We have only a few more days to labor and wait. The coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Brethren, pray for us.

Thanking the Lord and His saints both far and near for their contributions and prayers, we are yours in His service,
—Ulysses Phillips and Henry Caldwell

Meeting at Webb City, Mo.

Bro. Murphy Allen held a few days' meeting here at Webb City, Mo. He came on Wednesday and stayed over until the Sunday afternoon service. We surely enjoyed the good truths. God blessed with anointing and I feel we were all strengthened.

Sister Ruth Murphey brought the Sunday afternoon message. She has helped us out many times and we do appreciate it.

We were thankful for the outside saints who came in from different places. On Sunday the dinner was provided at the chapel.

Remember us in your prayers. —Sister Ersa Carrick

NATIONAL MISSIONARY FUND REPORT

Coffeyville, Kan. (Oct. 3rd) — Dear saints scattered abroad, we greet you with love in Jesus' dear name: We are so thankful that "we have found it, Lord, in Thee, an everlasting store of comfort, joy, and bliss to me, how could we wish for more!"

We feel like giving a report on the National Missionary fund and work. I'm sure that you who have been faithful in sending your offerings to this fund would be interested in knowing how the Lord is blessing your efforts. Even though the tent equipment is not in use now, due to cooler weather, yet the brethren are still holding meetings in the East. Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott and Bro. Curtis Williams are booked full for their labors there. They have not settled down at home, and we feel it is our duty to continue to support them by our means

and keep them in the harvest field for souls. We should support not only them, but also the other ministers who are giving their full time in the gospel work in these last, perilous days.

Recently we felt impressed to send a missionary check to a Brother minister who has for years been giving his full time in the gospel work. It was so encouraging to receive word that the check had come in answer to prayer.

We also felt impressed to send a missionary check to a Sister minister who has been laboring by faith for years. She had been at the bedside of a dying Sister in the Lord, and upon returning to her own home she had to borrow money to meet some of her obligations. When she received her mail, she was thanking God for remembering her needs. Returning the borrowed cash, she went on her way rejoicing. We are certain that you who have had a part in supporting the missionary fund will be made happy to know that you had a part in lifting these burdens.

During the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. the old house trailer, now unsuitable for road use, was sold for \$400.00. So far, this sum has not been touched, as we felt that in time to come we may have to purchase another house trailer to be used with the truck and tent equipment during the summer seasons.

Let us not be weary in well doing, for we shall reap if we faint not. We are praying the Lord to richly bless everyone in their sacrifice to keep this work going. We would like to encourage every congregation to start a missionary fund if you do not already have one. Teach the saints, young and old, to give to it. Time is short, and we must have a burden for souls.

Any congregation or individual person sending offerings to the National Missionary Fund in care of the undersigned may express their burden to whom they wish the offering sent. We will carry out your expressed burden.

In Christian love,
—Ralph and Inez Beisly,
407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kan.

(Editorial note: In further reference to missionary work, we add a line to report that at the National campmeeting this summer a public offering was taken for the foreign missionary project in Old Mexico. Sister Edith Cole, one of the field workers, was present and gave an interesting report on their activities in that field among the Indians and Mexicans, many of whom are destitute, not only for the spiritual bread of life—the gospel of Christ—but also for literal food, clothes and bedding. Any contributions of money and supplies for this worthy project may be sent direct to Bro. O. B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.)

TWO STRONG MEN—Maximillian and Christian Good

Guy F. Hershberger gives us the following stories:

In 295 A.D. Maximillian, a young Numidian, refused induction into the army in Africa. Said he: "I cannot serve as a soldier; I cannot do evil; I am a Christian." Because of this refusal, Maximillian was put to death; he was twenty-one years old when he died. Maximillian's stand was appreciated by the Christians, and he came to be recognized as one of the heroes of the Church.

Christian Good, a Virginia boy, was forced into the army during the Civil War. He was given a gun, although he had told the officers he would not use it. During the battle the captain asked him if he had fired the gun. Said Christian Good: "No, I didn't see anything to shoot at." The captain reminded him of the men of the enemy's army. Christian Good replied: "They are people; we don't shoot people."

Testimonies

La.—I would like to tell you good people that God is still blessing us. He means so much to me. I am still saved and mean to do all I can for my Lord.

I have the responsibility of taking care of my 84-year old mother, Mrs. Emma Cater. She is getting along pretty good and is able to go to meeting some.

My husband is sick most of the time with sinus disorder and bronchial asthma. He needs to be saved and healed. We have nine children living, and most of them are in sin. We need your prayers so much.

