

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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1350 From the Manger to Glory

Behold the Christ, the Son of God—
The little holy Babe,
Was born in ancient Bethlehem,
And in a manger laid.

The shepherds came with haste to see
That which had come to pass.
Around them there had shone a light;
They found the Child at last.

He grew to manhood, and for right,
And for the truth He stood.
And for His Father's business,
He went about doing good.

He healed the sick, the blind, the lame,
And cast out devils, too;
And when the lepers came to Him,
He cleansed them through and through.

He taught against all kinds of sin,
And every evil way.
The Pharisees did hate Him, then,
And sought the Christ to slay.

At last they nailed Him to the tree,
His blood for sin was shed.
The guiltless for the guilty died,
And suffered in their stead.

His task complete, His work was done;
They laid Him in the tomb,
But early on the third day morn
He rose to life again.

Some blessed day He shall return—
Oh, what a blessed thought!
To take the blood-washed nation home
He with His blood has bought.

—Ulysses Phillips

1351 No Room For Christ

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for him in the inn." Luke 2:7. Here we learn that at the very first advent Jesus made in this dark, unfriendly world there was no room for him. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." John 1:11. He came to save the world, but they would not be saved; he also came to comfort the world, but they would not be comforted by him. It was not what the Jews looked for. If Christ had come with all the pride of the world, doubtless they would have received him, but the salvation of Christ is not popular, nor has it ever been, but praise God! it is something not to be ashamed of. People often remark that if they had lived at the time Jesus was here, they would have received him.

Dear reader, although you have not the privilege of opening up your home to the Son of God, as those in that day, yet you have the privilege of opening your heart to him, and he will come in and make his abode. But remember he only comes to the hearts of those that invite him. See Rev. 3:20. It is sad to behold the human family on a swift march to eternity without a hope of future happiness. Many have taken their lives and their families' lives, and caused great disaster; all these things happened because there was no room in their heart for the Son of God. So many make room in their hearts for things that are detrimental to them, but oh, so few have room for Jesus. Just think of poor, dear ones who have room for envy, strife, etc., which will destroy their happiness while here and give eternal misery in the world to come.

Why should I make room for him? Because of duty, since we are not our own, but have been bought with a price. 1 Cor. 6:20. It was the life of Christ that brought in this glorious freedom and victory to live above the world. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins, hence our freedom cost the blood of Christ. He will do something nothing

else can do—satisfy. See John 4:14; Joel 2:26. Also many other texts prove he is a satisfying portion. You may run to and fro to find satisfaction in the world, but it is only momentary. Even riches cannot satisfy. Think of Vanderbilt with all his wealth, when brought to death's door, turning to his weeping wife and repeating the old verse, "Come, ye sinners, poor and needy." It is said this noted man died a beggar when it could have been otherwise had he made room in his heart for the Son of God. Wilmont, a noted infidel, said in his dying hour, "The Bible is all right; it is men's lives that are wrong."

Reader, do make room for him. Some say that boys and girls want to enjoy life, and that you can't put old heads on young shoulders; but thank God, He can satisfy the young. Ps. 90:14. You need not live in sin and sow wild oats, to reap in the lost world. May God awaken our young people and help them to see that Christ can satisfy us early with his mercy and we can rejoice and be glad all our days. Think of the young men in jails, etc., our girls in houses of ill-fame, all because they failed to make room for Christ. "The way of the transgressor is hard." How true, how true! The unhappy homes—wives, mothers, and children suffering in different ways, all because they transgressed the law of God. But amidst all the confusion of this world, we find a few that have opened their hearts to Jesus. We find many who have a name to live, yet are dead. They profess they have let Christ in while in reality they have not. Christ said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." We are taught that man must obey all the word of God—to the best of his knowledge. See Matt. 4:4; Luke 4:4. Those who claim to have Christ and go to the world for pleasure—which the Word condemns (1 John 2:15-17); also dress like the world (Rom. 12:1, 2), and wear gold, which is forbidden (2 Tim. 2:9; 1 Peter 3:3, 4), are not bearing fruit for God. Many smile at the idea of giving up all for Christ. Read Luke 14:35. It teaches us very plainly we must give up all. Some pay no attention to the word or law of God and yet they seem to think they can keep Christ. This is a mistake—rejecting his word is also rejecting him. See John 12:48. Thank God for the privilege of making room in our hearts for Christ and his word. "Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said I would keep thy words." Ps. 119:57. When we behold the wonderful things that Christ has done for man, we do not wonder at the expression of Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." He will supply all the needs of man when the conditions are met—making room in your heart for him. He will give peace, comfort, help, rest, joy, happiness, and we can say as the poet, "He is everything to me." Reader, make room for him and he will be to you a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm. In the saddest trials of life he will be there to encourage, and when you cross the river of death he will be there to comfort you. The question is asked, What will you do with Jesus? When you meet him at the judgment the

question then will be What will he do with thee? Make room now while you have opportunity.

—J. M. Harrington, in Gospel Trumpet, 1900

Did God Fail?

One winter day stands out like a boulder in my life. The weather was unusually cold and finances were exhausted. My husband was away much of the time, traveling from one district to another. Our boys were well, but my little Ruth was ailing, and at best none of us were decently clothed. I patched and re-patched, with spirits sinking to the lowest ebb. The water gave out in the well, and the wind blew through cracks in the floor.

The people in the parish were kind, and generous too; but the settlement was new, and each family was struggling for itself. Little by little, at the time I needed it most my faith began to waver. Early in life I was taught to take God at His word, and I thought my lesson was well learned. I had lived upon the promises in dark times, until I knew, as David did, "who was my Fortress and Deliverer." But now it was different.

My husband's overcoat was hardly thick enough for October, and he was often obliged to ride miles to attend some meeting or funeral. Christmas was coming. The children always expected their presents. I remember the ice was thick and smooth, and the boys were each craving a pair of skates. Ruth, in some unaccountable way, had taken a fancy that the dolls I had made were no longer suitable; she wanted a nice large one, and insisted on praying for it.

It seemed impossible; but oh! I wanted to give each child its present. It seemed as if God had deserted us, but I did not tell my husband all this. He worked so earnestly and heartily. I supposed him to be as hopeful as ever. I kept the sitting room cheerful with an open fire, and I tried to serve our scanty meals as invitingly as I could.

The morning before Christmas, James was called to see a sick man. I put up a piece of bread for his lunch—it was the best I could do—wrapped my plaid shawl around his neck, and then tried to whisper a promise as I often had, but the words died away upon my lips. I let him go away without it.

That was a dark, hopeless day. I coaxed the children to bed early, for I could not bear their talk. When Ruth went to bed, I listened to her prayer. She asked for the last time most explicitly for her doll, and for skates for her brothers. Her bright face looked so lovely when she whispered to me: "You know I think they'll be here early tomorrow morning, Mamma," that I thought I could move heaven and earth to save her from disappointment. I sat down alone, and gave way to the most bitter tears.

Before long James returned, chilled and exhausted. He drew off his boots; the thin stockings slipped off with them, and his feet were red with cold. "I wouldn't treat a dog that way; let alone a faithful servant," I said. Then as I glanced up and

saw the hard lines in his face and the look of despair, it flashed across me, James had let go, too.

He took my hand and we sat for an hour without a word. I wanted to die and meet God, and tell Him His promise wasn't true; my soul was so full of rebellious despair.

There came a sound of bells, a quick stop, and a loud knock at the door. There stood Mr. White. "A box came by express just before dark. I brought it around as soon as I could get away. Reckon it might be for Christmas. 'At any rate,' I said, 'they shall have it tonight.' Here is a turkey my wife asked me to fetch along, and these other things I believe belong to you." There was a basket of potatoes and a bag of flour. Talking all the time, he hurried in the box, then, with a hearty goodnight he rode away.

Still without speaking, James found a chisel and opened the box. He drew out first a thick red blanket, and we saw that beneath was full of clothing. It seemed at that moment as if Christ fastened upon me a look of reproach. James sat down and covered his face with his hands. "I can't touch them," he exclaimed; "I haven't been true, just when God was trying me to see if I could hold out. Do you think I could not see how you were suffering? And I had no word of comfort to offer. I know now how to preach the awfulness of turning away from God."

