

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### New Year of 1964

Good-bye, old year, your work is done;  
Your battle fought, your race is run.  
While checking o'er the score we find  
That millions have been left behind.

Some in sackcloth hath been clad,  
While other hearts have been made glad;  
You have done what you could do,  
We bid you now a long adieu.

A new year now is at the door,  
Nineteen hundred sixty-four;  
We pray that God will to you give  
The grace of life that men may live.

May live in peace and harmony,  
And from all hate and strife be free;  
That peace on earth, good will to men,  
May be enjoyed by every kin.

O happy New Year, 'sixty-four,  
For nineteen hundred years and more,  
Men have sought sweet peace to find,  
But left the Prince of peace behind.

The solution to us has been given  
From that great Teacher from high heaven—  
"As you would have men do to you,  
The same to them you, too, must do."

This would put an end to strife,  
And grant to each the joy of life;  
But if men in these things fail,  
Strife and envy will prevail.

So now in God we put our trust,  
We know He'll do what's right and just;  
He holds the future in His hands—  
May we give heed to His commands.

—Ulysses Phillips

### Home of My Soul

The home I am building for my soul today will be its home tomorrow and forever. My soul needs a little more spacious home today than that which it occupied yesterday. It longs to soar up a little higher, to go down a little deeper. The home of yesterday is too narrow for today. It seeks a clearer vision of heaven, it longs for greater nearness to God, it would feel a little more sensibly the impulse of His will, and come nearer the gates of glory and hear more distinctly the sweet music of heaven. I must not cramp or stint this soul of mine. It must have the fullest and freest range. My soul must have perfect liberty to roam about amid the unseen heavenly things regardless of the sacrifice of the house of clay. This house of flesh must not hold it in or interrupt its flight upward. Its wings must be free to fly upward to the presence of God to hold sweet communion with Him. There are yet many new discoveries for my soul to make in the spiritual life, and it must not be hindered by the desires of the flesh. The flesh with its affections and lusts must be crucified that my soul may have fullest liberty today. What I build for my soul today will be its home throughout eternity. I must build a larger home for my soul each day.

—By C. E. Orr from "Helps to Holy Living"

### Men Die in Strange Ways

People have died in peculiar, almost unbelievable ways. Harold Lee Duncan was mowing his lawn. His wife and two children were watching. Suddenly Duncan grabbed his left side, walked a few steps, staggered, collapsed, and then died. A half-inch piece of wire, no bigger than a pencil lead, had been hurled into his heart by the power mower he was using. His death was sudden.

A twenty-four-year-old newspaper reporter, Jost Lemann, put a bottle on top of his head and asked another man to shoot it off. J. Poetschke took aim with a .38 calibre pistol, pulled the trigger and missed.

The bullet penetrated the head of Jost Lemann. He died on the spot, and the "William Tell" episode ended in a tragedy.

A little girl, Theresa Conn, was playing hide-and-seek with her dog. She hid a ball on the table and waited for her dog to find it. The large collie dog jumped up on the table to get the ball. In doing so the steel table was upset and crashed on Theresa's head. She was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital. The dog unwittingly had killed her.

Mario Cianca entered a funeral parlor and saw a man rise with a satisfied smile from a coffin. He died of shock. Pedro Fernandez, owner of the parlor, had been measuring the coffin for a client about his own size. The shock of what he thought he saw was too much for Mario Cianca.

People have died in different amazing ways. But the most important thing to consider is, "Were they ready?" How they died is not so important, but whether they were prepared is vital. Death—with one's boots on or off—is final. To be ready is all important.

Goliath died, being hit by a stone; he was not ready for death. He had defied the God of Israel. "The stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth" (1 Samuel 17:49).

Stones also caused the death of Stephen, but he was ready. He had glorified the name of Jesus by his outstanding witness. When the stones crashed against his body his face shone as the face of an angel. "They stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59).

King Saul, of the Old Testament, was not ready. He had disobeyed the word of God. Samuel told him, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. . . . Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee . . ." (1 Samuel 15:22, 23). "Saul took a sword, and fell upon it" (1 Samuel 31:4).

Saul of Tarsus died by a sword, too, but he was ready when he bent his head at the command of the executioner. His testimony was, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:6, 7).

When death comes your way, friend, what matters how you die? Wire, bullet, dog, shock, stone, or sword, will make no difference. The big question is: where will you be in eternity? God's solemn word is, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

He further says, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18.

Jesus is knocking at your heart's door and lovingly invites you—"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

—Arthur H. Townsend

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This monthly paper will be mailed to you at the less-than-cost price of 35c per year, or 3 yrs. for \$1.00

## Your Life and Eternity

Often we hear the remark made to men who have lived to be 90, 95, or 98 years old that "you have lived a long time." Those who are not Bible scholars are often amazed and find it almost unbelievable that Adam lived to be 930 years old and Methuselah, who was the oldest man to ever live, was 969 years old when he died. People today do not often live to be 90 years old or even 85. The Bible tells us that "the days of our years are threescore years and ten: [70 years] and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years [80 years] yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Psalms 90:10.

If it were possible today for you to live to be 969 years old and then die, just how would that many years compare with eternity? Or can we even use the word "compare"? What is eternity? It is where we will live after death. It is where the soul of man goes after death. The Webster's dictionary says that eternity means "an infinite time; continuance without end; endless time after death; time without beginning or ending." Our finite minds are too small to be able to comprehend just what eternity is. It is not counted by months, years, or even centuries. Eternity is just not counted. There is no time in eternity. It cannot be spent or lived up. Eternity is that vast, limitless, infinite place that is without ending.

May the Lord help us to realize the greatness of eternity and then realize how small, little, and short our life here is. The Apostle James asked the question, "What is your life?" When we think of eternity we too wonder just what is our life. What does it amount to? What is time here? The Apostle answers his question and says, "It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14. We notice the vapor that appears above the kettle on the stove and how it is there and then gone.

The Bible says, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle." Job 7:6. How fast the shuttle moves back and forth. Our life is swifter than that. We are here a little while and then we are gone.

"Now my days are swifter than a post: they flee away." I have wanted to give the postman a letter. I would go out and look down the street. I would see the postman coming. I would think that I could go back in the house and do a few things and come out and he would be there at my house. In just a little while I would come back but he had passed my house and was on up the street. Oh how fast our life flees away!

The Bible says our life passes away "as the swift ships." Job 9:26. You stand on the pier near the ocean and watch the ships sail out to sea. In just a little while they drop below the horizon and are out of sight. All around us we see those who are dropping away from the scene of action in death and they are seen no more here. Sometimes, the

infant is taken out of the arms of its grieving mother and her arms are empty. Sometimes the child that is active and playing about its mother's knees is taken. Sometimes the teen-ager who has had big plans for his future is taken. They were here today and active but now they are gone. Those who are in their twenties leave us and also the middle-aged person. "They flee away." The Bible compares this life with "the eagle that hasteth to the prey." Job 9:26. The eagle has a good eyesight. It is a hundred times greater than man's. It is also the swiftest bird that flies in the air. Oh, dear ones, we are here today and then we are gone! Our life swiftly passes away.

"Behold, thou hast made my days as a handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity." Psa. 39:4, 5. "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is that I may know how frail I am."

"There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it." Eccl. 8:8. God is the one that holds our spirit in his hand and is the one who calls for it to separate from the body. "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. Seeing his days are determined the number of his months are with thee, thou has appointed his bounds that he cannot pass." Job 14: 1, 2, 5. God appoints our bounds and when that time comes we cannot pass over it. We read of a time when God added 15 years to the life of Hezekiah. (2 Kings 20:6.) God is the one to whom we have to give account.

