

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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November, 1965

With Thankful Hearts

With thankful hearts O Lord we come
For Thy great love and care
That Thou so graciously hast given
Throughout another year.

From Thy great hand and bounteous store
We have been clothed and fed;
And blessings like the copious showers
Thou hast poured upon our head.

A good supply of fruit and grain,
In larder, shock and bin.
Lord, Thou hast withheld the rain
'Til these were garnered in.

With thankful hearts, O Lord, we come,
Thy mercies are as yore;
That Thou hast sent the clouds again
And let it rain some more.

That seed may germinate and grow,
Nor tarry in the dust,
For Thou hast said Thou sendest rain
On the wicked and the just.

Till life is passed we shall not cease
To praise Thee for Thy Son.
Of all the blessings Thou hast given,
He is the dearest One!

—Ulysses Phillips

INFLUENCE NEVER DIES

A young man who lay dying, said, "I want you to bury my influence with me." Alas, such cannot be done! The son of a wealthy man was scratching upon a show window with the diamond in his ring. A ragged newsboy said to him, "Don't do that." The rich boy replied, "I guess I have a right to do as I please." "Yes," answered the newsboy, "but you can't rub it out." And so it is. The life we live cannot be erased. Jesus can forgive, but the evil influence that was started flows on. —C. E. Orr

Greater Things For God

To do greater things for God we must first get a vision of greater things. The inventor first has a vision of the object which he wishes to attain before he begins the actual work of bringing it about. A wider vision then of things pertaining to the kingdom of God will naturally increase our activities.

There is a certain mountain in this country [India] from whose height we can look into five countries at a time. Before us lies Tibet with its huge walls and snow and ice, the highest mountains in the world, nearer are the valleys of Sikkim, Nepal, and Blutan, while to the south the plains of Bengal spread in a panorama before us. Upon my first visit to this spot, I cannot describe the inspiration, the awe, the yearnings which my heart experienced. A thousand Buddhist temples with their ten thousand priests chanting their doleful dirges, prayer bells ringing as a death knell to the Christless millions hid away among those fair hills and valleys; the eternal darkness which envelopes them only to be pierced by that glory which raised up Jesus from the dead—all these and more merged into one long wail which has risen from those plains for the last four thousand years, caused a feeling never to be forgotten by me. This, however, is only an illustration of a spiritual truth. As by climbing that one mountain, the natural vision is so widened, so there is a spiritual mountain to which all have access from whence all the kingdoms and nations of the world become merged into one great family, all with one eternal destiny before them. All redeemed by the same precious blood, but not all enlightened. Oh, how dark are some places on this dark map!

As we rise higher in the mount of prayer we rise above all boundaries, all distinctions. One writer who was deeply taught of God said, "The man who rises in God, by being brought into harmony with the divine nature, cannot be restricted by the limitation of name or country; he has a spirit concerned for the whole world." Still another says, "One feeling, with the manifestation of the Father to the soul, is that of vastness. The spiritual landscapes stretch away

into illimitable fields of vendure and beauty, the heart expands round and round the world, and mantles all nations and kindreds with loving prayer, and sweet compassionate and missionary zeal. A fervent missionary zeal is usually a good indication of spirituality and vice versa.

Some people's vision is very narrow. "God bless me, my wife, our son John, his wife, us four, no more," but such a selfish spirit and the Spirit of God cannot abide in the same heart. Others get a vision of their neighborhood; this is better, for how few there are at this time who even care for the sick and poverty stricken ones just at their doors. Still others enlarge their borders inasmuch as to interest themselves in their own country, yet when it comes to taking a flight across the ocean, their love is found to have a broken wing. These dear souls may have a measure of the Spirit, but they have not come to the view-point on the mount of God where they have a spirit and vision which beholds the needs of the world. This place can only be reached through a life of humble prayer and devotion to God, but all may attain to it. The farmer at the plow, the mother with her busy cares, the teacher, the office worker, can all ascend up and from the view point of the Father view the hungry multitudes.

From this place the soul may catch a glimpse of regions from the dark forests of Siberia to the golden borders of the Sudan, from the isles of the Pacific around to Gibraltar, from "Greenland's icy mountains" right down across the darkness of priest-ridden South America.

If you want to do greater things for God, get close enough to Him that you can hear His great heart throbs for this lost world. If you will do this you will come forth from your closet of prayer, determined to do all that lies in your power for Him.

People may at times and by different methods, be induced to give of their means to missions—yes; give of their surplus, and go on about as cold and indifferent to the cause as ever; but when they have seen the vision, the burden of the Lord, they will share their very life, their all. Their gold will be set forth accompanied by fervent loving prayer which will be effectual in pulling down the strong-holds of Satan, undoing the heavy burdens, and letting the oppressed go free. If every reader of this article could in some way be induced or persuaded to spend ten minutes every day in fervent prayer for missions, and keep praying, I know that salvation would flow down like rivers, the chains of Satan would be broken, the sick would be healed by the power of God, and thousands would come bowing at the feet of their Redeemer.