"James," I said, clinging to him, "don't take it to heart like this; I am to blame, I ought to have helped you. We will ask Him together to forgive us." "Wait a moment, dear, I cannot talk now," he said, then he went into another room. I knelt down, and my heart broke; in an instant all the darkness, all the stubbornness rolled away. Jesus came again and stood before me, but with the loving word: "Daughter!" Sweet promises of tenderness and joy flooded my soul. I was so lost in praise and gratitude that I forgot everything else. I don't know how long it was before James came back, but I knew he, too, had found peace.

"Now, my dear wife," he said, "let us offer our thanks." Then we began to examine our treasures. It was a wonderful box. There was warm clothing for each of us, sufficient to keep us warm through the winter. Down in the center was a box. We opened it and there was a great wax doll. I burst into tears again; James wept with me for joy. It was too much; and then we both exclaimed again, for close behind it came two pair of skates. There were many other needful things and a ten-dollar gold piece.

It was then past midnight and we were faint and exhausted even with happiness.

You should have seen the children the next morning; the boys raised a shout at the sight of their skates. Ruth caught up her doll, and hugged it tightly without a word; then she went into her room and knelt by her bed.

When she came back she whispered to me: "I knew it would be there Mamma, but I wanted to thank God just the same, you know." "Look here,

wife, see the difference." We went to the window and there were the boys out of the house already and skating on the ice with all their might.

My husband and I both tried to return thanks to the church in the East that sent us the box and have tried to return thanks to God every day since. Hard times have come again and again, but we have trusted in Him; dreading nothing so much as a doubt of His protecting care. Over and over again we have proved that, "They that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing."

—Selected

I Will Put My Trust in Him

(Heb. 2:13)

I will put my trust in Him
As the Author of Salvation
Through these earthly shadows dim
And the pall of life's probation.
There's no foe that shall destroy
All my peace and inner joy;
Praise shall thus my tongue employ:
I will sound the proclamation.

No one else this hope can give;
(Other anchors vainly casting)
He alone can help us live
For that life that's everlasting.
How I love the precious thought:
By His blood my soul was bought,
And I found Him when I sought—
In His favor I am resting.

Faithful is He, this I know,
Through the ages changing never;
Though these jarring scenes below
From His presence seem to sever,
Though the fiery billows sweep
And I pass through waters deep:
He my soul will safely keep—
Thus my hope to live forever!

Solemn notes fall on my ear
Of the curse upon us lying;
Death, its sorrows draw me near,
Nature 'round about is sighing.
Fadest is life's rarest charm,
Things of earth seem full of harm,
Wisdom sounds her dread alarm
At the sight of mortals dying.

Thus I put my trust in Him
And rejoice to do His pleasure,
Cling to this one comfort-gem:
I am His peculiar treasure.
Earth shall fade, but I shall see
Him, the Christ who died for me:
Ever with Him shall I be—
Endless life shall be my treasure!

—Leslie Busbee

PLEASE HURRY and send in more lists of ten "three-month" subscriptions for \$1.00. Time is running out. Work now—TODAY—for the night is coming soon!

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

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, which is campmeeting month, and we omit an issue that month to attend these meetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 13th of the month prior to the month of issue.

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office charges 10c to notify us of each change of address.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God; and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. All personal checks and Post Office Money Orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 713, 920 W. Mansur Ave., Guthrie, Okla. 73044
Phone No. BUTler 2-1479

The Church of God Chapel at Guthrie, Oklahoma is located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner. The congregation welcomes you. —Bro. Ira D. Stover, Pastor 415 N. 14th St., P. O. Box 210, Phone BUTler 2-3244

EDITORIALS

The entire staff of workers at Faith Publishing House extend to you—our readers, old and new—our best wishes for a **HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON** in memory of the birth of Jesus Christ, our loving Savior and risen Lord.

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The response of our readers to the special three-months subscription offer is most encouraging, and we are convinced that God's people are still carrying a burden for the soul's welfare of their neighbors, friends, and relatives and are not sitting idly by without presenting to them the gospel invitation. They do not intend to let them say as one of old, "No man cared for my soul."

As this issue goes to press, about 3,000 of these new subscriptions have been received, and more are coming in daily. We would be so thankful if our readers would redouble their efforts and rush in many more lists of ten plainly-written names and addresses, enclosing \$1.00 for each list, so we would have at least twice this number to whom we could start sending this gospel paper in January, 1965. Think with a heart full of love and compassion of those all about you who are on the broad way to destruction, and do as the apostle did, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men. . ." It lies within your power to help place the printed gospel of salvation in their hands. Let us continue to be "workers together with God" to reach the unreached. Please get your pen and paper now and write these lists of names. Rush them in promptly before the deadline on this special offer on Dec. 8, 1964, and the Lord will bless you abundantly.

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As we come to the last month of the year of 1964, we look in retrospect, and are made to realize very keenly how swiftly time is flying, carrying us on toward our eternal Home. Then again as we approach the year's end we are reminded afresh of the birth so many centuries ago of that precious Babe of Bethlehem, whose life has influenced more people than any other. It is not enough to believe that Jesus was born in Bethlehem as a historical fact. The joy of salvation is experienced only by that one in whom the living Christ is born by a spiritual operation—when that dead soul is resurrected from a state of sin to a holy life in Christ.

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Bro. and Sister T. H. Coffey of Hammond, La. were with the Guthrie congregation in services last week, closing on Sunday, Nov. 8. The Lord anointed Bro. Coffey with messages of solid truth from God's Word, and a number received spiritual and physical help at the altar of prayer. They are visiting other

saints and congregations in this area before returning to Hammond for the annual assembly meeting which will be held there from Nov. 22 to 29.

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The copies of the "Faith and Victory" and "Beautiful Way" papers for 1964, bound separately in book form, will be available about the time this issue reaches you. The price is \$1.00 each, postpaid. Bound copies for prior years are offered at the reduced price of 50c per copy.

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Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, including your zip code number. The post-office charges us 10c to notify us of each change of address.

If you find a subscription remittance envelope in your paper, please send in your subscription promptly, so you will receive the following issues without interruption.

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A number of our readers have inquired about Bro. Wayne Turner who is in "death row" in the Louisiana State Prison. From the reports coming to us we understand that there has been a change of officials at the prison, and as a result practically all of his mail privileges have been suspended. The loss of these outside contacts has dealt him a severe blow, but it is reported that he is still encouraged in loving and serving the Lord. Bro. E. B. Pinkerton of Hammond, La. is his spiritual advisor, and even his letter to Bro. Turner was returned to him. However, Bro. Pinkerton does go to visit him quite regularly. Let all those who know the worth of prayer agree together that reasonable mail privileges will be restored to Bro. Turner and that he will hold a steadfast faith in the Lord, his risen Saviour.

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Bro. Clifford Smith has mailed to us some Spanish copy for another issue of the Spanish paper. With the blessings of the Lord we expect to have it printed in the near future, and ready for distribution by the workers in the Mexico mission fields.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

Dear Saints everywhere: We send you greetings of holy love in Jesus' name: I feel impressed today to ask all the saints who read this to be agreed in fasting and prayer on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1964 for the salvation of souls. Surely this is a need above all needs. We look around us and see trouble and heartaches on every hand and I'm persuaded to believe that most of it is because folks need to be saved. The times are perilous and the devil sees his time is short. We can see souls being swept en masse into the awful evils of this world. Only God is able to snatch them from the jaws of hell. May he burden of the lost rest heavily upon all of God's people. Let us be praying earnestly before the set day and have our hearts so in harmony with the will of God that our prayers will be effectual, fervent, and will ascend as one man's prayer to God on the appointed day. Let us bear in mind that the dear Lord may use various ways to reach souls that may require sacrifice and suf-

fering on our part. We do not want to draw back but be willing to trust our loving Father, for we know that one soul is worth more than the whole world.