Looking at our life and eternity, just what kind of thoughts do we have? What should be our thoughts? Should we not realize that it is the wisest thing to make sure we live in eternity with God? The Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27. We know that we will keep the first appointment. There isn't one doubt about that. Just as sure as we keep the first one, we will keep the second. As death finds us, just so will the judgment find us. There is no time to get right after we close our eyes in death. The prayers of those here on this earth will not do us any good then. This is a personal salvation and we must prepare here to live with God in eternity. In Rev. 20:11-15 we read where God let John have a vision of what will take place at the judgment. He saw the dead, small and great stand before God. The New Testament and the Old Testament were opened and everyone was judged out of the things that were written in those books, according to their works. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." We want to be one of those who had their souls cleansed by the blood of Jesus; one of those who were ready to meet God in peace when they closed their eyes in death. In that great

Judgment Day they will hear those words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25:34. I want to live with God in eternity, don't you? You can if you will. —Sister A. Marie Miles

## The Devil Turned Loose

### READ THIS AND WEEP

(Various papers have published the following article. We also want to share it with our readers. —Editor).

Out of a poll of 700 preachers, the following results were given: 48% denied the complete inspiration of the Bible; 24% rejected the atonement; 12% rejected the resurrection of the body; 27% did not believe that Christ will return to judge the quick and the dead. A Washington, D. C., minister said, "We liberal clergymen are no longer interested in the fundamental-modernist controversy. We do not believe we should even waste our time engaging in it. So far as we are concerned, it makes no difference whether Christ was born of a virgin or not. We don't even bother to form an opinion on the subject." An Arlington, Va., minister said, "We have closed our minds to such trivial consideration as the question of the resurrection of Christ. If you fundamentalists wish to believe that nonsense we have no objection, but we have more important things to preach than the presence or absence of an empty tomb 20 centuries ago." A leading minister in Washington, D. C., said flatly, "In our denomination what you call the 'faith of our Fathers' is approaching total extinction. Of course a few of the older ministers still cling to the Bible. But among the younger men, the real leaders of our denomination today, I do not know a single one who believes in Christ, or any of the things that you classify as fundamentals." One modernist said, "We are interested in human life and human destiny on earth. We don't know or care whether there is a life beyond the grave. We presume there is a God but we know that he will ever be a mystery to us. We do not know or care whether God possesses personality or not. He may be just an impersonal force. Religion means very little, if anything. In the modern world religion has no vital place. The function of the modern ministers is to guide the thinking people along social and economic lines. Morals, like religion, are out of date. The world today requires a new social order. The younger generation won't need either morals or religion if we create a social order without ignorance or poverty. We are moving in the direction of the elimination of prayer from our services entirely. We still include it occasionally, to please those who are accustomed to it, for prayer is a sort of habit with folks. It takes time to educate them to a realization that it is a hang-over from the superstitious past. We do not teach Bible to our young people. We do not teach them to pray. Our youth program is centered around recreation."

—Selected by E. B. Pinkerton

By the blessings of the Lord, my wife and I were privileged to meet with the saints in the annual Assembly Meeting on the General Southern Campground at Hammond, La., during the week of Thanksgiving and to visit our son, Byron and family who live near there at Loranger. The meeting was a real spiritual feast and a time of rich fellowship with the precious family of God. The meeting report is else-

where in this issue. Many times our mind went back to the first time I met the saints in that area. That was 35 years ago at the Assembly Meeting at Hammond when I was a boy of 17 years, just recently saved, and Bro. C. E. Orr was the pastor at Hammond. A number of the saints and friends we met then are still there.

Though many years have elapsed and time has changed many people, yet the saints are teaching and practicing the same Bible truths that brought forth this "evening light" restoration movement, and which resulted in the establishment of the campground, a permanent congregation and annual general meetings at Hammond more than 55 years ago.

The week following the Assembly Meeting, it was a pleasure to us to meet in two services with the saints of the Loranger (Oak Grove) congregation where Sister Katherine Key is pastor. She is not so well in body after so many years in the gospel work. Pray the Lord to heal her and give sustaining strength and courage for the duties before her.

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It has become necessary to remove from our subscription list all names of those in large cities whose address carried no street, house or box number. Papers without complete or incorrect address are not delivered, and the postoffice charges us 10c for each notification of an undelivered paper.

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The new heavy paper-bound books of the eleven issues of "Faith and Victory" paper for 1963 are now available. This is the 40th anniversary edition which also records the sudden passing of the associate founder and editor, my beloved father, Fred Pruitt, who spent 47 years in preaching and printing the gospel. This memorial copy will be postpaid to you for \$1.00 each. The supply is limited—order today! There are also still in stock the 1962 "Faith and Victory" books which we are offering at the reduced price of 50c each, postpaid.

The new paper bound books containing 208 pages of the 1963 issues of the children's paper, "The Beautiful Way," will be postpaid to you for \$1.00 each. Children and adults alike enjoy reading these papers. Mail your order NOW!

A large supply of back numbers of the "Faith and Victory" paper is still available—some of each month for a year or two back. These should be distributed, and we will mail a bundle of 50 copies to you for \$1.00, postage paid. Order a bundle to pass out in your neighborhood or congregation.

Two of our English tracts have recently been reprinted into Spanish. Each has two pages. One is entitled in English, "The Way Out" by Marie Miles. The other is "I Am the Door," which was translated and set in Spanish type by Bro. Clifford Smith who is one of our fine young Christian workers here at the Lord's print shop. Write for these to pass out to your Spanish-speaking neighbors.

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Trusting the Lord completely, this writer was healed of the facial paralysis occurring in September.

## BIBLES, BOOKS, CARDS AND TRACT RACKS

Egermeier's Bible Story Book, 640 pages, colored pictures, the best in its field .....	\$4.95
Cruden's Complete Concordance, 200,000 references .....	4.00
Smith's Bible Dictionary .....	3.95
Fox's Book of Martyrs .....	3.00
Pilgrim's Progress (Illustrated) .....	2.95
Rainbow Bible for Children, stiff, printed cover .....	2.75
Oxford Bible, approx. 6x8½, con., 100,000 chain ref. ....	14.95
World Bible, approx. 5x8, con., ref., durable, black .....	13.50
World Bible, approx. 5x7, con., ref., durable, black.. ..	10.50
World Bible, approx. 5x8, con., ref., black .....	8.50
World Bible, approx. 6½x9½, large print, stiff back .....	5.00
National Bible, approx. 6½x9½, large print, con. and references .....	7.50
World Bible, approx. 5x7½, con., maps, helps .....	2.25
National New Testament with Psalms, large print, approx. 6x8 .....	3.75
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A Doctor's Experience of Divine Healing, 24 pages, paper bound, each .....	15c
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1962 "Beautiful Way" books, 52 papers of the year 1962 bound in book form with heavy cover, each .....	1.00
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New Testament Ordinances by Wm. G. Schell, 67 pages, paper bound, each .....	25c
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The Story of Joseph, 79 pages, paper bound. You will be blessed with this reading. 25c each, or five for .....	1.00
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Christian Conduct by C. E. Orr, 45 pages, paper bound, 35c each or four books for .....	1.00
A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr, 80 pages, presents many Scriptural truths in an interesting manner, 40c each or three books for .....	1.00
Instruction of Youth in the Christian Life by C. E. Orr, 32 pages, paper bound, each .....	25c
How to Live a Holy Life by C. E. Orr, 112 pages of soul food, paper bound, 50c each or three for....	1.00
Odors From Golden Vials by C. E. Orr, 78 pages, paper bound, 40c each or three books for .....	1.00
The Kingdom of God and the One Thousand Years Reign by H. M. Riggle in 1899. 160 pages, with heavy paper binding. 50 cents or three for....	\$1.00
The Two Works of Grace by H. M. Riggle in 1900. 56 pages with heavy paper binding .....	.25

- Trials and Triumphs of Eva Grant by Effie M. Williams**, 94 pages, paper bound. The story of a girl's life and how faith brought her through. Price ..... 45
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### PRAYER REQUESTS

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and saints everywhere: Will you please pray for a burden I have. I have been thinking of this verse of song, "When the load bears down so heavy, the weight is shown up on my brow. There is a sweet relief in knowing that the Lord will make a way somehow." I am looking to God to make a way. Pray earnestly for me because the weight is heavy.