—Lottie L. Jarvis

ALL-DAY MEETING AT KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

Everyone is invited to come and be with us at Kalamazoo, Michigan on each fourth Sunday of the month. We are located on North 3rd and G Ave. For further information, write or call: Ralph Wilkins, 5914 Nevada Ave., Portage, Michigan. Or call 344-3440 in Kalamazoo.

A Scriptural View of Sects

In order to have a clearer understanding of the reformation which took definite form [after 1880 A.D.] in the work of D. S. Warner, as well as why he denounced the sectarian spirit in such scathing terms, let us take further notice of the evil of sect institutions.

In the first place, sects are confusing in that, while necessarily bad as factions, they are associated more or less with good. Many of them in their origin followed reform movements which apparently had divine sanction and were progressive in Christianity, and many of them have upheld truth which when preached was productive of good and brought salvation results. But here it should be noted, that whatever of salvation work has been accomplished has been directly by the Spirit of God in individuals, quite apart from any sectarian agency. It must be said, too, that whatever has resulted from Christian endeavor or influence and expenditure of means, whether in home or foreign lands, would have been in greater degree had the church back of these efforts been one spiritual whole instead of many sectarian divisions. So, when we come to apply analysis to this question of sects, we find that they are in no sense good. That they are called churches is but the part of confusion, for in the popular mind and in actual practice it tends to identify sects with the divine church, whereas in Scripture church always means something other than sects. Bodies that are differentiated by the isms of men are not, and never can be, Scripturally churches, for except in the local geographical sense the church takes no plural form. There is a distinction between the true people of God as constituting the divine church and the human institutions called churches that had divided them and placed them in unnatural and unscriptural relations. The true church of God, by virtue of comprising all the saved and therefore being a unit, places sects in comparison only as false churches. A commentator truthfully remarks, "False Christendom divided into very many sects is truly Babylon, that is, confusion." (Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown's Commentary.) Thus sects, because they are a hindrance to proper Christian activity and because they present a spectacle of religious confusion, professing to be churches when they can only be false, are bad.

Any body of Christian people that arises and fails to qualify on all principles that mark the church of God as a whole, that proceeds to human organization and rule instead of recognizing only Holy Spirit organization and government, at once limits itself and becomes thereby a sect, a false representation of the church. As a false church it is soon a corrupt institution in which human pride and every element contrary to God may exist and become active. The human will, intended for the rule of our bodies and things terrestrial, things which belong to man's province, becomes sadly out of place when exercised in any sphere or capacity that belongs to God. In such sphere it becomes a rival of God, a monster evil of

great proportions, a distinctive satanic spirit, always opposing the true work of God.

Beastly Character in Prophecy

This man rule, in a province to which God alone has rightful claim (for indeed it exercises the prerogative of God when it presumes to direct God's work and people), has characterized all Protestant sectism just as it did Roman Catholicism, only in milder aspect. Man rule is represented in prophetic symbols by beastly character, whether it applies to political or ecclesiastical government. Thus in the 7th chapter of Daniel we have the symbols of four great beasts, representing in their respective order four universal kingdoms, as follows: Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. These were temporal powers that ruled the world. When a mere temporal power is indicated the prophetic symbol used is a dumb beast. If a beast or any part of such symbol is represented as speaking or exercising human propensities, then the thing indicated is also an ecclesiastical power. Thus the fourth beast in Daniel 7, which represents the Roman Empire, exercises first as a dumb animal; but directly a particular horn appears among the horns of this beast, and is given eyes to see and a mouth to speak great things, which indicates ecclesiastical exercise, so that we have here Rome first as a heathen power, and then as a so-called Christian power speaking great things, making war against the saints, etc.

In Revelation 13 we find this same Roman Catholic power represented by a beast to whom was given "a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies" and power "to make war with the saints and to overcome them." These anthropomorphic qualities given to a beast indicate man rule in ecclesiastical matters, a thing which is at once blasphemy in God's sight, utterly obnoxious and foreign to him.

Protestantism in Revelation 13

Beginning with the 11th verse of Revelation 13, directly after the prophecy of the Roman Catholic hierarchic power, we have the spectacle of a second beast, having two horns like a lamb but speaking as a dragon. The fact that he speaks gives him the quality of ecclesiastical rule. In this beast we have man rule in the form of Protestantism. He has a lamb-like aspect instead of the vicious, threatening character of Rome in the days of her power; but he has the voice of a dragon, which betrays his diabolical spirit. He exercises as much power in the world as Roman Catholicism did before him. He deceives by doing "great wonders," displaying spiritual manifestations. He causes people to worship the first beast (Catholicism) by copying its standards and doing reverence to a human ecclesiastical system; and an image to the first beast is made whenever a sect is organized. He causes the image to "speak" (exercise man rule) and to persecute those who, instead of bowing to the sect image, are disposed to exercise in their spiritual freedom and give allegiance alone to God.