In Christian love,

—Jessie Taylor

Choice Items for Christmas Gifts

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.	15.45
World Bible, approx. 5x8, con., ref., durable, black	13.50
World Bible, approx. 5x7, con., ref., durable, black	10.95
World Bible, approx. 5x8, con., ref., black	7.95
World Bible, approx. 6½x9½, large print, stiff back	5.50
World Bible, approx. 6½x9½, large print, with con. and references	7.50
World Bible, approx. 5x7½, con., maps, helps	2.25
New Testament with Psalms, large print, 5½x7 5/8 imitation leather	2.75
Pocket New Testaments Values from \$1.40 to	3.00
A Doctor's Experience of Divine Healing, 24 pages, paper bound, each15
How Do I Look?—32 pages, paper bound, 25c each, or five for	1.00
1964 "Faith and Victory" books, 11 issues of the year bound in heavy paper cover	1.00
1963 "Faith and Victory" books, 40th anniversary memorial edition, reduced to50
1964 "Beautiful Way" books, 52 papers of the year 1964 bound in heavy paper cover	1.00
1963 "Beautiful Way" books, bound as above, and reduced to50
The Ordinances of the New Testament by Wm. G. Schell, 67 pages, paper bound, each25
The Church of God by D. S. Warner, 32 pages, paper bound, 25c each or six books for	1.00
Life Sketches of Sarah Smith, 36 pages, paper bound, 25c each or five for	1.00
Sanctification by J. W. Byers, 96 pages of clear, sound teaching on this subject, paper bound, 40c each, or three books for	1.00
How I Got Faith by Willis M. Brown, 199 pages, paper bound, 50c each or three for	1.00
Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer, compiled by S. B. Shaw, especially for children, 135 pages, many pictures, paper bound, 75c each, or three for	2.00
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, each25

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 each or three for	1.00
The Two Works of Grace by H. M. Riggle in 1900. 56 pages with heavy paper binding	.35
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
Biblical Trace of the Church by Wm. G. Schell, in 1893. 173 pages, paper bound. Price	.60
The Hidden Life, or Walks with God by C. E. Orr 112 pages of soul food. Price	.50
The Corrupt Tree by Mrs. Anna Marie Miles, 40 pages, paper bound. Especially for young people. Corruptness exposed and a way out of it shown. Price	.25
The Sabbath and the Lord's Day by H. M. Riggle. 160 pages, paper bound. Comprehensive coverage of the subject. Price 60c each or two for	1.00
The Plan of Salvation by Ostis B. Wilson. A new 64-page booklet clearly setting forth God's redemptive provision for mankind. Price, 25c each, or five copies for	1.00
Beautiful Way Songs for Juniors, second edition, paperbound, 32 songs in words only—no music. Suitable for Sunday Schools and children's meetings. 10c per copy, or 1 dozen for	1.00
Himnos de Gloria (Hymns of Glory) — a Spanish song book just off the press in words only, 150 pages, paper bound, carries the Church of God message. Each	.50
Past, Present and Future of The Church by Fred Pruitt. A book of 72 pages containing vital truths that every Christian ought to know to keep out of the traps of Satan. Price	.30
Selected Articles and Editorials. Paper bound, 256 pages of the writings of the first editor, Fred Pruitt, over a period of 40 years. Price	.50
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The New Testament Church and Its Symbols by Fred Pruitt. Paper bound, 131 pages. Price	.50
"Evening Light Songs" book, shaped notes, 512 pages, cloth bound, the right song book for the Church of God. \$1.50 each, plus 15c for mailing.	
Birthday, Get-Well, All-Occasion, Sympathy Cards each kind, per box	1.00
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Christian Wall Calendar for 1965. Scripture text for each day, beautifully colored pictures, each	.45
All above are postpaid except Evening Light song books.	
Order from Faith Pub. House, Box 713, Guthrie, Okla.	

PRAYER REQUEST

N. Carolina—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' holy name: I am so thankful for what the Lord has done for us, for how He keeps us and heals us when we get sick. Praise His holy name!

Please pray that the Lord will send some of His ministers down here with the good Word. We need it very badly. Some have gone back and some are weak.

Please pray for this little group. Pray that Sister Nelson and I will ever stay true and do God's will here in Durham. We are praying about a matter, asking the Lord to fix it for us. Pray the Lord will melt some stony hearts and bring them into the Lord's fold. Pray for my unsaved husband that the Lord will bring him back to where he was.

Your saved sister in the Lord, —Sister Lennon

Meeting Notices

GOSPEL SINGING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

The congregation of the Church of God at Wichita, Kansas welcomes you to the gospel singing at their chapel at 1701 N. Ash on Friday night, Dec. 4, 1964.

Come and bring your songbooks and ballads. Let us sing praises unto the Lord. For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, 1536 Piatt, Wichita, Kansas. Phone HO 4-8481.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting is almost here again, which reminds us that the year of 1964 is coming to a close. The meeting will be held, the Lord willing, at Guthrie, Oklahoma at the chapel located on the corner of 6th and West Warner, beginning on December 25 to January 3, 1965, inclusive.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people. Ministers filled with the Holy Spirit will be present to preach the Word of God in its fullness, and help anyone to present his spiritual and physical needs to the ONE who came to heal the broken hearted and set the captive free from sin and sickness.

Saints, come praying with a burden for those in need of spiritual and physical help. These are critical days. The world in sin is lost. Precious eternity-bound souls are rushing madly to the Judgment. Let us pray with faith that many will be saved at this meeting. Let us urge every one possible to come, both saved and unsaved. It might be your last chance.

The expense of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings of money and groceries. These offerings and supplies should be sent to the treasurer, Bro. M. A. Davis, Route 4, Guthrie, Okla. All who come will be cared for.

We want to thank the saints of the different congregations of Oklahoma for their wonderful co-operation in the dining hall and kitchen during the last two meetings. Many have expressed their appreciation for having their special day, so each one will have your same day at this meeting. If, for any reason, you would want it otherwise, or for further information, write or phone the pastor, Bro. Ira D. Stover, P. O. Box 210, Guthrie, Okla. Phone BUTler 2-3244.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held on the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California (a suburb of Los Angeles) beginning Saturday, Dec. 26, 1964 and continuing through January 3, 1965, Lord willing.

Pacoima is in the northwest section of Los Angeles. Those who come from the north by bus should get off at San Fernando. There is only one train from the north which stops at San Fernando. If you come on any of the streamlined trains, get off at Glendale. In no case should you go on into Los Angeles. Those arriving

by bus or train, phone 369-3608 and a car will come for you. If you drive and come from the north, come right on through San Fernando and follow San Fernando Road (99 highway) to Osborne St. There is a traffic signal at this intersection and a Piggly Wiggly Market just a block before you get there. Turn to the left across the railroad track and come straight about 6/10 of a mile to the campground. If you drive from the east or south, come out from Los Angeles on the Golden State Freeway (it will be marked "BAKERSFIELD" all along) and leave the freeway at Osborne St. and go right approximately two miles to the campground. If you get lost, call 369-3608 and get instructions.

We urge all of the saints throughout the west to attend this meeting. Those from farther east are welcome, also. Anyone who can do good or get good should be at this meeting.

If you can bring some bed covers with you, it would be good, as there is not always enough to go around in cold weather. Those who can bring covers, would make it possible to save what is here for those who cannot bring any.

Let us all be praying for a good, profitable, spiritual, successful, edifying meeting in the Lord.

—Pastor Ostis B. Wilson
12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.

National Campground Report

At the general business meeting which convened during the 1964 campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., several projects were discussed which would improve the campgrounds for the future. We wish to let the saints of God know of the progress that is being made on these projects. Of primary importance was the necessity of providing suitable living quarters for a caretaker on the grounds. Since the 1964 meeting the old caretaker's cabin has been removed and the ground cleared, ready for new improvements.

Saturday, Nov. 7, the trustees met and made plans to proceed as finances are available. At the date of this writing there is \$342.00 set aside for this purpose, and the estimated expense runs somewhere in the neighborhood of \$3,000 to \$3,500. We are aware of the many and varied needs in the Lord's work and will do our best to keep this expense to a minimum.

Also there was some discussion of the electrical work which was done on the grounds prior to the 1964 campmeeting. Some have asked what we felt their fair share would be. So for those who are able and desire to help defray this expense it was agreed that an approximate fair share would be as follows: cabin owners, \$10.00, lot owners, \$5.00, people renting tents, \$2.00. Please send remittances directly to the undersigned.