Your Sister in the Lord, —Clara Barnett

"I need spiritual help. I use snuff and I don't want to. I need faith."

"My son needs salvation and deliverance from drink."

"My mother is not well. She has trusted God for 48 years for her healing. Pray for her."

"I want to be saved and delivered from the cigarette habit."

Bro. Henry Steel wants the Lord to heal a sore on his nose and hand that doesn't heal.

"I have a fullness and tiredness in my chest. Please pray for me."

"I want to be saved and have full sanctification. Please pray for me."

"I am not well and can't sleep at night. Please pray for me."

Pray for a little boy who had to be taken out of school because of a serious nervous condition. He does not have coordination in his body. His arm is partially disabled. His parents are trusting the Lord and are facing persecutions.

Pray for two little boys who have a breaking out which looks like eczema.

Please make it a standing request for the Lord to hear and answer prayer for the many, many requests that come in here at the office. Only God is able to heal bodies, save souls, sanctify believers, work out problems and give spiritual help.

### HAMMOND, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The Assembly Meeting at Hammond, La. for 1963 is in the past, but the good that has been accomplished will continue on. We probably will never know the final results until it is revealed around the great white throne of God.

The ministering of the Word was in the power and anointing of God. There was some altar work and several were saved. The ordinance service was well attended by both adults and children. The message delivered by Bro. O. B. Wilson was both heart-searching and edifying to the soul.

The saints at Hammond, Loranger and Baton Rouge were especially pleased to have Bro. and Sister Wilson in the meeting since they had not been here for some time. Other out-of-state ministers in attendance were Brothers Curtis Williams, Martin Samons, Murphy Allen, W. A. McCoy, and Sister Keiser.

States represented were California, Oklahoma, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Florida. It is truly heavenly when the saints come together to worship God in Spirit and in truth, making melody in their hearts unto Him.

Yours in His eternal Kingdom, —M. F. Williamson

### GOSPEL SINGING AT COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS

The saints will have a gospel singing at the chapel of the Church of God in Coffeyville, Kansas on Friday night, January 10, 1964. Come with your song books and let us sing and make melody in our hearts unto the Lord. The Coffeyville congregation welcomes you. The chapel is on the corner east of the home of Bro. Ralph M. Beisly who lives at 407 Eldridge Street. For further information, contact him or Sister Margaret Eck, R. 1 Bartlett, Kansas.

### WHAT A PRAYER MEETING!

Oh, could there be an altar call  
Down in that place below—  
How with a mighty rush all hell  
Would to that altar go!  
No coaxing would be needed then,  
No pleading needed there;  
One chance, a thousandth of a chance  
Would call all hell to prayer.

He who willfully takes the wrong road, will have to accept what he finds at the other end.

## TESTIMONIES

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' dear name: We wish to express our appreciation to you, Brother Lawrence and Sister Maybelle and all the workers for the wonderful job you are doing there at the print shop. Our hearts thrill each month as we see the same clear, clean words of truth being sent to many parts of the world. May God send His Holy Spirit with each paper that the seed sown may produce fruit.

We are thankful for the way God is blessing Bro. Lawrence in his body and also Bro. Clifford.

We are glad to hear that Bro. Clifford Smith is working to publish Spanish literature. We quite often translate in Spanish in spoken words, some testimonies and articles from the "Faith and Victory." The people say, "We would like to have a paper like that in Spanish." Just last week one sister asked me if she could write her testimony and let someone translate it into English. She will be thrilled to know it can be printed in Spanish.

Bro. Tomas wants to start on a building for worship in Valley De Trinidad very soon. The congregation there is growing and much encouraged.

There is a great shortage of Bibles in almost every congregation. Perhaps the saints would like to know of this need.

The news of the President's death is sad. This should stir the saints to fall on their knees and do all we can to save souls.

Remember us in prayer, —Charlotte Huskey

(Send offerings for Mexico work to Harland Smith, 317 Cucamonga Ave., Claremont, Calif., or O. B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Calif.—Ed.)

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Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the workers at the print shop, we send greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus: He has done such great things for us both, whereof we are glad, and we feel that we should glorify His name by testifying to these things. We are thanking the dear Lord for healing us many times.

My husband had a heart attack. Dear saints, earnestly pray for him that the dear Lord will heal him.

May God richly bless you, one and all, is our prayer.

—Edna Blacksher

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Iowa—Dear Saints: It has been some time since I sent in my testimony. I am encouraged today to keep serving God. I thank God for a clean heart and a desire to please Him in every way. On November 11 Brother Lewis Williams and Bro. Bowman from Wichita, Kansas held a week's meeting here. Oh, how the Lord did bless us! The messages that went forth were soul-stirring. The last two nights of the meeting six more of the saints from Wichita came to be with us. Three souls claimed salvation in the meeting. We are encouraged to press on. Pray for us.

A worker for the Lord, —Mollie V. Love

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S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Marie and all the workers at the print shop: I am sending greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus. He has been so good and has done great things for us. I am glad and feel that I should glorify His name by testifying to all the things that He has done for me.

The morning of July 16, 1963 I had a light stroke. My mouth was twisted around and I could not talk. Wife prayed for me. I got better and I could talk a little. On the 17th or the next day, my left arm went limp.

My wife requested prayer for me. Praise His name, the Lord healed me to the extent that I could get to the services and preached some. Also I have worked at carpentry some. On Nov. 16 I started to wash the car. I fell in the yard. My left leg was paralyzed from my hip to my toes. I could not walk. I was carried into the house with no use of my leg at all. After my wife and others got me on the bed, then I asked her to call Bro. Oneal Pratt. He came and anointed me with oil in the name of Jesus, prayed the prayer of faith, and when he said, "Amen," I got up and walked! We had a glorious meeting, praising the Lord. We sang the song, "What A Mighty God We Serve." We thank the good Lord for healing. My left arm and hand are a little numb, not much grip in it. I desire an interest in your prayers. Your brother in Christ, —J. D. Winters

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Calif.—Dear Saints, one and all: Greetings to each one in the precious name of Jesus. I am still saved and learning more about what it means to live this life day by day. It means more to me than I will be able to express. God is so full of love, mercy and longsuffering to those who fear Him.

In this age of time when so many hearts fail, when doubts and little fears begin to creep in, it is time that we take a firmer stand and anchor our soul more in Jesus. I would like to tell what God has done for me, how God's grace is always ready and how the graces within are not mine, but all belong to the Saviour. Many times we do not comprehend the promises of God, but when we commit ourselves into the Lord's hands, then He can make Himself more real to us. "When through the deep waters I call thee to go, the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow; For I will be with thee, thy trouble to bless." Lots of times when displeasures and troubles come, we begin to squirm and therefore miss our blessings.