Thus we see so-called Protestantism as a particular form of beast religion, a distinctive spirit that animates and dominates the sectarian system. The beast element is the man rule. We are not speaking

merely of human instrumentality, which God certainly uses in his church when the will is wholly submitted to him and susceptible to his Spirit, but of that exercise and dominance in ecclesiastical matters which, as apart from God, is distinctly human. Such prevails more or less as a system in all sects, gives occasion for jealousy, pride, and emulation, wants to be let alone, and opposes any reform that threatens it. This is the element which naturally becomes disturbed at the preaching of the truth that exposes it, and which became a persecuting power against Bro. Warner and all who executed the divine judgment against false religion. In this deceptive form of evil covering almost four hundred years Satan has had his seat. When the present reformation shall have resulted in bringing God's people out of sectarian divisions and placing them on the whole-church basis, Satan, driven to some new project, will muster the Gog and Magog forces in a last conflict against the saints, which shall end with the utter destruction of those forces by the judgment fires.

—A. L. Byers in "The Birth of a Reformation"

A Prayer for Sinners

O God, let people everywhere,
All nations and each race,
Behold the coming Judgment Day
When all shall see Thy face.

The day when time will be no more,
When all man's works shall fail,
And all have gone to their long home
Where prayers cannot prevail.

'Twill be too late then, to repent,
When God says, "It is done!"
And oh how sad will be the cry—
Of souls who've sealed their doom.

They'll go down to a lost, dark world,
Unknown, without a friend.
Of all the folks who here were dear,
Not one will help you then.

O souls, the picture of this plight,
Allow your mind to see;
The suff'ring then, without an end—
The loss in hell-bound misery.

God has for you a precious plan;
He made a way to heav'n.
O come to Him now while there's time,
Repent, and be forgiv'n.

Prepare for that coming Judgment shock,
On that left hand be not seen.
Come to Jesus, the cleansing fount,
Through His blood be made clean.

God in His mercy calls for you;
He died for one and all.
Please turn to Him and humbly bow
And heed His final call!

—Gladys Cashio

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"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.

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

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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.

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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.

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In the October issue of this paper an order blank envelope was inserted in each copy with spaces for ten names and addresses of friends and neighbors whom you want to receive the "Faith and Victory" paper for three months, beginning with the January, 1966 issue. Request more order blank envelopes if needed, and send in all the names and addresses as soon as possible. This offer will expire Dec. 8, 1965. A premium will be given for every group of ten names and \$1.00 remittance. This liberal offer is made possible by the free-will offerings of the saints and lovers of the truth. This is your opportunity to be a missionary, aiding in your part of the Great Commission to the Church to carry the whole gospel to the whole world!

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(The above listed retail prices are for the information of those who may want to purchase any of these items separate from this special offer.)

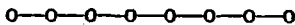
GOSPEL BROADCAST ON LARGER STATION

The Evening Light Radio Broadcast will be on XERB each Sunday evening, beginning October 3, 1965, from 6:00 to 6:15, 1090 on your radio dial.—R. Floyd Wilson
1439 Wendell Way, Yuba City, Calif.

EDITORIALS



The response of our readers in mailing in the lists of names for the special three-months subscriptions is very encouraging, and we want to express our appreciation to every one who is co-operating so faithfully in this gospel extension effort. The special subscription envelopes are arriving daily, and we want the one that was put in your paper last month, so don't disappoint us and the Lord—just take a few minutes and write ten names and addresses of your friends, relatives, and neighbors, enclose \$1.00 and mail to this office. **Please keep them coming**, as it brings pleasure to us and the Lord in anticipation of reaching several thousand new people with the gospel message during the months of January, February, and March of 1966. Write us for more subscription order blank envelopes to fill out with additional names, or type, or write plainly the lists of names on a sheet of paper and mail them in promptly. A premium of your choice will be mailed to you for each list of ten names and addresses. Be a home missionary in this manner, and the Lord will bless you abundantly for your labor of love for souls. Please send in all the names by **December 8**.



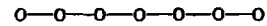
The Apostle Paul exhorted the Philippian to humility in these words: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name." Phil. 2:5-9.

The Lord expects his people to follow his example and pattern of condescension, to have the same mind to humble themselves to the place of a servant one to another. None so high has gone so low in the depths of humility as our Savior, even unto the death of the cross. He disregarded his reputation—what people thought of Him—and humbled Himself to be despised and forsaken by all the world, willing to submit Himself unto His Father who would judge righteously. That same mind must be in the child of God in order to render acceptable service. God dwells with the humble and the contrite. The truly humble soul receives abundance of divine grace. That secret, low place is unknown to the proud in heart.

The most humble saints I have ever known were those who did not know or recognize that they were humble. Their acts of humility attested to this grace. When one begins to tell how humble he is, he is losing or has lost true humility. Boasting in one's self or his own merits is a sign of pride, the opposite of humility.

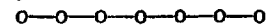
One of the many paradoxes in the Scriptures is that the way up is down. The road to greatness in God's kingdom is to be little, even as a little child. Jesus said, "But he that is greatest among you shall

be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted." To be truly great is to be great in humility. God wants no flesh to glory in His presence.



God is making the gospel literature from this office a blessing to many souls, and the truth is reaching those who have never heard it before. Some who had known the truth years ago are rejoicing to find the people of God who are still holding up the Bible standard on all lines. They have not removed the "ancient landmarks" which their fathers have set.