In addition to the above-mentioned projects, it was noted that there is a need of trees being set out on the grounds to provide future shade, as several trees have died or are dying. It was suggested that soft maple trees were quick growing, and disease resistant, making good shade. However, pin oaks, etc. or other suitable trees which are slower growing may be planted. If you desire some trees planted on your lots and are unable to attend to this, you may check prices with a local nursery and forward the amount to the following address, stating the size and type of trees you want, and we will see that they are set out this fall. We will endeavor to set them in a position on your lot which will provide maximum shade without interfering with building or camping sites. If there is enough response to this project, a local nursery

will undertake the setting of a sum of trees at considerable savings and will guarantee the growth or replacement of the trees. This is an ideal time for setting trees, so act as soon as possible on this project.

Make all checks payable to "Church of God, Monark Springs, Mo." All contributions will be acknowledged and receipted.

All correspondence and contributions concerning these projects may be sent to Kenneth Probst, R. 4, Box 172, Carthage, Missouri.

NIGERIAN MISSIONARY REPORT

Under date of Oct. 30, Bro. B. U. Etuk, native minister of the Church of God mission in Nigeria, W. Africa, has written a letter and enclosed a detailed typewritten report of the Mission's activities for the months of September and October which were written by their very competent secretary, Bro. Friday F. Ekpo, and who was also Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson's interpreter and closest associate while they were in Nigeria.

The last earthly activities of Sister Wilson, especially the text of her last sermon, are the center of these reports, excerpts from which are as follows:

Minya Ntak, Nigeria (Sept. 13) This is the last active Sunday that Sister Wilson spent on earth, and curiously enough, she was led of the Lord to give her last message to us, and this we would gladly share with you, reader. We went into the chapel at 9:45 a. m. and fifteen minutes later the service started with prayer by the preacher in charge of this congregation, Bro. Paul M. Umoh. Later we sang hymns and choruses, followed by prayers. Then through her interpreter, Sister Wilson gave one of the most impressive sermons I have ever heard, and hereunder I produce the text of her sermon:

Sister Opal Wilson's Last Sermon

"Luke 8:4-8. We have a beautiful and very simple lesson here, told us by a parable. It has reference to a sower and his seed. Let us think a moment about the seed. A seed, no matter how small or how large, holds within it a God-given and mysterious power of life. God made it thus in the very beginning. Though the seed contains the power to produce life within it, it has to have proper conditions in order to bring forth that life. A grain of corn can lay in your house for years and years and never produce life, but even after years, if you place that grain of corn in the soil and water it, it will produce another stalk of corn with possibly several ears of corn. Now in our story we have a sower going out to sow this seed. And as he sowed, the seed fell upon four different types of ground. These four different types of ground had four different effects upon the seed. First, the wayside; second, upon the rock; third, among the thorns; and fourth, on good ground.

"Out of these four places only one place brought fruit to perfection. What was the trouble? The same sower sowed in all the places, the seed was the same and it was all good seed, and the seed had the power of life and fruit within it. So we must look somewhere besides in the sower and in the seed for the trouble. At this point in the story, Jesus cried out to them all, 'If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.' This gives us to understand the great import of this valuable lesson, and I would like to cry to you this morning to please have ears to hear this truth that bears so strongly on our lives now and in the world to come. Three-fourths of the seed that was sown failed to bring forth fruit. How sad and how disappointing! No wonder Jesus cried to the people to hear and understand.

"Now we would like to press home to all of us this morning that these four different types of ground stand for the hearts of every person in the entire world. Your heart and my heart are described right here this morning in this lesson.

"Now as we go on with the lesson we will read verses 11-15. Jesus makes it so plain and clear here that there can be no guessing or doubts regarding the meaning of this parable. First: He said the seed is the Word of God. Just as we explained that the natural seed has a mysterious power of life in it, so has the Word of God a very strong and hidden power in it. 'The word of God is quick, and powerful, sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened before him with whom we have to do.' Heb. 4:12, 13. This is the seed we are talking about this morning, that was sown on four different types of ground, so folks, there is nothing wrong with the seed. Oh, if only we could all realize the power there is in the Word of God, power to work wonders, power to transform our lives, power to revolutionize our entire lives, power to bring forth fruit in our lives to perfection and a hundred fold! So there is nothing wrong with the seed. We must look for some other cause as to why all the seed didn't bring forth fruit. I don't believe we will have to look long, for Jesus made it very plain. We will consider the first plot of ground—that by the way-side. What was the matter with the wayside? It might have been good soil, but it was hard and packed down, and just as soon as the seed was sown, because it didn't fall in loose, broken-up soil and was hidden, the fowls came immediately and devoured it. David said, 'Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.' The prophet Hosea said in 10:12, 'Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.' What time is it? It is time to break up our hearts and seek God and get his Word hidden away in our hearts so the devil can't snatch it away. If our hearts are not soft and broken up, and if we don't hide away deep in our hearts the Word of God, then we are that wayside where the Word is sown, and the devil (Jesus said it was the devil) will snatch away that Word and it will not find root in our hearts and will not bring forth any fruit.

"Second: On the rock. Just a little soil, so the seed came up quickly, but the roots have not gone down deep. Therefore when trials and disappointments come, because there has been no deep rooting down into God and His truth, these fall away. Dear ones, today we must throw out all the stones (hard things). The roots of the plant cannot penetrate through the stones. Isa. 62:10 says, '... gather out the stones.' If you and I are to bear fruit, we must root deep down in the Word of God. There's no other way. The prophet again in Isa. 37:31 says concerning God's people, 'They shall root downward and bear fruit upward.' These on the stony ground, because they had no deepness, withered away and brought forth no fruit to perfection.

"Third: The seed that fell among the thorns. Jesus said these heard the word, and it's very possible that when they heard it, they thought it was good, and thought they would obey it. But as they went forth, the thorns began to gradually choke out the word. What are these thorns? Jesus said they were the cares and riches and pleasures and lust of other things. Isn't that plain and isn't that sad? I personally believe that this is the con-

dition of the seed among the thorns. There are the cares, riches, pleasures, and lust of other things. Choking is somewhat of a gradual process. It doesn't produce death in an instant. The cares, or being too busy, just gradually pushes out the word. Then he mentioned riches. He didn't just mean the possessing of riches but the seeking after, striving for, spending too much of our time striving for them until the Word and grace of God is gradually choked out of our hearts. Jesus taught very much in his teachings about riches and what the desire for them will do to a soul. Here he is teaching us again that it will choke out the Word of God until we become unfruitful. Oh, let us beware of the desire for riches! How many, many souls have been snared by this, and the pleasures of this life. God tells us to be content with such things as we have, for He says He will never leave us nor forsake us.

We will now go to the fourth: 'But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.' Let us briefly notice the conditions of bearing fruit to perfection. He mentioned five things here as condition for fruit-bearing. 1—Honesty. 2—Good heart. 3—Hearing the word. 4—Keeping the word. 5—Patience. Let us notice these in the order that they come. Honesty. Absolute honesty, which includes truthfulness, fairness, justice being without pretense, or hypocrisy. God speaks in His word in 2 Cor. 4:2, 'But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness,' etc. Without this honesty, God cannot and will not bless us, and we cannot bring forth fruit. Oh, how much dishonesty there is in the world today! Good heart. God loves goodness and all true goodness comes from God, so we should often seek the Lord to give us a good heart. Hearing the word, and keeping it. Let us do as David said he did, let us hide God's Word in our hearts and keep it. In other words, do it. James 1:22-24, 'But be ye doers of the word: and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.' Also verse 25. 'But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work: this man shall be blessed in his deed.' Patience. Oh, how much patience we need to live for God and work for Him and how much impatience there is in the hearts and lives of many today! Jesus said, 'In your patience possess ye your souls,' and again James said in 1:4, 'But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.' So we see if we are patient in all things and under all conditions, we will not lack anything that we need, for God loves the patient soul and will reward it with all needed things.

"Now just a word about bearing fruit. Gal. 5:22, 23 tells us what the fruits are that the Christian must have in his life—Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance, and against such there is no law. Fruit-bearing is a must in our lives, for Jesus said in John 15:2, 'Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh away.' Then throughout that 15th chapter he speaks much about us bearing fruit, and much fruit and thereby pleasing God.

"Now the question stands today as it did the day Jesus uttered these words. Where are we located—wayside, stony, thorns, or good ground?" (End of sermon.)