On May 4, 1963, I was driving slowly around a curve getting ready to proceed onto the freeway, when my car door flew open. I grabbed the door, but it refused to catch and flew open again. The weight of the door and being on a curve too caused me to fall out but I still had a hold on the steering wheel. I kept thinking my husband would take over so that I could turn loose but he went into a state of shock and could neither move nor speak, and stayed that way for about an hour. My daughter, Violet, grabbed for me but missed. When I saw the car was heading for the embankment, I said, "Lord, you are the only one who can stop this car," and in that instant it stopped. How great God is! It took two tow trucks to lift it off for fear it would fall down the embankment. I was dragged a few feet. I suffered severe pavement burns; burns that were worse than hot grease, hot water, stove burns, or hot pans. On the inside of my right limb there was a three-inch gash, turned completely inside out. Just above that I had a punctured artery. The blood shot out like a fountain. A man who had been driving behind me immediately applied a tourniquet. He kept tightening and loosening it but the bleeding would not stop. I called on the Lord again and it stopped that instant. The man was relieved. My pain was so intense that I began to slip off into unconsciousness. I heard a sweet voice quote a scripture out of Psalms. This happened the second time and I replied, "Yes, Lord," and prepared to do as He bade me. The ambulance was called and when they opened their medicine chest, Violet stepped up and said, "My mother does not believe in medicine." They replied, "Do you want this woman to die? If you don't, mind your business and we will mind ours." Again she made the same statement and told them to ask me. I have taught my family that



no matter how bad I am hurt or if I am dying, never to resort, not once, to any medicine, but always to believe that God loves me and is doing what is best for me, even if I die. They rushed me to the hospital; and while lying on the table, the Lord again gave me a song, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." There were seven nurses and doctors trying to tell me I was going to die but when that song came to me, I knew that I could declare that I was not going to die and told them so. I explained to them my belief, my faith in God, and that He needed help from no one. I told them I was thankful they are here on earth to help suffering humanity and that I had respect for them but that I still believed in my God. I asked for my father, Bro. Benson, and when he came in, shock and concern was written on his face. They began on him, but he was just as firm or more so than I. When they got ready to clean and dress the wound which my father requested, they wanted to give me a shot but we refused. It was a painful ordeal and I twisted my father's coat sleeve as he called earnestly on the Lord. They asked me to sign a release, absolving them of all blame in my death; they were so sure I was going to die. I was being discharged against the advice of the doctor and the hospital administration. They wrote on the release, "refused definite medical care for religious convictions."

When I got home, the battle had just begun. The devil was there; and if it had not been for prayer, I would have died. A few days the pains were almost unbearable and some of the saints despaired for me. Some felt it would be months before I could be up. The Lord stood by me. Sometimes I was a good soldier and sometimes I was disheartened. But the Lord taught me many lessons and led me to see how great he is. For two weeks I was flat on my back with my limb propped up. The third week I was up and down and used crutches to get around. The fourth week I asked the Lord to show me why I could not be healed and in that moment a healing touch like electricity went through me and I started walking. My limb was still stiff.

We went to the Oregon campmeeting in June and I drove practically all the way up and back. Then again I drove most of the way to the Monark Springs campmeeting. However my ankle was still stiff and there was no feeling in it. On the way home Sister Greer, Sister Clark, Violet and I were eating in a restaurant when my ankle popped. I can move it around now. Thank the Lord.

The saints here in Los Angeles were precious to me and to my family. They cooked food and brought it over and served all of us. My house was cleaned, my washing and ironing were done. I was bathed and had fresh flowers. All of this for three long weeks. I never lacked for a thing. I received so many, many cards, flowers, phone calls, and words of encouragement. May the Lord bless each one as my words are too insufficient to express my gratitude.

Pray for me. —Sister Margaret Cable

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

Texas—Dear Sister Marie: The Lord has really been good to me these past two years since I turned my life over completely to Him. I can't name all the blessings He has bestowed upon me.

I was so far in sin that I didn't know which way to turn, but God, through His mercy, called, convicted, and gave me a penitent heart. He showed me there was no other way except through Jesus Christ to live a life worthwhile and find true happiness. He forgave me of my black sins and led me to the straight and narrow way. Praise the Lord! He let me know he was my help-

er and healer. I haven't taken a pill nor rubbed on anything to cure since God saved me. He has healed me many times. I had a terrible cold and swelling in my throat soon after I was saved. I was anointed and prayed for. I got up and through faith was healed. I was taking hormone pills, which the doctor said I couldn't get along without, and nerve pills. When I got saved I just quit taking anything and trusted the Lord. I'm in better health now than I've been for years. God gets all the praise.

I had a high burning fever while at my aunt's in Fresno, California, but just prayed and God healed me.

I sprained my back while helping my cousin do some heavy work. The pain was terrible. It lasted a week. I went to church on Sunday and had the saints pray for me. The pain left and I was healed. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

I had a mole on my back that had started bothering me. I asked my aunt, who is a saint of God, to agree with me in prayer that the Lord would remove it. I just waited on the Lord. The other day, while taking a shower, the mole just came off. It just left a little pit as if it had been a pimple or something. I thank God for Jesus who died on the cross, for my sins and whose stripes brought healing. This is just a few of the many healings I have had from the Lord in the last two years since I've been trusting Him completely.

I have a petition before the Lord at this time for which I would appreciate the prayers of the saints.

I am a blood-washed child of God. —Ruby J. Lott

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Anna Marie and all the dear workers at the print shop and all the dear saints everywhere: I hope this finds all of you well and happy in the Lord. I can report for myself that the dear Lord has been good to me. As I think back on the blessings He has bestowed upon me, I rejoice. He saved my soul from sin, sanctified my nature and has healed me many times. Whenever an affliction comes on my body, I do not worry, I just think and sometimes I say aloud, "I am in the hand of my dear Lord. He cares for me. He knows more about this body than I do." I pray for Him to have His way as I feel I have lived my life time now. The Word says three score and ten. I am past 84 years now. I tell the Lord I am willing to go or willing to stay if it can be for His glory. I generally claim the promises of God and know that by His stripes we are healed.

The latest healing I received from the Lord was in August. I had a heart attack. My daughter called for prayer and the Lord healed me. I was weak but He gave me the strength to be able to go from Portland, Oregon to Dinuba, California to the funeral of my dear daughter, Augusta Taylor. From there, on the same day, I went to Pacoima to the campmeeting for ten days. Then from there I went to Pomona to my daughter's home. I still thank the dear Lord for the strength he gave me and the help and comfort in our sadness. My only heart's desire is to live for His glory and be ready to meet Him in peace. I am praying that all my loved ones may live so they will be ready to meet the Lord in peace. I love my Lord. I enjoy meeting with the dear children of God and hearing the Word of God explained. May God bless all His dear children is my prayer.

—Sister Emma Luehring

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

Okla.—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings of love from God through His Son Jesus: I want to thank all the saints for their prayers for our baby. Please excuse the delay in testifying, but the span of time will only confirm God's power to heal completely. Thank God! Three



days after his birth in August, our baby developed seizures, starting from the left eye and spreading over his entire body. His tongue would get so thick that we would have to put our finger in his throat to give him air. The baby would turn dark blue and his tongue would turn black. We went to God in prayer. It continued to happen. I began to search my heart. (Saints, it pays to be clear before God.) God said, "This is for My glory." I remembered the three Hebrew children and how they said, "Our God is able to deliver, but if not; be it known unto thee, we still won't bow down!" God was on the scene and so was the devil. The devil said to me, "Look at the poor little thing and you say God is merciful— If God is true, why doesn't He answer prayer?"

Our baby got so bad that it would have a seizure every few minutes. The Lord asked me if He could have the baby back. There was another searching of the heart. Then, "Lord, have thine own way," was my very humble and serious answer. The baby got worse. Saints began to get under a burden of prayer. My wife took the baby to a doctor to see what was wrong, for a checkup only! She told the doctor that no medicine was wanted, but that we just wanted to know what was wrong. The doctor wanted to call a big hospital in Tulsa long distance to make an appointment for the baby to be entered. "Your baby is in very bad shape," he said. He was very worried and concerned. He said the baby was having something akin to epilepsy.