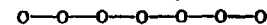
Some write us that they wish they had in their city a congregation of old-time saints with whom to worship. Honest souls are sick and tired of compromise, heresies and formality. The voice from heaven still cries: "Come out of her, my people that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4. Thank God for those who are hearing the call and declaring their freedom from "Babylon."



In answer to prayer the water level of the recent major flood here in Guthrie stopped at five inches below the floor level of the Lord's Printshop, for which we certainly thank the Lord. The muddy water did get 12 inches deep in our garage and living room just east of the office building which required much cleaning and re-papering of the room.

The chapel, dining hall, and other buildings on the campground were in over four feet of flood water, which necessitated a major cleaning operation. A number from other congregations responded to the call to help the local members in the clean-up, which was a very dirty job, to say the least. This response was very much appreciated.

This flood has halted the plans to enlarge the chapel for the annual meetings, at least, temporarily. Some are strongly in favor of relocating on higher ground. It appears that the plans approved at last campmeeting and the later trustee meeting will need to be reconsidered at a general meeting of the Oklahoma saints, perhaps at the coming winter Assembly meeting here at Guthrie. Pray about this matter, that God's plan will definitely be made known.



The heresy of no-cleansing in sanctification as a second definite work of grace, which arose in 1898, was then denounced and renounced by the Church of God reformation, and the true Church has never accepted such erroneous teachings. Is it any wonder that people become blind to the truth when they have not been cleansed from the carnal nature?



The "Evening Light Songs" book is temporarily out of stock. We are in the process of reprinting it and should be in stock again by Dec. 1st. The orders received will be filled and shipped as soon as they are ready.

Books on vital subjects, which are greatly needed in these days of modernism, will be reprinted as the Lord directs and opens the way. Pray for us.

OBITUARIES



Orrin Wade Sidener, son of John Noah and Claudia L. Sidener, was born near St. Elmo, Ill. on Nov. 2, 1898, and departed this life near Chandler, Okla. on Sept. 25, 1965 at the age of 66 years, 10 months and 23 days.

After he graduated from high school, he went to Anderson, Ind. and worked in the Gospel Trumpet home. For the past 28 years he has been caring for his blind mother.

He had been on an extensive trip through Illinois visiting relatives and friends and was returning to his home at Shawnee, Okla. He stopped at Chandler, Okla. to spend the night with relatives. When they went to call him for breakfast the next morning, they found him dead. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

His father preceded him in death April 16, 1934 at St. Elmo, Ill. He is survived by his mother, Sister Claudia L. Sidener, of the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Oklahoma; one cousin, several great cousins, a host of friends and saints.

Funeral services were conducted at Brown Funeral Home, St. Elmo, Ill. by Bro. Charles R. Smith. Interment was made in the Sidener Cemetery, St. Elmo, Ill.

Lucille Jackson was born March 11, 1929 in Akron, Ohio to William and Duellie Jackson who preceded her in death.

She was saved several years ago and lived a consistent Christian life. She was a member of the Evening Light Church of God at Ninth Avenue, Akron, Ohio, and was treasurer of the Sunday school.

Lucille was patient during her many hours of agonizing pain, and even as the outer man was perishing, the inner man was so renewed that many who came to encourage her left encouraged by her. Her concern for her family was evident to the end. Often during her illness she could be heard singing the praises of God and stating her love for the Lord.

Lucille passed to her reward August 25, 1965 at the age of 36. She leaves to mourn their loss four sisters, Mrs. Thelma Christopher, Mrs. Edna Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Annie Stills, and Dorothy Jackson; one brother, William Jackson, Jr.; stepmother, Mrs. Mittie Jackson, Boley, Okla., six nieces, two nephews, a host of other relatives and many friends.

Lucille, we miss you now, our hearts are sore; as time goes by, we'll miss you more. We humbly submit our will into the Divine will of our loving Savior and Lord, knowing "He doeth all things well." —By the family.

I would like to express our sincere thanks to all the saints who so faithfully stood by us during the long vigil of Lucille's illness. Your many ways of encouragement will never be forgotten. —Dorothy Jackson

Myron Jay Forbes was born March 8, 1883 in South Dakota, and departed this life September 18, 1965 at Loranger, Louisiana at the age of 82 years, six months, and nine days.

On August 2, 1925 he was united in marriage to Lula Flynn. There were no children born to this union. Sister Lou preceded him in death on July 30, 1959. He moved from California to Louisiana that year and made his home there in the Loranger community until the time of his death.

He was saved and accepted Christ and the truth of the Evening Light Reformation in 1923 and was faithful

unto death. He was in the Los Angeles congregation for some time and later worshipped with the Glendale congregation of saints. He was very active and instrumental in getting the facilities built on the saints' camp ground at Pacoima, California and his finger prints are on many things there.

Bro. Myron was a good, moral man even before he was saved, and like many of that kind, it was difficult for him to feel his need of God and of repenting of sin and being born again. Two or three nights before he was saved he had a dream in which an old man and a young man appeared at some distance from him and were coming toward him. As they came they were singing, and they came on to where he was and passed on by still singing as they went by and continued singing until they had passed out of range on the other side of him. The song they sang was, "I gave, I gave my life for thee; What hast thou given for me?" and they were looking straight at him as they went by. He awoke from his dream and God was talking to his heart. The two men in his dream represented to him God, the Father, and Jesus Christ, the Son. He came to realize that Jesus had given His all for him and he was giving nothing in return. Two or three nights later he went to where the saints were holding a meeting and gave his heart to Jesus that night.