I have been having an awfully hard time to meet lately and have been really put to the test, but God knows all about it. He has promised to be a very present help in time of trouble, and I am expecting help from Him.

Please pray for us. —Mrs. Beulah Johnson

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ark.—Dear Saints, I want to tell what the Lord has done for me.

I was in an auto accident on August 18. Although I was not examined by a doctor, I am certain that my pelvis bone was cracked, because the pain was so severe right in the bone. I could not walk or turn in bed by myself. The saints would pray for me and the Lord would give relief enough to rest a while. On Saturday I had someone to call the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting for prayer. On Sunday morning Bro. Murphy Allen and Bro. Curtis Williams came from the meeting to pray for me. The saints are so concerned about their brothers and sisters. We live about 85 or 90 miles from Myrtle. They read a few scriptures and then prayed for me. Before they prayed I knew that the Lord was going to heal me. As they were praying I felt the pain leave. I started praising the Lord and raised up in bed by myself, and sat on the side of the bed. All were shouting and praising the Lord. I told them that the Lord had healed me. I was given a robe, and then got up and walked across the room by myself. Praise His dear name!

My mother-in-law, sister-in-law, and I went back with Bro. Allen to the campmeeting. The enemy tried to get me down again at the meeting, but I kept praising the Lord for my healing. I walked up and down the hills with very little difficulty. Oh, the Lord is so good to us if we only trust Him. He wants us to trust Him, for He is willing and waiting to do marvelous things for His people.

A sister in Christ, —Esther (Huskey) Hightower

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Calif.—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus: As I lay on my bed this morning thinking of how I had received so much inspiration and encouragement from the testimonies in the Faith and Victory paper, it came to my mind very strongly to send in my testimony.

I thank the Lord for salvation. This verse keeps coming to my mind, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3: 14. I realize that this is a pressing way. I have been pressing and I mean to keep pressing on and upward.

I am the mother of 16 living children, all with normal bodies and minds, although two of them have asthma sometimes. We have completely trusted the Lord with 13 of them from birth until now, or as long as they were under our control. Some of them are now grown and on their own. This privilege of trusting the Lord fully for healing began in 1939 when we accepted the truth of this "evening light" in its fullness. We gave our first three children lots of medicine before then, but not since. Some

of our children have been real sick—several at once. In 1941 we had five sick with whooping cough at once, and in 1957 we had five more of our children sick with whooping cough at once, but we trusted the Lord and called for prayer of the saints. The Lord has always blessed and come to our rescue, and I thank Him.

One of our boys got his leg run over by a truck in 1951 and he stayed out of school five weeks on that account. We trusted the Lord for his healing.

This year, July 3, 1961, my husband backed the car over our baby boy's legs. When it first happened, we were in much distress because we didn't know how badly our baby was hurt, or whether he was going to live or die. We kept calling on the Lord and called the saints for prayer, so the boy was soon quiet and resting. It happened on Monday and that Tuesday he was real sore, so sore we could hardly handle him, but he kept asking to get down. On Wednesday morning he sat up in bed. That evening (July 5) I was out of the room where the child was and one of the other children called me and said, "Mama, Jerry is walking," so I rushed in there because I didn't want him on his feet trying to walk. He fell down when I came in, because he tried to run and his legs were weak. I tried to keep him from walking for a while, but soon realized that there was no need. That child has been walking every day since, so I thank and praise the Lord for His wonderful work on that child and for so many more things which the Lord has done for us in answer to prayer.

We still have nine children under 18 years of age at home, so we still have a great responsibility to rear them up in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

I have asthma sometimes which bothers me some, but my trust is in the Lord and I know He can heal me if He wills. I will wait on the Lord.

Pray for me.

—Geneva Pierro

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Saints everywhere: Praise the Lord, I feel good in my soul tonight. I received my Faith and Victory paper today. It's truly a joy and a blessing to read it—seems to bring us all nearer to each other and to God.

God has been so good to bring the saints to us. We were wanting to assemble together as God's Word tells us, but we didn't want to join any man-made creed. So with the help of the Lord and the dear saints, we do have a place to assemble for worship. Praise His name forever!

Last year we attended the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting a couple of nights, and this year we went to the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting for the first time. We certainly were blessed at both places, and we are looking forward to the time when we can be in the meetings more.