We went to meeting with the saints and called for prayer. The saints "turned their faces to the wall" and sent up a petition that moved God on His throne. The great God—the Living God, the ONLY God spoke the word and the baby was healed! Praises be to God! To HIM be the glory forever and ever! There is not time nor paper nor ink to tell of the greatness of His matchless name.

A servant of the Most High, —Elbert Johnson

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Okl.—Greetings of Christian love to all:

Psalms 39:5, "Behold thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee; verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity."

I feel very incapable and hesitant, but the Lord has impressed me to write about a few of His dealings and blessings to us during this past year.

Last December, 1962, God very definitely began dealing with us to cut loose from a good job to a life of faith. It was quite a blow and we were unprepared for it. We had heavy expenses and bills pressing us. We were living, we thought, as closely as possible in order to pay them. Jobs being scarce in the winter and no notice given, it was just in time to attend the State Assembly meeting at Guthrie, which was good to strengthen and encourage us.

The next few months, Troy, my husband, felt a burden to be in the gospel work full time. It was marvelous how the Lord supplied as each bill was to be met, and we got them caught up.

Anyone acquainted with a fear of being alone at night can rejoice with me as the Lord has delivered me from that. I can sleep peacefully, feeling the hand of the Lord all around our home.

In March, Troy was called home as, from all symptoms, I had a heart attack. It was only the Lord that spared my life. By the fourth day after the attack I was still too weak to be up. It pained and tired me even to talk. I realized that if the Lord did not heal me, I could be that way the rest of my life. The prayer of faith was prayed, my faith took hold, and the Lord immediately touched me. I went right to church even

though each step was one of faith. The Lord honored it and restored my health. The devil tried to bring back symptoms many weeks after, but the Lord helped me to resist them.

Soon after this I developed an anemic condition and was in bed as much as I was up. Having many duties at home, I found it doubly hard not to be well. Through it all we learned to look to God and depend on Him more fully for help and courage to be able to face the future.

Our car had been in need of an overhaul job for some months. We prayed much about it, but time went on until it quit and wouldn't run at all. One sister here in the Enid congregation let us use her car, so we were thankful not to be on foot. We had desired and prayed to that end to be able to attend the National Campmeeting in Missouri. As the time drew near, we still had no transportation nor means to get there. We felt we'd had the sister's car long enough and as it was old it would also need work or tires most anytime. Finally the Lord directed us in finding a good car, reasonably priced. It had been well cared for and even had air conditioning, something we hadn't even prayed for. The Lord blessed and we were able to get a loan to pay back in low monthly payments. We were able to attend the last few days of the Monark Springs, Mo. campmeeting. Not only that but we were blessed in trading our old car for an older model car, good enough for me to drive while my husband was gone. It pays to pray and trust God as our business manager!

During the Guthrie campmeeting I was anointed and prayed for and the Lord healed me. It was almost too good to be true to feel well again. My husband, relatives, and friends would often ask, "How do you feel?" I'd reply, "Fine!" We would all rejoice again.

We had prayed often for the Lord to help us finish remodeling our old house (to which we added two rooms). The Lord blessed us in supplying a fine carpenter to build beautiful closets and finish the bedroom. Oh, how happy we were! Then we prayed for a floorcovering, so we could move into the living room, as the floor was covered with plywood. After some months the Lord directed us in finding two used rugs and we were able to cover the whole floor and move into that room. Little by little the Lord has helped us to get the house more presentable. We certainly appreciate His goodness to us.

Many times as bills came due or a need arose, God opened up tunnels through the mountains. One day we received a bill for \$15.00 in the mail and on opening another letter found the exact amount needed! Another time while Troy was gone it fell on me to keep a steady faith. The boys and I prayed earnestly one night to be able to pay our due bills. The next day a brother stopped by and left just what we needed; and by the time the boys got in from school I had them paid, so they rejoiced with me. Another time while Troy was gone, I was heavily burdened about our needs. It looked as if I wouldn't be able to keep gas in the car to get to church. Since I was not well at the time, it seemed more than I could bear. I asked another sister to pray with me that I could re-consecrate and get victory. The following Sunday a sister who has very little for herself of this world's goods, put some money in my hand and said, "The Lord said give you this." Knowing what a sacrifice it was, I felt so humble, yet knew it was an answer to prayer.

There have been times when I needed sugar, salt, eggs, milk, etc. and would go to the car after meeting and find someone had put in the very things I needed, or would bring them to the house. It may sound hard to believe, but it has been about a year since I had to buy

a real big bill of groceries. He has never let us go hungry yet and even gives us the desires of our heart. This past week we thought it would be good to have some fresh fruit and Sunday night a brother gave us a sack of pears and we found a bushel of apples in the car when we got home from another brother. We just had to go to prayer to give thanks to the mighty God we serve. The Lord has supplied us with many other things too numerous to mention. Though our all is not much we desire to do what we can. We have some burdens we are holding before the Lord and desire your prayers. Christian love, —Mrs. Troy Meek

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Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' name: The Lord is so good to me. I have so many things to thank Him for. He healed the arthritis in my arm last campmeeting. I had suffered with it for about six months. I was anointed several times and I would get better for a little while, but I was anointed on the day of fasting and the Lord healed it. I haven't had those cutting pains since.

I got the "Faith and Victory" paper today. There were so many good things in it. I was happy to hear how the Lord healed Bro. Lawrence. I was also glad to hear that Clifford Smith had been healed.

Charles and Coquette Elwell are such a nice couple. I trust they will be workers for the Lord. She seems like such a sweet girl. I believe she will make a good wife for a minister. He has always been such a good boy.

I was so happy to know that Sister Opal is able to travel and we are looking forward to the time they will be home. Brother Leslie Busbee surely preached two good messages Sunday. We enjoy hearing him preach, but we like for our pastor to be at home, too.

May the Lord bless you. Pray for our little congregation that we will be soul winners for the Lord.

—Sister Murtice Hurst

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

Ga.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Marie, and workers in the print shop and saints of God everywhere: greetings in the holy name of Jesus: I am happy to be able to report victory this morning over sin and Satan. Praise God!

Please keep me before the Lord. I am burdened but I am still praising my God. My mother isn't any better. My younger brother is sick. I am so happy in the Lord and praising him for giving me strength in my body to lift and pull in caring for my mother. It is just wonderful how God is with me. I want to do all in my power to please God. He is a wonderful God, so understanding, so good, so powerful and He knows who are His. Praise the Lord. Pray that I will ever keep true to the Lord.

I'm so glad Bro. Clifford and Bro. Lawrence are better. I am glad the Lord has some believing children to trust Him for their healing and not trust in the arm of flesh.

Please keep me before the Lord. Remember my mother and sick brother in prayer.

Yours in the one body, —Sister P. R. Bowers

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Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, greeting you in Jesus' name, the One I love very much:

I am not able to attend meetings with the saints because I am so far away. When Bro. Charles Smith was out here, he made it possible for me to go quite a lot, which I appreciated.

Sister Marie, you will never know how much I appreciated your nice letter. I want to say that I had a long letter written to you right after Bro. Pruitt passed, but failed to get it mailed. I dislike to open grief's door

in speaking of that time again, but I wanted to tell you how much I appreciate Bro. Pruitt's life. His writings were always so much encouragement to me. Your father's book of experiences with God (God's Gracious Dealings) led me to the saints. I used to go to the meetings in Guthrie when I was a girl 13 years old. We lived there and also my grandmother and an uncle. I didn't get saved until I was 28 and then didn't hold it. I came in contact with your father's writings and was led to the Lord. I have had a rough, hard road to travel but the Lord has helped me. Sometimes I look back and wonder just where I would be today if I had not met the saints. I shudder to think of it. By the grace of God I mean to live for God as near as I can understand. Bless the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and dear Lord! He is my healer. I don't trust doctors or medicines. I never took but one aspirin in my life and that was many years ago. God is my very present help in times of need. I also need the saints prayers. Many times when I would have no way to contact them, God has been near to help. Praise the Lord.