Oh, that many more who do not realize their need of being born again could hear those words and see that vision!

He is survived by one brother, Chelsea Forbes, Norco, California; one sister, Mrs. Vernon Miller of Clovis, New Mexico; a number of nieces and nephews and many saints and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Thomas Funeral Home in Hammond, La. with Bro. and Sister Ray Key and Ostis B. Wilson officiating. The committal service in the saints' cemetery at Oak Grove, Loranger, La. was conducted by Bro. Max Williamson. —Ostis Wilson

(Editor's note: The following letter, which was requested to be printed after the above obituary, was written by Bro. Forbes to his youngest brother, Owen, about three months before this brother was found unconscious in his hotel room, passing away in a few hours in that condition. As far as the family knew, he had not prepared to meet God. But Bro. Myron was always glad that he made the phone call and wrote this letter, clearing himself of his brother's soul. May every unsaved soul heed this warning, lest you also be cut off suddenly without hope.)

Pacoima, Calif., Sept. 26, 1955—Dear Owen: Just a line or two tonight. After our talk on the phone, I felt you might think I was a little harsh with you about the way you live and felt I was bawling you out. I surely didn't mean to do that. You know I have never preached to you and I don't ever expect to, but I have been wondering if you were not depending on death-bed repentance to save you. So I wanted to explain to you that is not safe. Very few get saved that way, and none ever do that depends on it. The Bible teaches us that no one can get saved at just any time, but only when the Lord is calling or convicting them, and that is, or may be, a very few times in your lifetime. So it is a dangerous thing to not get saved when the Lord calls, for you may never get another call, and that will mean one is, or will be, lost forever.

I hope you understand this and will not get offended at me, for you know I am interested in you and would do anything to help you.

Now we would always be glad for you to call and come when you feel like it. Your bud, —Myron

Bro. Willie Anthony House, born Oct. 18, 1893, near Crescent, Okla., departed this life Sept. 26, 1965 at Wichita, Kansas.

He found the truth at Dover, Okla. where he was a member until death.

He leaves to mourn his passing five daughters, three sons, 12 grandchildren, a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted near Crescent, Okla. by Bro. Lewis Williams. Text: Rev. 14:13.

HAMMOND, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING

The fall Assembly meeting of the Church of God at Hammond, La. will be held, the Lord willing, November 21 to November 28, inclusive.

Sleeping quarters and food will be furnished on the free-will offering plan as usual. The Lord gave us a wonderful assembly meeting last year, and we are looking for Him to give an outpouring of His Spirit and blessings again this year. We urge everyone who can to attend this meeting.

We are expecting the Lord to send in His Spirit-filled, Holy Ghost-led ministers to preach His wonderful truth. For further information, write or call Bro. T. H. Coffey, pastor, P. O. Box 1177, Hammond, La. 70401. Phone A. C. 504 345-2412.

Prayer Requests

I have been exercising faith for various diseases all at one time, so it has not been easy, it's a real battle. God gave me Psa. 30:1, 2 and I must stand there and trust, rest and wait patiently for him. He told me to claim victory and refuse to listen to false symptoms. I have been anointed. I need prayer that I keep the ground that God has given me.

—Mrs. Blanche Romshe

- Mo.—Pray for a five-year-old girl who doesn't talk.
- Ky.—Sinus, kidney trouble.
- W. Va.—Woman dating a married man.
- Ill.—Shingles with severe stinging and burning.
- Mich.—Severe side and back pains.
- Fla.—Urgent unspoken request.
- Va.—Bad stomach trouble, nearly blind.
- Pray for a home that the devil is trying to break up.
- It's a very serious condition for the children.
- Ind.—Palsy. Urgent unspoken request.
- Tenn.—Bronchitis, arthritis.
- Ohio—Desires a rich experience of a godly life.
- S. Car.—Sick father.
- Ohio—Relatives in double marriage with a profession.
- Okla.—Gall bladder trouble, high blood pressure.
- Husband not saved, afflicted, financial problems.
- Mo.—Varicose veins.

Our God is still on His throne. He still heals his children. We must remember Jesus did not bear those stripes in vain. "With His stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" John 15:7. This is our promise to stand upon. Praise the Lord! Ask, believe, and then receive. Act like you have received. "Faith is believing the promise is true." We can't strain up to healing, nor pull it down. We must calmly, with simple child-like faith believe and receive.

—Sister Marie Miles

SCRIPTURE TEXT CHRISTMAS CARDS — Order yours **EARLY** to avoid possible delay in the final rush! Box of 21 postpaid for \$1.00.

NATIONAL CAMPGROUND REPORT

Once again we take the opportunity to greet all the saints and keep you informed of the progress and needs of the National campgrounds at Neosho (Monark Springs) Missouri.