Now, dear reader, doesn't the above sermon prove to you the burning Spirit that lived inside the person who gave it? Have a second look at her last words which asked a question, and I quote, "Now the question stands

today as it did the day Jesus uttered these words. Where are we located—wayside, stony, thorns, or good ground?" Ask yourself, **WHERE AM I LOCATED?** I, the writer, have asked myself. Sister Wilson asked herself, and there's good evidence beyond all doubt that her location was the fourth ground. There, dear reader, she has had it.

—Friday F. Ekpo

Bro. Friday continues his report that on Sept. 16 Sister Wilson was sick and unable to go and teach the sewing class at Ukpom. He writes of the daily events surrounding her worsening condition, their untiring efforts to help, the cablegrams sent to the States for prayer, and her passing on Sept. 24.

By 4 a. m. on Sunday, Sept. 27 on behalf of the Mission Bro. Friday had prepared a note of condolence to Bro. Wilson which was reproduced in full. It was very touching indeed. In Bro. Wilson's reply, he advised them not to be discouraged, but to work harder for the Lord.

He writes of Bro. Wilson's departure from Port Harcourt, and they were there to bid him goodbye.

A combined service was held at Ikot Akpan Eda on Sunday, Oct. 25, at which Bro. Wilson's letter telling them of Sister Wilson's funeral on Oct. 5 was read. The saints' letter of encouragement and the card of appreciation for the flowers Bro. Wilson laid on the grave on their behalf were also read.

In a letter dated Nov. 3 Bro. Etuk writes: "Bro. Wilson himself is sending us regular lessons—a project he started before he was forced to let go. Now we meet every week for the lessons and Bro. Friday Ekpo, who has been in charge of this project, leads us. Everybody does enjoy it, and though Bro. Wilson is physically absent, yet we feel he is always with us. Praise His Holy Name!

"Recently we had one more congregation added to us at Ediene. It is not far from us. The folks themselves are poor and needy and can ill-afford to build a chapel of mud and mats. Out of gratitude to God for saving these dear souls, four of us—myself, Bro. Friday Ekpo, Bro. Nse Umanah and Bro. Brownson Inyang—have all agreed to forego half of our allowances [this month] to aid the building of a chapel for them."

Funds from the office missionary fund are being sent regularly to pay the monthly allowances of the native gospel workers which numbered 16 in the last itemized report from Bro. Etuk. Also funds have been sent to purchase Efik Bibles for use as textbooks in the adult language classes, and to pay salaries of teachers for these classes and the sewing classes.

The Church is being challenged with the urgent need for American gospel workers in Nigeria, and God is moving upon the hearts of several. Pray that God's will be done in every step that is made. By faith we see the foreign missionary work advancing. The poet exhorts us in these words:

"While a few have crossed the ocean,

Leaving all for Jesus' name.

There is room for many others—

Go, the gospel news proclaim!

Those who roam in sin's dominion

Can be rescued yet from hell;

While a moment's left to save them.

If we wait, we do not well."

—Lawrence Pruitt

TESTIMONIES

Kansas—Dear Ones in the Lord at the print shop: Greetings of love to you. This leaves us both well as usual again. Bro. and Sister Gibson stayed several days with us. On October 26 about eleven o'clock or after, Sister Gibson and I were getting dinner while Bro. Gibson trimmed my husband's hair. My husband was sitting facing the back of the chair. Just after Bro. Gibson finished, my husband went backward and fell hard on the floor. We all wondered what had happened to him. We all got down on our knees and began weeping and praying for the Lord to bring him back to us. Bro. Gibson said he was gone. He was gone about an hour. His eyes turned gray. I want to say I began to think he was gone for good. The Lord worked a miracle for him. He brought him back to me. He had had a heart attack. I tell you it was a real miracle. We couldn't thank God enough for bringing him back alive. Dear ones, I was so thankful that Bro. and Sister Gibson were here with me. Michael said he didn't know anything. He got dizzy-headed and his stomach hurt him before he fell but he is feeling real good now. I am so thankful he is with me tonight. We never know how soon we will go.

—Grace and Michael Koehler

Mo.—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' dear Name. I want to thank the saints for their prayers for my son, Eddie, who has had afflicted feet. I am happy to report victory through Jesus. His feet are completely well. I just praise the Lord every time I look at them. Some of you know his feet had been sore part of the time for about nine months. He couldn't walk nor hardly wear his socks. Now he can wear heavy shoes and run and play with other children. I am so thankful for the blessings of the Lord to us. The devil painted some dark pictures to me. He said, "You see how you trusted the Lord with your husband and older boy and they both died. Now this little boy may never be well." I was praying when this came to me. I knew it was the devil. I started crying. I said, "Lord, I commit him into your hands. He is yours. I have done all I can do." He got better and then worse again, but I didn't take him off the altar.

The Lord has been a comfort to me through many sad times. I know the Lord won't let anything come only what is good for us. Pray for me that I will always be true to the Lord.

Your sister in Christ,

—Dollie Gentry

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

I.a.—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: I thought I would write you while sending you a dollar for the three-months subscriptions for the ten names and addresses. These homes need to know the Truth, the true light of God.

I have been getting the "Faith and Victory" paper for quite awhile. I really thank the dear sister who made it possible for me to get it. May the Lord bless her for it. The little paper is very encouraging to me each time I read it. The whole world needs to read it, for it's all the true Word of God held up as it should be. I really thank God for everything. He means so much to me and is real to my soul. I thank God for His wonderful power, which healed and saved my soul from sin, and also for the way God hears and answers prayer for my body and for my family. There's no happiness without God. I'd rather have Jesus than anything else in this old world. According to the Word of God we are coming close to the road's end. I thank God that He

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has put me on the strait and narrow way that leads to heaven. I pray that I will make it the last mile of the way. It's worth all to follow God and live for Him. It's sad, but God's Word says that there will be just a few that will go to heaven. The world is full of people that are trying to go some other way. Jesus says they are the same as thieves and robbers. The only way to make it is to be a saved, born again believer, and to live up to the whole Word of God. The sects of this world do not hold God's Word up. God brought me out of bondage. I was once a Baptist, but I thank God that He gave me a willing heart and mind to obey Him. After I got married there was conflict because I believed one way and my husband the other. I prayed and asked God if the Church of God was the true way to show me and I was willing to live to it. God showed me one night through a vision. I was standing ready for torment with the other worldly people. I saw a few ascend, dressed as saints, going to heaven. I woke up afraid, shaking, and I knew it was the power of God. I had just got some new short sleeved dresses. I sent them back and did not wear them. The Lord provided and I had clothes to dress as a saint. That very next morning, on my knees in my living room, God saved my soul. I also had prayed to know just how I stood with God. He showed me just what category I was in. I was with the worldly people and was unsaved.

God has revealed much of His Word to me. Before I was saved I didn't know much about the Bible. I give God the praise for everything. He's an unchanging God. He said He would never leave us nor forsake us.

I have an unsaved companion. I would like all the saints to pray that he will give his heart to God before it's too late.

May the Lord bless all of you at the print shop and the saints everywhere. Please pray for my unsaved loved ones.

A sister in Christ Jesus, —Mrs. Lois Averett

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, in the name of the good Lord: I am writing today of the goodness that the Lord has bestowed on me. I am living alone, but the Lord has really been good to me since my husband's passing January 1, 1962. The Lord has been a present help in time of trouble and He has been a mother and a father to me. Praise His name!

Dear saints everywhere, my eyes are weak. Please pray for me to be healed. I know the Lord still has healing power because He has healed my body many times. I know that only through the blood of Jesus can we be ready to enter heaven. Paul said, "For I have learned that in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content." So I realize we are serving a great God, One who is worthy to be praised. "It is not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost." Titus 3:5.

Proverbs 11:1, 2, says, "A false balance is abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight. When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom." So dear saints, let us stay ready, on the Lord's side because we don't know when our time will be out. I am working for a crown. "The wicked worketh a deceitful work; but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward" (Proverbs 11:18).

Dear saints, I have some children who are not saved. Please pray that they may give their hearts to God. I am praying for the Lord to talk to them. I also have some special requests before the Lord to work out for me.