My daughter who lives in Okla. was saved a short time ago. I was so happy about that. She has a hard time but says she has great peace in her soul. She needs prayer very much. I also desire prayer for my other children. One daughter in Calif. has been saved since reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. She needs prayer as she is isolated and all she gets is from the paper, which is enough if one will only read and listen to it. It is very enlightening and encouraging. I can hardly wait for it each month. I just fairly eat and digest it completely, spiritually speaking. You are doing a wonderful work there.

I know what sorrow is. I lost a mother, father, and husband all within two years. I know how it is, so I do pray the Lord to bless you there and all the workers and also dear Bro. and Sister Stover.

In His love, —Alice J. Brewer

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Pa.—Dear Saints, One evening while here in my room, I read the "Faith and Victory" paper. I wanted to write and tell you it was wonderful. I was able to see that it was sent out by the Spirit of God. Also I could see and know it wasn't some crowd with a name made up by themselves, but was the church of God. Today we see that sign on the door of many so-called churches, but it's on the outside and not on the inside. If we have the true spirit in our hearts, God will work through us to put the sign on the outside. It's really a spiritual sign.

I read the poem, "Pray! Christian, Pray!" in the edition of March, 1963. This is something really needed today, and it's up to each man himself to do it. We know God won't make us. We need to ask God to come down upon each one of us by His Spirit and truth and get the spiritual fire within our hearts so we can work for the glory of God. This is the only way to evangelize.

I have been saved a little more than two years. I was 21, lost in sin, drinking, smoking, and had many other sinful habits within me when God lifted me out. My wife and I were broken up over this and still I kept on doing it. I even got so bad that one night I gave my coat to get 50c for drink. I sold a lot of things from the house, also. One night I was carried home from the bar by the guys. They couldn't get the door to my apartment open to put me in. My wife and children had gone to her home. The man owning the apartment locked the door to keep me out. When they found the door locked, they laid me down in the hall and left. I slept outside the door in the hall until morning. I heard

somebody laughing and looked up and saw the folks living across the hall, going out the door. I got up and went down the street to a club. I just stood there, hanging on to the pool table, thinking of all I had done and where sin had taken me. The crowd didn't talk and I was alone without a friend. Everybody who had gone drinking with me forgot who I was. I wanted somebody to talk to. I went out and hitchhiked a ride to another town where my grandfather lived, about seven miles away. He was living for God and I knew he would talk. When I got to his house, I'm sure he knew my problem, but he waited for me to break down and tell him. After I talked with him a while we got on our knees and prayed. When I got up I went right to the phone and called my mother. She came over after me, because she knew I probably hadn't eaten for some time. I didn't tell her about talking with my grandfather and him praying for me, yet. God had me so deeply under conviction that I broke down and cried, telling her in these words, "Mother, I went out in sin, drinking until I lost my family and everything I had. I have to do something and I know only God can help me. I'm going to church tonight and I am going to get saved. I don't care what it takes, I am going to do it." This made her so happy she cried.

I asked Mother to call a man whom I knew was living for God, and ask him if I could go to church with him that night. Also I asked her to call my wife and ask her to be at the apartment when I got home from church.

The sermon that night was about the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11) Every word came out hitting me and fitting me so good that I almost went to the altar before the altar call was given. I just sat there with one thought on my mind, "Hurry up! hurry up!" Praise God, since that time I've had no desire for alcohol. About two weeks later I was tempted to smoke—just one cigarette. I thought to myself, "I should be allowed to smoke because I have a bad nervous condition." I got a pack and fired one up, but I never before got convicted so quickly in my life for sin. I hardly had the thing lit until right there God showed me I was wrong and I threw it away. I knew it was wrong, but still I had had a foolish excuse, one which God wouldn't accept. I got right on my knees and asked God to forgive me and since then I haven't been tempted or bothered in any way by them. My wife and I have been together since the day I was saved. She was saved a month or so later. God is keeping us safely in many ways. I am now in school taking up architectural drafting. I'm sure if I "trust and obey," God will heal me of my physical condition. He healed me spiritually and He can heal me otherwise. I am going to keep praying. The scripture I lean on is Prov. 3:5, 6. I know God's promises are true.

Please remember me in prayer that I will live for the glory of God and help others see the love of God. Also pray for my wife to do the same. Pray for our children that they will live for God. It has taken a lot of writing to tell you this, but it has also taken a lot of love and power to make it possible.

Very sincerely, —Bro. Jerome Park

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and staff, grace be unto you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to our Lord for still being able to find brethren who love the Lord. It gives me much joy to know and hear of born again saints. My heart overflows when I read the articles and testimonies in the paper. I thank the Lord for raising up stones after Father Abraham who are walking in your father's footsteps, who was a doer of God's word. I love the saints.

I always wanted to meet your father, but as I am working on the railroad, time would not permit. I feel, by the letters I received from him and by his writings, that he was a "born-again" Christian. I pray God's richest blessings upon all of you at the publishing house. I pray God to keep blessing you daily in the coming New Year. I trust the Lord will help each saint to keep walking in newness of life, wearing the full armor of God that we will be able to stand in the evil days we are living in. I am so glad that we have God's Word. We, his saints, are living in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation but I thank God that we can shine bright through His living Word.

Your brother in Christ,

—Mr. Sam Nusz

## God's Plan of Redemption

It would seem a little ridiculous to assume that the possibility of man's fall never occurred to an all-wise God. There would seem to be little doubt but that God carefully weighed the situation and before the creation ever took place had made allowances for the possible fall of mankind. God knew that when He made man a free moral agent with the ability to think and decide for himself, that perhaps he might choose against God, just as indeed he did. God also, in the back of his mind, knew just what he would do if and when the fall took place. This seems to be carried out in the scripture. 1 Peter 1:20, speaking of Christ, says, "Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world." Rev. 13:8 speaks of "the lamb slain from the foundation of the world." These texts, along with many others, make convincing proof that God had formulated a means for man's recovery, should he fall, before man was ever created. A hint of the plan is first given immediately after the fall when we hear God himself declare to the serpent, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" Gen. 3:15. Various ones of the Old Testament writers prophesied of a coming Messiah and of a deliverance from bondage but the actual method by which this deliverance was to come about was obscured from their view. So completely was the plan of salvation reserved in the mind and heart of God that even the angels desired to look into it but could not.

One day, after about 400 years had gone by without even a prophet being sent of God, there were out on the hills of Judea, shepherds guarding their flocks. Luke 2:8-14 records it thus: "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: And they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the

angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." What was the occasion of the rejoicing of the angels over this babe who was born to the most humble of parents in this most obscure of places? Was it merely the birth of a child? No, I believe not. It was because upon their consciousness there had dawned a realization of what God's plan of redemption was and how it was to be carried out. If this event was the occasion of such rejoicing among the angels, then surely we mortals will do well to look into it, also.

First of all, let us consider the material God chose to work with. Luke 1:26-35 reads, "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his sayings, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and be called the Son of the Highest: And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever: and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, how shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing that shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Oh, God, open our understanding and roll back the veil so that we may behold in all its beauty and fullness the wonders of the plan of thy salvation! Why had God selected a virgin? Because there could be no possibility that perhaps this child would have the heritage of man. We have already seen that man is powerless to reproduce anything else but a likeness of himself which is a nature of sin. Therefore it was imperative that this vessel of the Lord whom he had chosen to fill his purpose be completely free from any relationship with sinful man. For a virgin to conceive and become with child could not possibly be achieved. After relationship with man, she is no longer a virgin; but God is not bound by the laws of nature. He chose this method to give us every possible reason to believe and accept this offspring as the Son of God. The Holy Ghost, a member of the Holy Trinity, a part of God Himself, came upon this virgin who had not known man and the offspring of that relationship was a child born in the likeness of God. God Himself proclaimed that "he shall be called the son of the highest."