My husband felt led to have meetings in our little farm house south of Rolla about six miles on Highway O. At our first meeting we were without a preacher. At the second meeting we had three preachers—Bro. Ritchey, Bro. Dollins and Bro. Murphy Allen. At the third meeting Bro. Gibson and Bro. Dollins were with us. We thank and praise the Lord for these meetings which are held on the second Sunday of each month. We have Bible study in our homes on Saturday night. Pray with us, dear saints, that we and others can be helped from these meetings. It's wonderful how God brings His people together.

I thank God for Bro. Fred Pruitt, Sister Marie Miles and all that work to get this truth to us through the Faith and Victory paper. I think how sad it is that when the truth comes along so many will ignore it, as they have been tossed to and fro so much with false doctrines.

Let's pray that the people around Rolla will receive

knowledge that our meeting is not a new denomination starting up. The 6th chapter of Romans gave me the light that we can live above sin. Rev. 18:4 gives us light to not join up to the denominations.

We love this humble way—it's the way to heaven. Praise the Lord! We intend to hold fast to the truth, no matter what the price may be. We need the prayers of all you dear saints to help us fight the battle against sin.

Your Sister in the one way, —Hettie Clements

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' dear name: I am so thankful to be saved and in this strait and narrow way. I was at one time wandering around in the wilderness, but the dear Lord had mercy and rescued me. I know that I can never thank Him enough for this, and also for the many times He has heard and answered prayer in my behalf. I believe He has touched my body concerning the trouble that I had in my chest, for which I wrote to the saints for prayer. Although I still have some symptoms, I am still trusting the dear Lord for complete victory. Thank the dear saints for all their prayers.

I want to thank the dear Lord for helping me to attend some of the campmeetings this summer and the assembly meeting at Guthrie last winter. My soul was fed on the precious manna from heaven. We missed a few services of each meeting, and I was thinking of how much one misses when he misses only one day of the meetings. We missed the last day of the assembly meeting at Guthrie, which was reported to have been a high day in Zion. We also missed the last day of the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting, and I am sure we missed some precious heavenly food. We also missed Thursday and Friday of the last week of the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting. Therefore we missed the rejoicing time when Bro. Curtis Williams was ordained to the ministry and the ordinance services when a goodly number of saints took part in the feet-washing and the Lord's supper.

We surely are serving a mighty God, one that can do more for us than we can ask or think. God's power is measureless and boundless—no limit to the mighty working power of our God. This has been proven in the past, and He is just the same, yesterday, today and forever.

May the dear Lord bless all His saints and His work everywhere, and put a deeper desire in our hearts to attend every meeting we can and live closer unto Him.

Pray earnestly for my unsaved loved ones, especially my children, and all the saints' unsaved children. Pray for me that I will keep humble and faithful unto the end.

With Christian love, —Effie Miller

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Okla.—Dear ones, I am praising God for salvation and all His blessings to me.

I had prayed that I might sell my home in LaJunta, Colo. and move where I could meet with the saints. In September, 1960, I listed my home for sale. The Lord answered prayer and the lots were sold on March 1, 1961. I advertised my house for sale to be moved, promising the Lord that whatever I received for it would be His. Whatever would remain on the lots after thirty days would belong to the buyer of the lots.

Since the house that I purchased here at Guthrie, Okla. was occupied, the moving van stored my things in the garage here on April 13, 1961. I stayed with Bro. and Sister Stover. I was so tired from moving that I was almost on the verge of a nervous breakdown, but they and the saints were so kind to me.

After some rest I went to Dallas, Texas to visit my brother and relatives. On my way home, our train was

kept waiting all night until the tracks were cleared of a wrecked freight train ahead of us. We were thankful that God took care of us. My house was still occupied, so I returned to Colorado to attend to some business.

On returning to Guthrie I got possession of the house on June 4th. Then I moved most of my things in the house from the garage.

I accompanied Bro. and Sister Stover to the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting. It rained so much that I caught cold and my eyes hurt so badly that I could scarcely stay in the evening services. Then I attended the ten-day campmeeting here at Guthrie. Thursday was fasting and divine healing day. After they anointed me and prayed, I felt God's healing power on my head and my eyes have been well ever since, and my nose, which had been so red that the enemy said I had cancer in it, was all cleared up. Also a place on my cheek, which had been itching for many months, was healed. Praise God! It was wonderful and my faith was increased.

My brother, who is crippled and not able to do things for himself, wrote me that his landlady had not taken him to make application for his pension as she had promised to do, so I went to the courthouse at Dallas, Texas about the matter on Aug. 17. They said, "Tell her (the landlady) that it is a federal offense for her to keep his birth certificate and for her to give it to you." Then they had me to sign his application, and said to send the birth certificate to a certain man and my brother would receive his pension in Sept. When I arrived at the rest home, the landlady embraced, kissed and handed me the birth certificate, so God answered prayer and I didn't even need to mention it. I found that my brother was not as well as I thought. I read and prayed with him and told him that God could heal him. Once, when nearing his room, I heard over his radio, "God will take care of you."