Those who were in attendance at the last campmeeting can well attest to the fact that the presence of God was felt and there was much victory in the camp of the saints. The meeting was very well attended with many there for the first time. The value of the meeting was recorded in heaven, along with the many other meetings, which have produced much eternal good.

As was brought out in the general business meeting, there always seems to be considerable work and expense to maintaining facilities for such a large assembly.

Those in attendance at the meeting this year were able to see the mobile home which has been purchased to provide living quarters for the caretakers.

Although the trailer has been paid for and the title is clear, money had to be transferred from funds allocated for other purposes. These funds were transferred with permission from the donors, with the understanding that the funds would be replenished and reserved for its original intended use. Since there is still a considerable sum required to meet these conditions it was agreed that the best plan for meeting this obligation would be for each congregation to assume the responsibility of sending a freewill contribution as the Lord may lead. Some congregations have already responded, for which we take this opportunity to thank you if we have overlooked writing a letter of thanks. We are aware of the heavy responsibilities upon the saints and know the Lord requires just a reasonable service. However, since there are still some funds required to modernize the trailer (water and septic system) we trust that these means will be provided to allow the work to proceed.

It was also noted at the business meeting that there exists a definite need for improvement of tape recorder facilities. The responsibility for this project was assumed by Bro. Earl Bliss, 2709 Mounds Rd., Anderson, Ind. All contributions for this project should be sent directly to his address.

Work Days on National Campground

Finally, we are planning work days on the following dates for the purpose of installing the septic system, planting trees, and general fall cleanup and winter preparation. These dates are as follows: Sat., Nov. 6; Sat., Nov. 13; and Sat., Nov. 20. These are the first three week ends of November, leaving the Thanksgiving holiday free. Let us all try to make at least one weekend, if possible, and be "workers together."

—Kenneth Probst, Business Manager
P. O. Box 174, Carthage, Mo.

MEXICO MISSIONARY REPORT

Calexico, Calif.—Our dear Marie and co-workers in the print shop and all the saints, greetings of much love to you in Jesus' lovely name: Praise His holy name forever! He has been so good to us.

We want to thank all of you again for the much love shown to us through your prayers and offerings given to us for the work here at Baja Mission, Lower Calif., Old Mexico. Edith Cole and I are enjoying working among the needy Mexicans here in Patz Cuaro. This little "Ejido" near Mexicali, Old Mexico, is surely alive with many, many teeming souls bound for eternity. Friday we visited in about five homes, inviting them to

services and giving out tracts and praying for the sick. Then Saturday after children's classes we visited again, traveling about 35 miles across the hot desert land, accompanied by some of the native workers. We rejoiced over the good crowd in services on Sunday. In the gathering were some new faces. I do hope they come again. On Sunday is the day we pray more for souls to be saved. After services Sunday we did some more visiting, giving out tracts and talking to ones about their soul's need.

We want to tell you about one home we had the privilege of visiting. The "Casa" house was made of cactus stocks and mud. The roof was covered with limbs and grass. We sat on a bed made of sticks with only a few covers over the hard sticks. Most of the family sleep on the dirt floor. The small amount of water they use is carried in buckets from a canal. Many of them pick cotton all day in the hot desert sun for the bare necessities of life. In this home was only one light made by a rag placed in a bottle containing coal oil. This gave a flickering, smoking dim light. They wash their clothes in a small amount of water kneeling by a small tub on the ground. These people seem very happy, although they have a hard life. They ran out to meet us, inviting us to stay for supper.

One of these Mexican women whom we contacted had been visited by us before, and God had gloriously healed her of a disease which caused her leaders to draw her whole body out of shape. We gave her some clothes and encouraged her to come to meeting. Last Sunday she was in services, and we are praying for her and others to be saved.

We had prayer with these natives. For supper they served us hot tortillas and beans mixed with very hot chili, which burned our mouths. The fresh dates from nearby trees were delicious, but the fried pig skins and dried fish were hard to eat. The goat cheese was good, and they make it themselves.

We are much encouraged in the work for God here. We surely want to do the will of our heavenly Father and feel deeply the need of your prayers.

Love and prayers to all the saints, —Carrie Sheppard

LETTER FROM THE C. C. CARVERS

Nigeria, Africa—Oct. 6—Dear Ones: Little did we think when we were in Pacoima, Calif. last Oct. 5, for Sister Opal Wilson's funeral, that a year from that date we would be here. But we are here by the grace of God; and by your prayers and God's mercy, we are keeping well. How we praise the Lord for what he is doing for us daily!

It seems that now as it is almost time to go home, we are learning how we can be of help to them. All of this time we have gone from one Mission to another for "welcoming ceremonies," mostly one every day, and sometimes twice a day. At most of these Cecil has been able to bring a message since Nse has learned that he wanted to. Otherwise, they had their service in their own way; read a long sheet welcoming us, and outlining their needs to us, and they are many, and then bringing their tray of fruits and other gifts and a rooster. Cecil has been able to have several talks with their teachers and elders, and they seemed eager to accept his teaching and answers to their questions.