What does this mean to us? How could it possibly have any bearing upon our lives and the state we are in? Volumes could be written here but we

will be as brief as possible to bring out our thought. God, in dealing with His people down through the ages had given them a law to abide by that would, if observed, obtain for them a measure of forgiveness for sin. That is, by observing the letter of the law, they could obtain forgiveness for the sin they had committed, but it would not destroy the seeds of sin in their hearts. But the point we wish to make is the method and requirements laid down in the law. These were a pattern of the requirements that would bring complete deliverance from all sin. Sin, under the law, was remitted from Israel by the shedding of blood of an acceptable sacrifice offered to God upon the altar. In order for the animal sacrifice to be acceptable, it had to be without blemish or spot, a male, etc., and offered before the Lord in just the right manner. The book of Leviticus gives a detailed account of all the requirements. We have enough here to fill our need.

The shedding of blood was requisite for the remission of sin but that alone was not enough. If taking the life-blood of a man would have delivered from the bonds of sin, then surely someone, a long time ago, would have offered himself that all the rest of mankind could go free. It would seem entirely conceivable that if there had been any way possible at all for a man to have recovered himself, our father Adam would have been more than glad to have done it. It was, no doubt, a terrible punishment to realize that he was under the penalty of death; but he was suffering for his own transgression. What would have made it infinitely worse would have been a realization that the same penalty was to pass on to all his offspring, even though they had not desired to go that way! I suspect that with the heartache and remorse he felt in his soul, he would have willingly and gladly sought out a release, regardless of the cost, had it been in his power to do so.

But notice the requirement also that the sacrifice must be without spot or blemish. That requirement alone eliminated mankind from becoming his own sacrifice for there was no one who had not fallen under the blight of sin. There was none able to meet the requirement. All were descended from Adam and were partakers of his sinful nature.

But now the scene has changed! God is life. He is the source of life, the author of life and only in him can life be found. He is able to transmit qualities of His own likeness, therefore when he selected a virgin, signifying her purity, and bestowed upon her the seed of Himself, there was no possible way that anything else could have resulted except a child born in the likeness of God! God is pure and holy and perfect and complete, and just like God, so His son was also born with all these qualities. There was no sin nature, no bondage yoke about his neck, no unpaid debt hanging over his head, for He was the Son of God and free indeed. Here was one now who could be offered as a sacrifice for sin and be accepted in the sight of God. He was without the stain of sin upon him, therefore the shedding of his blood would be accepted before God as a payment for the penalty

of our sin and allow you and me to go free. God's justice demanded nothing of this one for he had never at any time turned away from God. This child filled every requirement of the law. He was a male, without blemish, his blood was able to be shed and the One who brought the sacrifice gave him willingly. God gave the sacrifice of His own Son to pay the penalty for our sins and set us free. God Himself witnessed His approval of this life before Him when He spoke audibly and said, "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Now we see why the scripture states that there is no other name given under heaven whereby we must be saved. There is none other able to meet the requirements, therefore none could be acceptable to God. The fountain of His blood was not needed to wash away His sin, for He had not committed any sin, therefore He had something left that could be offered to God to pay our debt and His blood, applied to our hearts, cleanses us from our sin, answers before God for the debt we owe and sets us free. He was made sin for us, even though he never knew what it was to commit sin and be separated from God, yet He went right ahead and paid the penalty of death just as if he had been a sinner, and He used that sacrifice to pay the debt we were under thereby securing our release. He did for us what we were unable to do for ourselves, thus allowing us to, once again, be reinstated to the favour of an offended God.

—Clifford W. Wilson

### God's Great Love

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" John 15:13.

There was a woman who came to the altar one morning recently in El Alamo, Old Mexico. Her hands were wrapped in bandages and when she got up she gave this testimony:

They had just recently moved to a farm. Their well had to be cleaned out and covered before it could be used. It was around 40 feet deep with 20 feet of silt in it. The past week her little boy, who is about four years old, had been standing beside it when the side caved in, taking the little boy with it. This mother didn't stand there when she saw her child fall into the well. She immediately slid down into the well on the rope to rescue him. This burned her hands severely. She had his sister, who was only about a year older than he, draw him up out of the well. The girl couldn't draw the mother up, and there was no way whereby she could get out until someone else came. While she was in the well she had to keep moving her feet to keep from sinking into the silt and going under. What thoughts must have passed through her mind, I don't know. Did she possibly think about her life? Did she realize that she had taken her son's place? She was in the well for almost four hours before her husband came home. He was able to get her out but we don't understand how he could have done it, since she is much larger than he. It was only because God willed it that he was able to get her out.

We can all see how this woman took her son's place because of a mother's love, but how many of us can understand how much God loved us when He sent His only Son to take our place and rescue us out of the silt of sin? We, in our own ability were unable to do anything about our life but when Jesus came, He showed us a better way of life and even went to the cross so that we might gain favor in the eyes of God and, after death, we will be able to live with Him eternally.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have ever lasting life." John 3:16.

—Kathleen Murphey

### Keepers At Home

"The aged women . . . that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed" Tit. 2:3-5.

We have been confronted different times by different ones with the question whether it is right or wrong for a wife or mother to work away from home. Since it has become a burden on our hearts, we are looking to the Lord for the answer. A while back we read where a news writer wrote at length on the subject of our present day teenage problem over our nation. He stated that many of our teenagers were born during the last World War when a large number of mothers worked in the war plants where they produced war equipment, ammunition, etc. The children were, on the whole, left on their own to run the streets, in neighbors' houses, and so on, with no one to oversee them. Though some may have had babysitters, yet many were left to themselves much of their time. We read in Prov. 29:15: "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." And that is just what has happened. The writer says they were not taught to work or bear any responsibility, hence, they are indolent, reckless, and mischievous to the extent that they steal cars, tear them up, go into homes and steal, break up furniture, especially during parties a whole gang will go out to work destruction. They look for what they call a big time by drinking and taking dope. Not all are that bad, but quite a number. Often girls are found among them. They have no respect nor honor for God because they were not taught to honor their parents. They defy their parents and law-enforcing officers and sometimes end in killing some one. This seems to be one of our nation's greatest problems at this time.

After the war, many mothers continued working away from home and numbers are doing that today. But you may say you hire a baby-sitter, which isn't nearly so bad as running the streets. But the Lord gave you that baby to rear and not another woman. And if you love the Lord you want to train it in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Eph. 6:4). And your babysitters may train it altogether differ-

ently and leave their influence on the child because they have him more of the time than you do.

I heard that a little girl told her grandmother that she didn't think her mother loved her. To hold her job she had to stay away from her dear little girl so much of the time that she truly felt neglected. Now what kind of complex does that leave on this child, and many others—that they are not wanted and just in the way, and it will be hard for them to adjust themselves to their future responsibilities of life. While mothers are away, sometimes their children get sick, get hurt, and some one else besides mother has to nurse them. The child craves the mother's attention and her love, and wants no substitute. I understand that babies in orphanages don't thrive like those under a mother's care, for they miss that fondling, caressing, and special love only a mother can give them. The nurses feed and care for them but have little time to caress them. Parents, if you want your children's love and honor, you take care of them yourselves.