At home my car's battery needed charging, so I drove it out in the country and back home. Being tired and nervous I parked it in the driveway and locked it. Several hours later I could not find the key.

On Sept. 9th, my nephew, his wife and mother came by on their way home by way of Dallas. I accompanied them to Dallas. On our way, God prevented us from having a head-on collision. There was no warning of a two-lane road being closed by the workmen. Two cars came over in our lane unexpected, and the large truck next to us moved over part way into our lane.

We went on to my brother's and had prayer with him. Next morning I went to the court house, and was told that the man to whom I had sent the birth certificate would not be in the office until the next morning. Since he did not know my brother, he asked me to stay and meet him at my brother's on Thursday. I mentioned that I was getting short of funds. He said, go tell the banker the circumstances and see if he won't cash your check. The banker looked at my driver's license and cashed my check. Praise God, I felt like shouting. I made long trips through the rain and got somewhat wet even with a rain coat, as the wind blew so strong. The man visited my brother and said he would send his pension in October.

I stayed on the tenth floor of the hotel, and the wind, which they said was caused by hurricane Carla, whistled by my window. I heard voices in the hall. I said, "Lord, here I am on the tenth floor, protect me." The answer came, "Be not afraid, 'tis I. Though the storm rages wild, in thy sore need I'm passing by, offering to help thee, hear thy cry—be not afraid, 'tis I." Then I was calm. I had to walk in shallow water many times, but felt that my work must be completed as soon as possible.

I took some cold and rheumatism, but fasted and prayed and God took it all away.

Once the bus was crowded and I was standing. A young man gave me his seat and so God helped me continually. On returning home I found that my floor furnace was burning with the edges of a throw rug, hassock and chair over it. There again the Lord took care of me and protected from damage. I hadn't thought of it getting cool enough in September for the thermostat to turn it on.

Then I said, "Lord, you have been blessing me so much, please help me find the key to my car." A still small voice said, "Look in that side pocket on your purse." It was a pocket so small that I had never used it. The key was there, and how thankful I was!

I am still happy in the Lord. Recently I felt that I was taking the "flu" but God touched my body and also many times since. I thank all the saints for their prayers.

I am thankful to be so near the publishing work, the chapel and the campmeeting grounds. Please continue to pray for my brother and me.

Your Sister in Christ, —E. Coral Johnson

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Oklahoma—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints, greetings to you today in Jesus' precious name. This leaves me saved and more encouraged than ever before to press on to Glory.

I feel led to write my testimony and tell how the Lord so wonderfully heard and answered the saints' prayers when I humbled myself and confessed unto Him my weaknesses. Truly, He came to my rescue. The Lord really lifted me up in spirit and touched my body. I feel better than I have felt in quite some time.

I am still asking an interest in your prayers that I will keep humble at the feet of Jesus so I will not hinder God's blessings. Pray for my entire family. I want to see them all saved and enjoying salvation.

Your Sister in Christ, —Fannie Edmonson

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Wisconsin—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt and saints scattered abroad, we greet you in the precious name of Jesus: We want to testify that the Lord wonderfully saved our son, Loyd, and healed him of a very bad heart trouble. When he first began having this heart affliction he came to us to pray for him, as he was very worried for he thought he was going to die. So we anointed him, laid on hands and had prayer. He received much relief, but in a day or two he had those spells again. We told him we would request prayer of Bro. Pruitt and the dear ones there at the print shop. Also, we sent a handkerchief to be anointed for him. The day we sent the letter off he told us that he knew the Lord was going to heal his body and save his soul. That afternoon he testified that he felt the saving and healing power of God go through his body, and he has been so happy ever since, and likes to talk about the wonderful things of the Lord. Before he got saved he would get angry when things did not go just as he wanted, but now he said he has patience and can take things as they come. We thank God for what He has done for him in his soul and body.

Please continue to pray for our son, and also his unsaved wife and three children.

May God bless all. —Bro. and Sister Art Klatt

o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Missouri—Dear saints and readers of the Faith and Victory paper, I send greetings to all in Jesus' precious name:

The Lord has been, and is being, so good to me that I feel He wants me to write a few lines for the paper and tell of some things He has done for me.