Pray about it, saints. We all need each other's prayers. Earnestly pray that I'll be all in this life that the Lord wants me to be.

Your sister in Christ, —Sister Fannie Henderson

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie and co-workers: I thank God for the privilege of doing what little I can to help send the gospel to our people. It is a very little at the best we can do. God is good and I am sure that we will not lose anything when we put it out for the Lord's work.

I want to testify how the Lord healed me. I had an allergy on my hand and a few spots on my body. It was very annoying and lasted some time. I kept my trust in the Lord, and told Him that if He would heal me, I would testify through the paper. It lasted for several weeks but is completely well now. Praise God! He has healed me so many times. I just want to be all that He would have me to be.

Pray that the Lord will keep me pliable in His hands, so when He is ready to call me to my reward that I can say, like Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." —Sis. Maurie Lea

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

S. Dakota.—Dearest Sister Marie and saints, greetings in the sweet Name of our precious Jesus:

Ever since my return from campmeeting I have been deeply impressed to write my experience for the "Faith and Victory" paper. For some months before campmeeting my life had become so burdened with care, sickness and pain that I could not seem to keep the victory in my soul. My prayer seemed to be:

"Father, give me heavenly wisdom,
For my path grows dark and dim.
Father, give me heavenly guidance,
'Ere I lose my glimpse of Him."

The blessed Heavenly Father guided me to the campmeeting at Dover. What a glorious awakening it was! It brought me back to my first love. Oh, the wondrous love of God! Oh, the tremendous reality of it! It fills the soul with joy and puts a song in the heart, which is far, far beyond earth's greatest treasure. "What is man that thou art mindful of him" I have cause to exclaim!

I can truly say we are "free indeed" when Christ has made us free. We have only to look up, as it were, into the glorious, radiant light of Jesus' face. Bless His name forevermore! Oh, the pure and holy joy, and His Presence is always so near if we only realize it, and do not grieve Him. "And I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me!" These words of the Saviour spoken to His disciples while on earth were blessedly fulfilled to my soul. How the sweet, gentle, abiding presence of Jesus drew us close to His pierced side, as all heaven came down to bless us.

Brother Phillips remarked that it was the best meeting in forty years. It was the sweet unity of the Spirit, and the divine love among the saints. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" John 13:35. Thus spake Jesus to His disciples, and it is as true today for us.

We can know the reality of the inspiring song that not only are we "satisfied with Jesus," but He is satisfied with us by the peace and joy in our souls. What a feast it was to enjoy the Spirit-filled messages of our good ministers. May God bless them with the riches of His grace and ever keep them in the center of His divine will. May He also bless those who worked so tirelessly and cheerfully to make the campmeeting possible. May He help us all to appreciate them and remem-

ber to pray for them. Amen! May the dear Lord reward all of the dear saints at Dover and Brother and Sister Stover and the saints at Guthrie for all of their kindness to me during my stay with them. I do pray that the Lord will sweetly bless all of you. Pray for me and my family, that the Lord will have His way in our lives.

Love and prayers, —Sister McFarling

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

Okla.—Dear Saints, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: Today I am still saved and much encouraged to press on. The Lord is so good to me. I am glad that I am able to report victory in my soul. I promised the Lord a few nights ago that if He would stop my gums from hurting I would testify through the paper. The blessing I received that night was truly wonderful for I was in so much pain. It was causing me to get sick all inside. I couldn't lie down and rest. I had to sit up until after one o'clock. I prayed and the Lord stopped my gums from hurting. I slept the rest of the night without a pain. I had some teeth pulled and I don't know if he broke my jaw bone or not but I do know a small piece came out with the teeth. My jaw has given me quite a lot of trouble. I desire your earnest prayers for me that the Lord completely heal my jaw.

Your sister in the Lord, —Clara Barnett

The Bite of Discouragement

God gave the children of Israel a great victory over King Arad and delivered the Canaanites into their hands after they prayed unto the Lord. God helped them to destroy the people and their cities. The Israelites then journeyed on and compassed the land of Edom. There was another battle to fight but the Bible says, "the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way" (Numbers 21:4). God had promised them the land of Canaan but it seemed they were getting weary of the many battles that they had to fight and now another big battle faced them. It seemed so great and hard.

The people became "discouraged because of the way." The devil was right there to talk to them, just as he will talk to us today. The devil is like a salesman who comes to the door and presents his wares. If the salesman can get your attention and you seem the least bit interested he will soon open the door and get his foot in. Then it won't be long until he will be right in your living room with his wares spread out, and you will be buying. Possibly you will buy something that afterwards you wish you had not. The best way is to refuse to even listen when the thought is first presented. When the devil brings a thought, rebuke it instantly from the very depths of your soul. If you begin to think about it, then the devil has his foot in the door and will soon be taking full possession of your thoughts. If you do not wake up and resist him, something will get down into your heart and then it will lead to sin.

The children of Israel yielded to discouragement. The battle they faced seemed too great. They began to look back to Egypt, the worldly life, which is a type of sin, out of which God had brought them. They began to complain about the manna and the water. Discouragement will lead to murmuring.

It causes one to forget all the blessings given in salvation and only see the trials. The Israelites even forgot how hard the taskmasters (the devil) was on them when they were in Egypt (sin brings severe troubles). They even forgot the victory that God had just given them.

The Lord wanted to teach the Israelites a lesson. He wanted them not to look at the battle, nor the hard things, but to look to God who is able to do all things and deliver them out of every trouble that they faced. Their battle was real to them. They had gone through many hard things. God sent fiery serpents among them. Those serpents bit them and many of them died. They cried to Moses and told him that they had sinned. (Discouragement leads to sin.) Moses prayed to God for the people. The Lord told Moses to make a fiery serpent and set it up on a pole. Everyone who was bitten by the bite of discouragement and looked at the brass serpent would live. (Numbers 21:7-9).

Dear one, have you been bitten by the serpent of discouragement? Are the trials, the problems and battles hard and long? Did you not know that discouragement will lead to sin? Sin then will lead to death to the soul. Then look to Jesus and live. There is help for you in God. Quit looking at the trials, the problems, and the battles. Look at the blessings in the past and the greatness of God. Don't look at the circumstances, but look to God. Look and live! Sometimes the things we face are as great as a serpent coming toward us. It might take much prayer and faith to take your eyes off that serpent and look away to God and trust God to take care of the serpent or the big problem. But that is God's plan for us. Have faith in God. Believe that He is able to deliver, save and take care of all the problems that you face.

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." John 3:14, 15. Jesus was lifted up to bring eternal life to us. Not only will Jesus save us from our sins but also as we continue to look to him he will keep us from evil and sin. Jesus wants us to look to Him and not at the serpent of troubles. They will bite and bring death. Through Jesus we can be an overcomer because He will give us grace.

Just refuse to be discouraged. Refuse to listen to one word from the devil that he suddenly brings to you to try to catch you off guard. Sometimes he might just suddenly bring to your mind the thought, "You are a hypocrite and you just might as well give up your profession. Everyone knows you aren't saved." If you will think on that thought even for one moment, he will have his foot in the door. If you continue to think about it, a cloud will come over you and then a feeling of despair, discouragement and confusion. Resist any such thought as soon as it comes. Refuse to listen to the devil. Look to God and live.

Some might say, "But what if it is the Lord speaking?" Remember always that the Lord does

not bring confusion to your mind and heart. Confusion comes from the devil. When you have done wrong the Lord points it out to you, and then points to you what you need to do about it. God is not the author of confusion. The devil will try to get you to think about how hard the way is. Resist that old serpent, the devil, in every way he comes. Think of the victories that you have won and take courage. Just refuse to be discouraged. —Sis. A. Marie Miles

Freedom From Worry

"Be careful for nothing;" that is, "Be anxious about nothing." No anxiety ought to be found in the believer. Great, many, and varied may be our trials, our afflictions, our difficulties, and yet there should be no anxiety under any circumstances, because we have a Father in heaven who is almighty, who loves His children as He loves His only begotten Son, and whose very joy and delight it is to succor and help them at all times and under all circumstances.

Therefore anxiety should not be found in the children of God, but we should attend to the exhortation given us in this verse: "Be anxious about nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God."