They seem to have great faith in the Lord. A young girl was brought to the Mission soon after we arrived. She stayed out there for a week or more, first unconscious, then blind and partly paralyzed. She is now well. Two nights ago they brought an unconscious woman in a basket. The drum beating was real loud that night. Today

the woman and her little baby were over here at the house. Bro. Brownson Udeme, one of the preachers, told me of a woman who was in the congregation tonight. Last year she was in the swamp about two miles from here. She came face to face with a tiger. She said, "I command you in the name of Jesus to leave." The tiger ran off. Today Bro. Etuk's oldest child, an eleven-year-old boy, came here sick. He was unconscious in the afternoon out at the mission, and while they were praying for him, he sat up. One of their requests is a place where their sick can be cared for. We see that when they get desperately sick they are brought here for prayer. There are no accommodations out there, for their care, only the bare benches, yet they are able to go home. I don't know who feeds them, unless the Etuks divide with them. I have sent food out several times, and I almost always make a big pot of cocoa and oatmeal in the mornings; and later on in the day make extra of what we cook and take to the Etuks. They nearly always have several sitting out in the back yards where they cook in pots over the fires.

The fame of this Mission has gone out 'round about, how the Lord is blessing in healing the sick. They are very faithful in praying for the sick. At 4 o'clock this morning we heard them praying and again at 8:30 o'clock. When we first came the village (Upkom) elders came with a long letter welcoming us; telling how they had given the land here for a mission, and how this mission had been a help to their community, and promising more land if they needed it.

Another request is for a maternity home, all staffed and equipped. One letter said many of their mothers and babies died in childbirth. And you would not wonder why when you see their poverty. In fact, I wonder how so many survive. They do not know much, if anything, about sanitation, yet their children at the missions look healthy and fine. At most of the missions the request is for a new building. These buildings are made of bamboo canes stuck in the ground with palm fronds tied to them. Then mud is plastered on each side. The floors are made of sand wet down with water until quite hard, and charcoal covering the sand. The roofs are thatched, made of palm fronds stitched together and laid over squares of crossed and tiered bamboo canes like our largest fishing poles. The beam across the front of our porch and the posts at the sides are large bamboo canes perhaps three inches in diameter. These thatched roofs last about two years and have to be replaced. They are replacing the roof on the mission here this morning. The walls of many of the missions are cracked. One small mission asked for windows and doors.

One young preacher asked for a bicycle. His home is 13 miles from his mission. Cecil is talking of granting his request himself as soon as he can. (A bicycle here costs about \$60.) Now, this morning there is another young man who needs a bicycle.

Nse Umanah, the Field Secretary, needs a house. He and his little wife live in a small room in Bro. Etuk's home. The driver, Patience, and his wife live in another room. Bro. Etuk's brother and a number of children are there; a sister also and a number of orphan children he has taken in, more than 17 people in all. It is no wonder Bro. Etuk left home and came here when he became ill. Nse tells me the house we are in now costs around \$75 or \$80. He would like to have one with a corrugated zinc roof which would not have to be replaced, and that would cost around \$180. This little house has a set-in front porch in the middle of the house and a door opening into a probably 12' x 12' room. Off the front porch on either side is a small room about 10' x 10', and a door opening

into a smaller back room on our side of the house. On the other side a small room opens out of the large one. Nse's idea is to have a part of his home for the missionaries when they come. I told him the rooms should not be lived in, but saved for the missionaries. We were so grateful to move into little clean rooms, although the walls were made of mud and the floors were dirt. We are blest to have linoleum squares that cover a part of the rooms, and some matting over that, but at that we take much dirt to bed with us. If missionaries do come it would be good to have their own place with a concrete floor and a good roof.

Good bye for now, and may God bless each and every one is our prayer.
—Cecil and May Carver

NIGERIAN MISSIONARY REPORT

In a letter dated Sept. 30 from Bro. Nse Umanah, mission secretary in Nigeria, he reports that the presence of Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver among them was very encouraging and that "everybody enjoys them." He is their interpreter, and is concentrating his efforts in serving them in every possible way. For that reason he expressed his regret that he did not have the time to produce the report of the Mission activities for the month of September.

In the same letter he informed us of the physical condition of the mission superintendent, Bro. B. U. Etuk, who had suffered a stroke in his right side the first part of September. In answer to prayer he is definitely improved, but is not yet "able to write or speak properly." Bro. Nse requested the continued prayers of the church for Bro. Etuk's complete recovery. This is a very urgent request, as he certainly needs a well body in order to direct the mission work.

It became necessary for Bro. Etuk to purchase a new car for the mission work to replace the Volkswagen that was damaged in a recent flood. The new car is a Taunus, a small one built by Ford in West Germany. They still owe about \$600.00 on it, and are asking the church to pray that this obligation will be met.

Bro. Ostis Wilson wrote me that in making contacts with many people during the summer he has misplaced the names and addresses of one or two saints who desired to support and sponsor a native minister in Nigeria. Now if any of those have not already had a letter from him about this project, you may know that your address was misplaced and you should contact him about the matter. His address is: Ostis B. Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif.

No doubt many of our readers have been receiving the mimeographed reports of the Carvers through their son, Lynn, who has been mailing them out to all those who had requested them. This service has been appreciated.