I surely thank Him for permitting us to attend some of the campmeetings. I was in the Monark Springs, Mo. meeting for five days and I was permitted to attend all of the Myrtle, Mo. campmeeting except the last two services. The messages were so good. These campmeetings mean so much to all of us. We appreciate the Faith and Victory paper, too, as it feeds our souls.

During these meetings the Lord helped me to feel so well in body, and not one time did I have to request prayer for myself at Myrtle. I feel that the Lord has healed me of that bad affliction that was on my body so long. Surely I have much to thank the Lord for.

Just recently I was bothered with the heart burn. No matter what I ate, I would suffer. I had requested prayer for it at different times. After our Bible study one Saturday, I asked just our little group to pray and ask God to heal the cause of this suffering. They did, and the Lord healed me of that. Thank the Lord!

I appreciate all the prayers that have gone up in my behalf. The saints are so precious, and I do love God's people. First John 4:11 says, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." The people of God would rather die than disobey His Word. We manifest this love by the life we live more than by what we say.

We are living in such perilous times. People seem to be drifting further and further from the truth. In reading of some of the reformers—Martin Luther, John Wesley and others—it seems that when they took their stand against the false movements they were quick to believe and obey the Word of God and the Lord blessed them. John Wesley's enemies named him "Methodist" because they didn't like his method, so it seems that is where the Methodists get their name.

I am so glad for the Evening Light Church of God. We want to take God's name, as Jesus prayed that His disciples and believers should be kept in His Father's name. Let us not drift so that we take darkness for light and light for darkness (Isa. 5:20) as so many have done.

Dear saints, pray for me that I will always be true and faithful, so that I may continue to receive the blessings of the Lord.

Your Sister in Christ, —Katie Marler

STATEMENT OF THE POSITION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD ON WAR

The ministers of the Church of God assembled at the Annual National Campmeeting (July 21-30, 1961) at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., being aware of the present critical world situation and the urgent need for the Church to reaffirm its position in regard to participation in war, approved and adopted the resolution which had been approved by the ministers of the Church of God at the Oklahoma State Campmeeting, Guthrie, Okla., on August 13, 1948, which reads as follows:

"Whereas: The Holy Scriptures teach us that our first duty is to God, namely, 'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, soul, mind, and strength,' and the second is like unto this, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.' Furthermore, Jesus taught His followers to love their enemies, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven. (Matt. 5:39, 44-48).

"And Whereas: There are many other Scriptures such as John 18:36; Matt. 26:52; Rom. 12:14, 17, 19-21; Luke 6:31, which definitely forbid us to take up arms to fight or defend ourselves; and whereas, because of the teaching of such Scriptures we are conscientiously opposed to accept non-combatant service in warfare or to work in any factory or plant which is directly engaged in producing instruments and/or munitions for the destruction of human life and happiness.

"And Whereas: We are conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form at any time, whether civil, political, or religious.

"And Whereas: We are conscientiously opposed to the purchase of defense or war bonds and stamps for the prosecution of war.

"And Whereas: We are citizens of the U. S. of America, in all things willing to live honestly, believing that our Government is ordained of God and praying for our President and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness.

"Now, Therefore Be It Resolved: That the above statement be adopted as a uniform teaching and practice of the Church of God."

—L. D. Pruitt, Secretary, Guthrie, Okla.

WHAT IS REGARDED AS DEFENSE WORK?

The ministers of the Church of God assembled at the National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. adopted a resolution (quoted above) on July 25, 1961 stating the position of the Church on war, work, etc. connected therewith. This statement is in printed form with the undersigned secretary, and our young men of the Church and their counsellors should attach a copy of it to the questionnaire, "Special Form for Conscientious Objectors," S.S.S. Form No. 150, to answer question 2(e) under Series IV when he applies to his local board for classification as a conscientious objector, and with any communication that may go to a State Director, a State Appeal Board, or a hearing officer of the Department of Justice in regard to any young man's claim as a CO.

At the campmeeting the question was asked as to what the Government regarded as defense work, or work equivalent to noncombat in the army, and whether any government agency could furnish a list of industries, factories, etc. regarded as defense or war work. In quest of this information a letter was addressed to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, 401 Third St., N.W., Washington 1, D. C.. On Sept. 5, 1961, Mr. J. Harold Sherk, Executive Secretary of the National Service Board, answered this inquiry, and the following is a quotation from his letter on this point:

"As to what is regarded as 'defense' work, or as 'equivalent to noncombat in the Army': as far as I know, no government agency, including Selective Service, has attempted to draw up a definitive list of the 'exact kind of factories', etc., which would be regarded as 'defense' for the purpose of judging a young man's claim as a conscientious objector. I have often discussed this subject with Selective Service people and others involved in the classification of conscientious objectors and would summarize the situation as follows:

"1. Any industry which is directly engaged in manufacturing materials for the armed services is 'defense' and a person who claims to be a conscientious objector to all military service, whether combatant or noncombatant, would be regarded as compromising his claim if he is employed in such industry. This applies not only to the manufacture of weapons and ammunition, but to all sup-

plies of a military nature. One group of COs that I know about has been consistently refused a I-O classification for a number of years because these persons were employed in an industry which contracted to supply WAC underwear and some candy to the armed services. (The contractual arrangement may have been the deciding factor in these cases, I don't know.)

"2. Some persons have been in difficulty because they worked for firms which produced materials, some of which went into use in the military services and some into ordinary civilian uses. In such cases, a person who knowingly worked on something that was eventually headed for the armed services was particularly in trouble. But sometimes individuals who were not involved even this much have been in difficulty because of the 'defense' label. Actually, I think that it is possible to make a distinction between the individual who is directly engaged in making something that goes into ordinary civilian use and the individual who is directly engaged in making something that lands in the military. But the distinction is difficult, especially in connection with some products. For example: for some time I was in correspondence with a young man who worked in a certain Westinghouse branch which manufactured small electric motors. Some of these motors eventually went into military airplanes, others went into the ordinary civilian outlets of the Westinghouse company. Yet this young man was in extreme difficulty with Selective Service because of his alleged 'defense' work, and he was only able finally to clear himself because he quit the Westinghouse job after he found out that a part of the product from that plant (though only a part) went into military planes.

"3. I think that sometimes the decision needs to be made on the basis of certain local conditions. For example: sometime ago we heard from a certain young man who was working for a large copper mining firm. It is well known, of course, that a great deal of copper goes into ammunitions production, while there are vast civilian uses as well. However, it appeared that in this young man's locality the copper company was regarded as 'defense' work, and this young man could not continue in it without compromising his CO claim in the eyes of his home community. In such cases I think that it was wise for him to get into other work, as he decided to do.

"As indicated above, there is no clear rule and certainly there is no comprehensive list which could be used as a clear guide line. As a general rule, I think that a young man needs to apply the general principle which Christians need to keep in mind in all their relationships: the principle that one does not see how near he can get to things that are evil or questionable, but how far away he can stay from them. The wider the margin, and the clearer, the better."

Copies of this explanation and the adopted resolution on separate sheets may be obtained from:—Lawrence D. Pruitt, Secretary of the National Campmeeting, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

BEWARE, AMERICA!

Five reasons are given which caused the Roman Empire to fall and plunge the world into the Dark Ages.

1st—Rapid increase of divorces.

2nd—High taxes.

3rd—Mad craze for pleasure.

4th—Gigantic armaments.

5th—Decay of religious faith, fading into a mere form.

—From "Decline and Fall of Roman Empire"

"Occupy Till I Come"

In meditating upon the work of God and the responsibility we have to God to carry out the duties which He left us to do, I felt impressed to share these thoughts with my fellow-workers.

The text is in Luke 19:13 which reads, "And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." The word "occupy" here means to possess and make use of. In other words, He wants us to carry on the business which He placed in our possession until He comes again. In any successful business someone is secured who is qualified to manage the business. In like manner, God calls and qualifies His servants.

Jesus did the work that His Father sent Him to do, and that is the pattern and example for us. In Matt. 4:23 we read, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." Verse 24, "And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them." Now this was the kind of business He was in—preaching the gospel, healing all manner of sickness and diseases, and casting out devils. We read again in Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." We are to carry on the same business until He comes. What a great responsibility we have in doing business for God!

In Mark 16:15-20 we read the Great Commission, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." This was the same business that Jesus carried on when He was here. In Matt. 10:1 we read, "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." Verses 7-8, "And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."

At the synagogue Jesus read a prophecy of Himself and the work that He was to do. Luke 4:18, "The

Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

Jonah's preaching had an effect upon the people of Nineveh. In Jonah 3:1-5 we read, "And the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the second time, saying, Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city of three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. So the people of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them." Listen to Peter's message in Acts 2:36-38, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Paul said in II Cor. 5:18-20, "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us [the church] the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." The word "reconciled" means to restore friendship between those who had been enemies. Again we read in Eph. 2:16-17, "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: and came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."

—Otis Hill

FOR SALE

One Cross for sale, nearly new. I cannot carry it and go with the world and its crowd.

One Talent, new, except slightly shelf-worn. It has been laid away for years in a napkin.