Notice particularly the following points: (1). "In everything;" that is, not merely when the house is on fire, not merely when the beloved wife is dying, not merely when our children are on the brink of the grave, but in the smallest matters of life, bring EVERYTHING before God, the little things, the very little things, what the world calls trifling things,—EVERYTHING—living in holy communion with our Heavenly Father, and with our precious Lord Jesus Christ, all day long. And when we awake at night, by a kind of spiritual instinct again turning to Him, and speaking to Him, and bringing our various little matters before Him in the sleepless night, the difficulties in connection with our family, our servants, our trade, our profession. Whatever tries us in any way, speak to the Lord about it. And in like manner, our joys, our easy days, speak to the Lord about them, and ask Him for help. Ask Him to help regarding EVERYTHING.

(2) "By prayer and supplication," taking the place of beggars, with earnestness, with perseverance, going on and waiting, waiting, waiting on God.

(3) "With thanksgiving." We should at all times lay a good foundation with thanksgiving. If everything else were wanting, this is always present, that He has saved us from hell. Then, that He has given us His Holy Word—His only begotten Son, His choicest gift—and the Holy Spirit. Therefore we have always abundant reason for thanksgiving. Oh, let us aim at this!

"And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." We shall have the peace of God. And this so great a blessing, so precious a blessing, that it must

be known experimentally to be entered into, for it passeth understanding. Oh, the peace of God, how exceedingly precious this blessing!

See therefore how we get this peace of God through attending to this exhortation, that in everything, in the most minute affairs of life, we let our requests, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, be known unto God. And further, that we seek to the utmost to avoid anxiety. Oh, let us lay these things to heart, and the result will be, if we habitually walk in the spirit, we shall far more abundantly glorify God, than as yet we have done. —Sel.

The Tide Is Rising

A gentleman wandering along on the beach of Scotland, where the high rocks came near the sea, was unmindful of the fact that the tide was rising, which cut off his retreat.

A man on the top of the rocks shouted, "Hallo! the tide is rising and this is the last place through which you can make your escape. You had better climb up on the rocks."

The man laughed at the warning, and went on. After a while, he thought it was time to return; he came back and found the retreat cut off. He tried to scale the rocks; he clambered half way up—could get no farther. The waves came to his feet, came to his waist—came to his chin, and with a wild cry for help, he perished.

The tides of eternity are rising. Those only are safe whose feet are planted on the Rock of Ages, yet men saunter along in their sin, and play on the sand. We come out and shout, "Hallo! Hallo! the tide is rising!" They laugh at our concern and say there is no danger. After a while they resolve to return, but it is too late. The waters of eternal destruction gather around their feet; they try to climb but get no farther than the foot of the rock. Then with hands flung up, with eyes full of horror, and with a shriek of despair, they drop forever.

Won't you heed God's warning today? for God says, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life."

PRAYER REQUEST

Mo.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus, greetings to you this morning [Nov. 11]. We want to say we still love the Lord and mean by His help and grace to go all the way at any cost. The enemy seems to come in like a flood at times, and tries to discourage and bring doubts and fears but we know God is mighty and can deliver in every test.

Bro. Dollins needs prayer badly, so please, all saints, pray for him. He has been suffering over three weeks with a bad stomach condition and can't keep food on his stomach. He got some better and could sit up some, but has gotten worse again. He gets so terribly sick at times and is very weak, also his heart is bothering him. He so

desires to be out preaching the gospel and working for the Lord. Do earnestly remember him. He would enjoy having cards and letters of encouragement. If any could write, it would brighten the days. God bless you all.

In Christian love,
—Loyd and Zella Dollins
Route 1, Elkland, Mo.

(Editor's note: Word received early Sunday morning, Nov. 15, said that Bro. Dollins was very low, and that he seemed to be taking pneumonia. Pray earnestly for him, and that Sister Dollins will have special strength to care for him in this trying time.)

The Fall of Babylon

"Babylon the Great, is fallen!"
This word is from heaven on high!
It comes to condemn those spirits
Who loveth and maketh a lie.

"Babylon the Great, is fallen!"
Now the cage of a hateful bird!
Filled up with the unclean doctrines
Where the truth is so seldom heard.

"Babylon the Great, is fallen!"
Not even a candle shall shine!
Not there the voice of the Bridegroom—
But wickedness will there combine

To kill the witnesses of God—
Those peaceful, fruitful Olive Trees
That furnish life and joy and love,
For sinful mortals such as these.

But those who hurt these Olive Trees
Shall they themselves be quickly slain,
And suffer loss of heaven's peace.
Eternal torment they shall gain!

Another voice now greets our ears,
Above the world's wild, noisy dins:
"Oh, come out of her, my people;
Oh, share not in her awful sins!"

O Christian Friend, in Babylon maze,
Obey this voice of God, and come
Back home to Zion's dwelling-place—
The happy, blood-bought Christian home!

O let us all be one in love!
O let us all be one in truth!
In spirit one, one Lord above,
One holy, happy band, forsooth!

Then shall the Church break forth with joy,
As in the happy days of old,
And joyous shouts, so glad and free,
Ring out, "One God, one faith, one fold!"

—J. L. Hendrix

When I am dying,
How glad I shall be
That the lamp of my life
Has been burn'd out for thee.

Mortify

The word "mortify" is found in Col. 3: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth." (Col. 3:5). The word "mortify" means to "put to death." The 20th Cent. translation reads, "Therefore destroy all that is earthly in you." It has been believed and taught that everything earthly about us is put to death when we are sanctified as a second work of grace or a cleansing of the heart from carnality. They think that there is nothing to be put to death or to mortify after we are sanctified. These people to whom Paul was writing were dead and their life was hid with Christ in God. They were dead and yet there is something about them that needs to be put to death. This can be because man is a two-fold being. The inner man may be dead to sin and the world—sanctified—yet the outward man has passions, desires, appetites that must be controlled, that must not be allowed to break out beyond their legitimate bounds. Now we will tell you a secret. What we are now going to tell you is the secret principle of holy living. It is the thread that runs through the entire life. It is "sacrifice." Listen, no man can keep the body in perfect control who does not keep that body on the altar of daily sacrifice. If you cease to sacrifice, you cease to control. To sacrifice is to mortify. Habits of virtue cannot be acquired except at the expense of sacrifice. He who is not constantly making sacrifice is not advancing in the Christian life. Sacrifice in the little things of daily life. The secret of living holy is sacrifice in the little things. It is not in being absent from ball rooms, ball games, theaters, political gatherings, and such worldly things. These things have but little or no temptation to people who are sanctified. It is no sacrifice for them to abstain from such evils. Where the holy need to watch is to not let love of self get in. Holy people have a self, but they must guard against undue love of self. Keep that self on the altar of sacrifice. Guard against taking too much thought about bodily comforts. It is no sin to give the body some comfort if it is not done at the expense of another's comfort. Then you need to have a care when you are alone not to provide too greatly for the body's comforts, lest you become selfish and find it difficult to sacrifice your comforts for another's comfort.

To indulge the body in late rising, in dainty foods, in luxuries in ease, in things pleasant to the eye—fine things—in idleness, in the avoidance of hardships, in the shrinking from bearing another's burden, and a disposition to lay your own on another is the way to become selfish. Sacrifice is the law of the Christian life. Sacrificing bodily comforts daily in the home for the comforts of others is helpful to the soul in its upward way. Where there is no sacrifice there is no holiness. Where there is no self-denying, there is no love to God. Where the body is not kept under, the soul is enslaved. The beauty of holiness never grows out of bodily indulgence, but out of bodily sacrifice. If you would live holy, de-

stroy that which is earthly, sensual, and lustful in you. —By C. E. Orr from "Helps to Holy Living"

The Kingdom of God

The nature of the Kingdom of God has no likeness to the kingdoms of men, for the Kingdom of God is "not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost" Rom. 14:17. The Kingdom of God cannot be likened to a worldly kingdom of worldly men. Jesus has made the truth clear concerning His Kingdom. He answered, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews. But now is my kingdom not from hence." John 18:36.

The kingdom of righteousness has Jesus as its King and Founder. "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16. The kingdom of righteousness will endure for all time, and can never be destroyed and will stand forever in eternity. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which never shall be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people. But it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms and it shall stand forever" Dan. 2:44.