I can't ever see that a mother should leave her children to hold a job, just to draw her own pay check so she can have more money to buy nice things for her home and children while her husband makes them a good living. They need her love and care more than anything else, and she needs their honor and respect all of her life, so her grown sons and daughters will "arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" Prov. 31:28.

Now there seems to be exceptions to all rules. A widowed mother with no means of livelihood has to make it herself. If she fears the Lord, He will help her with this burden so all the family can be kept together in love one for the other and not drift apart. Social security and welfare are doing much to help on this line. When she can't get this help, I fully believe the Lord can make a way though she may need to work away some. A true mother has her children's welfare at heart.

We need to be reasonable, too. When the children are grown and she and her husband feel that the Lord can be glorified through her working as they may have a special burden to put more means into the Lord's work, I can't see that the Lord would be displeased, as we need to let the Holy Spirit direct our lives. No children are being neglected, no husband neglected as he is with her and encourages her in that project. Or she may feel the need of doing gospel or missionary work and be gone much of her time. She and her husband still feel she is in God's order and she can still be a "keeper at home" as this is team work, with God's approval.

Then again, while the children are still small, the husband may be permanently disabled and unable to make the living, but can stay at home with the children while the wife gets out and works. Surely no reasonable person would object to that.

To sum it up, let the woman or mother be the "keeper at home" and rear her children, unless it is utterly impossible for a time to do it, for God makes ways when often there appears to be none. But when

children are grown, let husband and wife work this out with the Lord's guidance. "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding, in all things" 2 Tim. 2:7. —Sister Katherine Key

### DYING WORDS OF SAINTS

"The chariot has come, and I am ready to step in." —Jordan Antie

"Eternity rolls up before me like a sea of glory." —Margaret Prior

"How bright the room! How full of angels!" —Martha McCrackin

"I wish I had the power of writing; I would describe how pleasant it is to die." —Dr. Cullen

"The sun is setting: mine is rising. I go from this bed to a crown. Farewell." —B. S. Bangs

"Can this be death? Why, it is better than living! Tell them I die happy in Jesus." —John Arthur Lyth

"I am in perfect peace, resting alone on the blood of Christ. I find this amply sufficient with which to enter the presence of God." —Trotter

"Oh, that I could tell you what joy I possess! I am full of rapture. The Lord doth shine with such power upon my soul. He is come! He is come!" —Mrs. Mary Frances

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### BIBLE STUDY

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January 5, 1964

#### MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Printed Portion ..... Luke 2:41-51; Acts 1:14

Luke 2:41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother **knew not of it.**

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed; and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Acts 1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Memory Verse: And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Practical Truth: Mary is not to be worshipped but respected as a chosen vessel of God.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Mary, the mother of Jesus, has a place among women, yet she is not to be worshipped. Her miraculous conception and the virgin birth of Jesus Christ is to be believed in firmly because it is the foundation of our hope and faith in eternal life. She is not our intercessor as some want to believe, because she, too, was with the 120 on the day of Pentecost waiting for the infilling of the Holy Spirit just as the others who needed cleansing.

The first verse of the lesson uses the word "parents." Joseph was Jesus' legal father but God was his real Father, as Luke has already perfectly explained in the verses before our lesson.

At the age of twelve the Jewish boys began to take part in the Jewish feasts. It would also imply that at that age a child came to the age of accountability as this seemed to be the time that God burdened Jesus to do something for Him.

It says that "Joseph and his mother" (virgin birth verified again) was astonished when they had gone a day's journey on their 90-mile trip back to Galilee and did not find Jesus among the relatives. Their astonishment was greater when they found Jesus in a great discussion with the wise men of the temple. She boldly rebuked him but received from him an astonishing answer. Jesus was subject to her and on the cross he provided for her care.

January 12, 1964

#### PHILIP AND ANDREW, EVANGELISTS

Printed Portion ..... John 1:35-46

John 1:35 Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples;

36 And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God!

37 And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

38 Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

39 He saith unto them, Come and see. They came and saw where he dwelt, and abode with him that day: for it was about the tenth hour.

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother, Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by Interpretation, A Stone.

43 The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip findeth Nathaniel, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

46 And Nathaniel said unto him, Can any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

Memory Verse: And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A Stone.

Practical Truth: Our love for God will cause us to tell others the good news.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

John the Baptist had stirred the nation with the announcement that Jesus was in their midst. Many were eager to see him. Among them were Philip and Andrew. When John pointed Him out to them they eagerly followed him. When they asked where he dwelt he answered them, "Come and see." This is also a challenge to us today. If we follow Jesus and go where he wants us to go, we might be surprised where he will lead us. That day made a change in the life of Philip and Andrew. Too many today are too busy to "come and see" Jesus and learn the way from earth to heaven.

After spending a couple of hours with Jesus they had something to tell. The same will be true with us. First, Andrew thought of his brother, Peter. He found him and "brought him to Jesus." How thrilled they were to find the Messiah, the one for whom their souls had longed. Philip found Nathanael and told him the great news. He told him that He was the one of whom Moses and the prophets had written. The Lord told Moses, "I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth" Deut. 18:18. Moses' work of leading the children of Israel from Egypt to the promised land is a type of Jesus leading us.

January 19, 1963

#### NICODEMUS

Printed Portion ..... John 3:1-15

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.



8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

**Memory Verse:** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

**Practical Truth:** To get to heaven, we will have to be "born again."

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The people in Jerusalem were in a stir. Some were anxious to meet Jesus while others were disturbed because too many people were following Him. The Jewish rulers decided something must be done about Jesus so they decided to kill him. One of the rulers wanted to see Jesus but did not want the others to know about it so he came by night to talk to him. Nicodemus came to the point and told him that he knew He must be from God or He could not do all the miracles that He did. Jesus came to the point, also, and said, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." This was a great puzzle to Nicodemus. Had he not had great respect for Jesus he would have walked away from him, but he knew there must be something to that statement so he asked Jesus to explain. Those who are born into earthly families are born of the flesh but those who are born into a spiritual family are of the Spirit, which is the second birth. Just as we take our earthly father's name, so we take our heavenly Father's name. We are born into the church of God. (Eph. 3:14, 15.) Nicodemus wondered how this could happen. Jesus told him that we cannot see the wind but we can feel it, just so we cannot see the Spirit working in our heart, but we, by faith, know and feel it is done. Jesus let Nicodemus know that he would be lifted up on a cross although he might not have understood it. We read about Nicodemus helping with the burial of Jesus in John 19:38-42.

January 26, 1964

#### ZACCHAEUS AND THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Printed Portion ..... Mark 10:17-22; Luke 19:1-10

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? these is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false

witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Luke 19:1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.

6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.

9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

**Memory Verse:** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

**Practical Truth:** We must love Jesus more than anything or anyone in this world to be ready for heaven.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson is about two rich men. One was a little man but he had a high view. The other man could not see beyond this world's view. He truly was a poor rich man. He had his treasures in this world's bank. He could not seem to see the bank that is in heaven—a place where Jesus said for us to lay up our treasures. Jesus said it was a place "where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." Matt. 6:19, 20. We brought nothing into this world and we will not be able to take anything out when we leave this world. Only what is done for Jesus is profitable.

The rich young ruler seemed to be a good man but he felt something lacking when he compared his life to Jesus' life. But he refused to take up his cross in this world and give his all to the Lord.

Zacchaeus was a hated publican and did not feel he had lived a good life. No doubt he was like the other publicans who overcharged in their tax-collecting and became rich. He put forth a great effort to find Jesus. Jesus took note of that as he does today. He was willing to "come down" so he could receive Jesus. He humbled himself and confessed his sins. He promised to restore four times the amount he had taken. What a happy rich man he was that day when Jesus told him that salvation had come to him. He was unlike the first man who went away sorrowful.

—Sister Marie Miles