One five-piece set of Armor. All pieces are in good shape, only need polishing.

One bundle of Christian Opportunities. Contained in this bundle is one of the greatest opportunities in the world—that of having access to the throne of Grace. Another is that of going to church every Sunday, and another is the opportunity of being a soul-winner. I seldom use these opportunities, so have decided to let them go with the sale.

One badly used Christian Influence. Buyer may be able to repair this Influence if carefully handled.

The above mentioned Items are stored in the basement of my home located on Neglect Street.

(Signed) A Lotta Nominal Christians —Sel.

Sudden Death

A snake trainer brought from the jungles a baby boa constrictor. He made a pet of it and trained it to do many interesting things. As it grew, the trainer was warned, "That snake will get you yet." But he felt that he had perfect control over his pet and continued giving exhibitions before great audiences. One day the trainer opened the cage and bade his pet to come forth for its usual performance. At the word of its master the snake slowly coiled its huge length around the man, coil after coil, until the final breathtaking moment when their two heads were about together. Possibly sensing danger, the trainer gave the word for the constrictor to uncoil and go back into the cage. But the snake was in an angry mood and instead of uncoiling, it tightened itself around its helpless victim until every bone in his body had been broken. "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made." (Gen. 3:1). The trainer had trifled with danger once too often, and the serpent won again. As it was in the beginning, so shall it be at the end.

Few of us would have courage enough to permit a boa constrictor to coil its icy death-like form around our fragile human bodies, knowing that it could mean sudden death. Most of us would have better sense than to do such a foolish thing. Yet trifling with sin and worldliness is much more dangerous than playing with a boa constrictor.

To a sinner, sin is like a cancer over which he has no control without divine aid. To a saint, sin is likened unto a boa constrictor—if kept in its place, it is harmless; when played with, it becomes a deadly enemy. The true child of God recognizes this to be true, knowing that he has no business trifling with it.

We certainly cannot expect to have "power to tread on serpents . . . , and over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19) when we continually subject ourselves to the wiles of the devil. We are told to "resist the devil, and he will flee from" us. (Jas. 4:7). In verse 4 of the same chapter, James says: "Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

Most assuredly we are in the very last days. We await with glad hearts the soon coming of our Lord. If, when the Master comes, He finds us wrapped in the arms of this world, and engaged in those things which are not becoming for a "peculiar people, zealous of good works," how will He greet us? What will the Bridegroom say if He finds His Bride untrue? Jesus is coming again to receive unto "himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." "Hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Eph. 5:27; Jude 23).

The apostle Paul exhorts us to "abstain from all appearance of evil," while the Psalmist says, "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes," and Habakkuk tells us, "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity." (1 Thess. 5:22; Psal. 101:3; Hab. 1:13).

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with all manner of sin and iniquity, "let us lay aside every weight, and the sin [of pleasure] which doth so easily beset us . . . looking unto Jesus . . . who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross. . . ."

Are you with the church crying out: "That snake will get you yet?" Do you fellowship those spectators who glory as they see the old serpent, the devil, coiling its icy form of death around individuals that were once on fire for God, but now have forsaken the truth, having loved this present world? Do you wait to see the snake coil as closely as possible merely hoping the victim of "circumstances" will be released before it's too late? Possibly, you are the victim! If so, you have every warning from the Word of God of "sudden death."

—Robert A. Simms

LOVE OVERCOMES EVIL

Right is more powerful than evil. Truth is more enduring than falsehood. Light dispels darkness. Love overcomes evil. True spiritual values can never be established by military force. The sword as well as they who use it will perish; for this is the way of hatred, darkness, and death. A devoted Christian life is a better bulwark against evil than would be the wielding of a sword. Why seek to establish security by means that are inherently insecure? How can destruction and hatred build a peaceful society? "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God."

BIBLE STUDY

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

November 5, 1961

GROWTH IN CHRISTIAN CONCERN

Printed Portion Matt. 25:31-46

Matt. 25:31. When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

32. And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

33. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

34. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

35. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

36. Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38. When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39. Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto

one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43. I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45. Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Memory Verse: Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. Gal. 6:2.

Practical Truth: In practical ways Christians should show their concern for all men.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Recently my granddaughter, less than three years old, got only three words from a message that was preached to all of us. Those words were, "Don't you care?" She just kept repeating them over and over.

Our lesson today should make us ask ourselves this question, Do we care for our own soul and for the souls of others? How is our concern? Is it at the proper depth that God would want it to be? By helping others in a temporal way we are often able to reach their souls. The missionaries know this to be true. Give people beans first and then you can give them the Bible.