None but the righteous inherit the kingdom of God. "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners shall inherit the kingdom of God."

They that enter the kingdom are those who are born of the spirit of God. 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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:5-7. One must have the spirit of God to enter or see the kingdom of God. "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." John 3:3.

There is a way to enter the kingdom of God and that way is a forgiveness of all sin—a translation. In Col. 1:13 we read, "Who [God] hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

Jesus is declared to be the King, for He is the one that reigns, "for He must reign till he hath put all enemies under His feet." 1 Cor. 15:25. "These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen and faithful." Rev. 17:14. "And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Rev. 19:16.

—Thomas J. Bowers

Astounding Facts About Tobacco

The annual tobacco expense in the United States would build four Panama Canals.

A leech is instantly killed by sucking the blood of an habitual smoker.

The tobacco habit was begun in America and has extended to practically every nation on earth.

The annual tobacco bill amounts to about twenty dollars per capita in America.

Over one million nine hundred thousand acres of American land are used to produce tobacco.

In Russia, Turkey, and Persia the use of tobacco has been at times punishable by death.

Babies have been killed by breathing the tobacco smoke with which a smoker filled an unventilated room.

Prussic acid is the only substance more poisonous than nicotine.

Tobacco has been known to produce a nervous condition similar to delirium tremens. Physicians call it tobacco tremens.

One person working steadily for one hundred years could not count enough silver dollars to pay America's tobacco bill for one year.

The Indians used to poison their arrows by dipping them into nicotine, thereby causing convulsions and often death from arrow wounds.

During nine year's study of students at Yale it was found that the lung capacity of non-smokers developed seven per cent more than that of smokers.

Statistics give the ratio of the number of smoking students having poor memory to those having poor memory who do not smoke as 38 to 1; lack of will power, 32 to 1.

About one-seventeenth of the people of the world are addicted to the use of tobacco. What the effect of this is to be upon the generation unborn needs no emphasis. The outlook to thinking people is appalling.

"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. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword."

BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll, \$1.75; Lesson cards 12c

December 6, 1964

RIGHTEOUS LIVING

Printed Portion Titus 1:15, 16; 2:1-10

Titus 1:15 Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

16 They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.

2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.

3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

6 Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded.

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

9 Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again:

10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

Memory Verse: And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful. Titus 3:14.

Practical Truth: Guard your actions, thoughts, and words that they be pure.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson today brings out the fact that a person's conscience can be defiled. In the face of this fact a person cannot go by his conscience unless it has been purged "from dead works to serve the living God" (Heb. 9:14) and he has been filled with the Holy Spirit (Rom. 9:1). A person's conscience must be trained by the Word of God. There must be a deep sense of what is right and what is wrong. So many today have a defiled conscience, having it "seared with a hot iron," (1 Tim. 4:2) and they still are trying to live by it. They profess to know God but their lives do not prove it.

Those who have a pure conscience will live up to verses two through ten in our lesson. Here we are given sound instructions to measure our lives by. When we read these verses and we are not measured up, our conscience will smite us and we will seek to live according to God's Word. We know that there is coming a day of judgment when every one will have to give an account of how he has lived in this world. We want to be ready so we live very carefully. We will be "adorning the doctrine, making attractive the way" of living for God in this world so that others might desire to be a child of God. Our actions, works, thoughts, speech, and hearts will be pure before the Lord.

December 13, 1964

ON BEHALF OF A SLAVE

Printed Portion Philemon 8-21

Philemon 8 Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient,

9 Yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

10 I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds:

11 Which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me:

12 Whom I have sent again: thou therefore receive him, that is, mine own bowels:

13 Whom I would have retained with me, that in thy stead he might have ministered unto me in the bonds of the gospel:

14 But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

15 For perhaps he therefore departed for a season, that thou shouldest receive him for ever;

16 Not now as a servant, but above a servant, a brother beloved, specially to me, but how much more unto thee, both in the flesh, and in the Lord?

17 If thou count me therefore a partner, receive him as my self.

18 If he hath wronged thee, or oweth thee ought, put that on mine account;

19 I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self beside.

20 Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord: refresh my bowels in the Lord.

21 Having confidence in thy obedience I wrote unto thee, knowing that thou wilt also do more than I say.

Memory Verse: There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28.

Practical Truth: When we have love in our hearts we can treat everyone right.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It seems that Onesimus had run away from his master, Philemon, to Rome. There he had found Paul. Paul was a prisoner, not only of the law, but looking beyond that, He knew that God withheld or permitted things to touch his life and therefore, he called himself a prisoner of Jesus Christ. Can we look at it as Paul did? Can we have faith to believe that God will get glory to Himself through the troubles that touch our lives?

The book of Philemon is a letter written to the master of Onesimus. Onesimus was saved but he still felt his responsibility toward his master. Paul asked Philemon to show mercy toward Onesimus because of the love that Philemon had toward Paul. He told Philemon to charge to his own account any debt that Onesimus might owe. He wanted him to receive Onesimus as he would receive him. This is the eternal truth of God's Word. We are not to count ourselves better than others. We are to "love thy neighbor as thyself" and treat others in that way.

Paul ends our lesson by speaking of the confidence that he had in Philemon. It is a wonderful thing to have confidence in others. Today it is sad that we live in a world of so much fraud. A person has to be careful in dealing with people of the world but it is wonderful to find those whom you know are doing the right because it is right to do it.

December 20, 1964

THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

Printed Portion Matthew 1:1; 18-25

Matt. 1:1 The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

Memory Verse: And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21.

Practical Truth: It is important that we believe in the virgin birth of Jesus.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The unprinted part of our lesson shows that the Old Testament scriptures were fulfilled that Jesus was a descendant of David. Although Joseph was not the father of Jesus he was his legal father, and the husband of Mary when Jesus was born (Isa. 7:14; 9:6, 7). Thank God for the fulfilment of His Word. When God decrees something to come to pass, it comes to pass.

Many in the world to-day are trying to deny the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. This is the very foundation of our faith in God and for remission of sins. Eve was first to be tempted and then Adam. God said of "her seed; it shall bruise thy head" (Gen. 2:15). Christ came here in a miraculous way. Luke records the thoughts of Mary and Matthew tells about Joseph's actions. Joseph was betrothed or engaged to Mary. The betrothal was a solemn contract, we are told, and could not be set aside without a written statement for a reason, yet the marriage had not taken place, which is made plain in the Scriptures. Not much is said about the agony they went through at the thought of breaking the betrothal but the Lord came to Joseph's rescue and he was willing to be led by the Holy Spirit, not knowing altogether the true meaning of it all. This is part of the price of salvation.

Notice the purpose of Jesus' coming. "For he shall save his people from their sins." When it is said that one cannot live free from sin, that is a denial of his purpose in coming. Praise God, Jesus will help us to live free from sin.

December 27, 1964

THE VISIT OF THE WISE MEN

Printed Portion Matthew 2:1-12

Matt. 2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of

Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Memory Verse: Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Isa. 60:1.

Practical Truth: Let each of us bow before Jesus today as the wise men did.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It is not known how many wise men came from the east but it is supposed it was three because they gave three gifts. We learn from historians (Josephus and others) that Herod died during the latter part of March, 4, A. D. How long Joseph, Mary, and Jesus had been in Egypt before the death of Herod we do not know. It is not given in the Bible when Jesus was born.

Josephus tells us that Herod was old and was afraid that someone would take his throne. Therefore our lesson shows us that he was very nervous and troubled about what the Wise Men had to say and their purpose in coming. Because of his wickedness all Jerusalem was troubled. They wondered what would be done next by him.

They had to turn to the Old Testament to find out where Jesus was to be born. God watched over that life of Jesus. God will watch over the life of Christ in our very souls if we will keep yielded to Him. The devil is out to kill that life so we need to be watchful and listen to the voice of the Spirit ever leading us in the paths of righteousness.

The Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus. We want to give gifts to Jesus, also. Let us think of the gold as being a gift of ourselves to Jesus. The frankincense is a sweet-smelling spice. That would be our praise and prayers. The third gift is a bitter spice called myrrh. This would be our troubles, sorrows, and cares. "Cast your care upon him for he careth for you." Jesus wants our all.

—Sister A. Marie Miles