There is a great day coming when the trumpet shall blow and the nations will be gathered before the "righteous Judge." (Rom. 2:5-11). Jesus Christ, who shall leave His throne of mercy, will sit upon His throne of judgment. Many will pray in that day, but it will be too late. Everyone will be judged "according to his deeds." What a great separation will take place! Can you not visualize the great multitudes moving past the Great Judge and melting under the mighty power of revealed deeds down the path toward eternal damnation or up the path to eternal life? Oh, how sad it will be to hear these words, "Depart from me," which means you will go to the only place left, and which was not prepared for you but for the devil and his angels. What a joy it will be to hear those words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father!"

November 12, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

Printed PortionMatthew 25:14-29

Matt. 25:14. For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

16. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25. And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27. Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

Memory Verse: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Rom. 12:1.

Practical Truth: We are responsible to God for the proper use of every ability and opportunity He gives us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A talent was a certain weight of gold or silver. But the word today means "abilities," and I might add, "opportunities" that come to us because of our talents.

A steward is one who handles the substance or estate of another. Jesus has gone to His home in heaven. He left each one of us with the responsibility of getting the gospel to souls. All that we are, or have, has been given to us from God. We will be held accountable of how we discharge that responsibility. God does not require of us more than we can do, but we must do all we have opportunity to do. Some might say that they would like to go to a foreign field and work for God, but what are they doing around their homes and the opportunities they have now?

Asking God to give you a vision of the value of one soul will help you to labor and be a good steward of the gospel. Just don't see the drunkard in all of his disgrace, but see past that condition and see a soul to whom you have a debt to pay in trying to help him make his home in heaven.

One "digged in the earth and hid his lord's money." Are you hiding your talents or opportunities? You will be held responsible if you hide your talents by using them for the pleasures and attainments in this world.

November 19, 1961

GROWTH THROUGH SELF-DISCIPLINE

Printed Portion2 Peter 1:2-11

2 Peter 1:2. Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord.

3. According as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: Every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. 1 Cor. 9:25.

Practical Truth: Self-discipline is needed as a check against wayward tendencies of every kind.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson teaches us spiritual multiplication and addition. God has prepared everything that we need to help us have spiritual growth. When we are "born again" and filled with all the fulness of Christ we have an inner knowledge of Christ that far surpasses the intellectual knowledge of Him. Peter was not talking about the intellectual knowledge of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. The divine power, the exceeding, great, and precious promises given to us are sufficient to make us abound in the things of God.

Paul practiced self-discipline. He said, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 2 Cor. 9:27. Paul also said, "I die daily." There is a time of consecrating and yielding to God which leads to the definite, instantaneous experience of sanctification, but even after that experience we must continue to watch and pray in order to keep the flesh under subjection to the leadings of the Holy Spirit. The soul must be fed as the body needs to be fed. We must not let the "cares of this life" choke out the life of Christ and His Word. Habitual neglect of feeding the soul will result in a condition of spiritual ill-health. Self must be disciplined, controlled and brought under subjection to God.

November 26, 1961

CONTINUING TO GROW

Printed Portion2 Timothy 1:3-14

2 Tim. 1:3. I thank God, whom I serve from my fore-

fathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

4. Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy;

5. When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

6. Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

7. For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

8. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

9. Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

10. But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

11. Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

12. For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

13. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

14. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

Memory Verse: Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 2 Tim. 6:12.

Practical Truth: Christian growth should be accompanied by a deepening concern for the welfare of God's kingdom.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The great love that Paul had for the young minister, Timothy, is expressed in our lesson. He also appreciates the teaching and instruction given to Timothy by his grandmother and mother. We never know how much our steadfastness in Christ will affect those of our own household, even down in the generations to come. The main thing for us to do is to be faithful.

The sixth verse refers to the ordination of Timothy which was to encourage him to work harder at his calling.

Fear will keep a person from growing. When we belong to God we have a right to resist fear and let the spirit of love and power help us to keep His commands. Trust and fear will not work together. When we fear, we are not trusting. God gives us power to witness for Him and thereby we will grow stronger in Him. We should not shrink from afflictions, but know that God's power and grace will keep our souls which we have committed into His hands. We need to be like Paul and be persuaded about some things. He knew in whom he had believed and he was not ashamed or afraid to trust God. Be persuaded that God will not fail you, nor leave or forsake you. Live a life of faith, trust and confidence in God. "Hold fast" to the gospel—that "good thing" that was entrusted to us.

—Mrs. Marie Miles