In addition to these reports, we have received three or four very interesting letters directly from them. They have accumulated many varied and strange experiences which they will never forget. Their hearts were touched and moved with compassion, seeing the poverty of the people, and the extreme spiritual darkness that prevailed in that heathen land where millions of people grope in ignorance and superstition.

Oh, who will consecrate to meet the challenge in Nigeria? Right now there is an urgent need for resident missionaries in that great field. Who will answer the call?

Returning from Nigeria at the expiration of their 28-day visa, Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver arrived at Amsterdam in Europe on Oct. 16. Prior to that date we had contacted them in Nigeria about making an extra trip

to India on their return home to investigate the promising prospects of opening a mission work in that great field. Bro. Carver felt burdened to answer this "Macedonian" call. They decided that Sister Carver would fly on home from Amsterdam. Accordingly, the two reluctantly parted company there, and she arrived safe and sound at the home of her son near Washington, D. C. on Oct. 18. Soon after arriving there she phoned us expressing her appreciation to the Lord for a safe and prosperous trip by the will of God, and asked us to extend her love and thanks to all the saints for their prayers for them on this missionary trip. She also requests special prayer for Bro. Carver's safety in the long journey to India and return home.

Bro. Carver remained in Amsterdam, and is scheduled to leave there on Oct. 20, by air, bound for Delhi, India. From there he will have to travel several hundred more miles to reach his destination. It is not known how long he will remain in India, but we are asking all the saints to pray that God will give him good success on this special mission, and that those hungry souls who are calling for the gospel will be greatly benefited. We trust that this personal contact will open the door for a permanent mission base from which the whole gospel will be carried to India's millions. Will you pray to that end?

Let us "sow beside all waters" and pray that the gospel message to all the world will not return void. Adversities will come, but "he that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap." Eccl. 11:4. "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Dan. 12:3. May God help all of us to be faithful in His service.

—Lawrence Pruitt

The Oklahoma Assembly meeting will be held here at Guthrie, Okla. on Dec. 24 to Jan. 2, inclusive. All are welcome. Particulars will appear in the next issue.

TESTIMONIES

Calif.—Dear Readers: We know that God is real. God is great. God is love. God is merciful. God is true. "God is a spirit; and they that worship him, must worship him in Spirit and in truth." God is holy, God is everlasting, God is all-wise. "For our God is a consuming fire." Heb. 12:29. "God is mine and I am His." "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." John 3:16.

I thank the living God for his interest in me that through the death and resurrection of his son, Jesus, that he granted me repentance of my sins, cleansed and washed me from my sins in his own blood, sanctified me by his power and healed my body as I had need from time to time. He gives me love for all his people and a compassion for the world of sinners, and I am thankful for the love that the different ones have shown to us by their letters and offerings. May God bless every one is our prayer. Time is flying and we are passing on one by one. It will be a glorious and happy experience when we shall be permitted to see our blessed Redeemer face to face. Just one glimpse of him in glory will all the toils of life repay. All sighs shall cease, and all tears shall be wiped away. He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief and he knows how to succor those who are tempted. He knew no sin and he had no sickness but he knew how to comfort Mary and Martha in their bereavement caused by the death of their brother, Lazarus.

He knew how and had the power and ability to comfort the parents of the 12-year-old maid that died and, praise God, he knew how to comfort his disciples after his death and resurrection. He is a friend to all who will obey him. The test of friendship with him is obedience. He said, "Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you." John 15:14. He is no respecter of persons, but will receive all who will come to him.

We want to thank all who have remembered us with cards, letters and offerings. Wife and I are both well in body, and pressing on for the reward at the end of life's day. We covet your prayers. —Ulysses Phillips
1240 Orange St., San Bernardino, Calif.

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Mich.—Greetings to the saints scattered abroad: I am so thankful for the wonderful plan of salvation, and that it included me, too. Jesus died for us all. Praise His name! I came to the Lord twenty years ago last August, repenting of all my sins. God freely forgave me. I have been trying, by the help of the Lord, to please Him in all that I do and say. God in His mercy has been with me and taught me many precious lessons along the way.

The Lord has been dealing with me for some time about sending a testimony in for the "Faith and Victory" paper, but I have neglected doing so. This morning while in prayer, I was asking God to heal an affliction on my oldest boy's ankles. God brought to my mind that I hadn't sent my testimony in about Dale's foot. Being thus reproved, I hastened to obey the Lord.

Last year, at the beginning of the school year, Dale had an affliction on his ankle. It seemed to be a running sore. The devil made his suggestions as to what it might have been. It was discouraging, because it would heal in one place, then break out again right next to the old sore. It started on the inside of his ankle, and before it was healed it went clear around the back of his foot and on the other side. God helped us to hold on to Him for the complete healing. Praise His name!

Many times I have been healed by the power of God. One time my ear itched so badly that I took a bobby pin to scratch it. It went too far in my ear, resulting in a bad earache. I couldn't sleep that night and walked the floor with pain. The Lord showed me to exercise faith. I went back to bed with my ear still hurting. I asked God to help me to sleep and I slept until morning. By then the pain was gone and I had a slight ringing in my ear. Truly we are serving a mighty God, one who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think.

About 12 years ago I got terribly sick. I thought it might be appendicitis. I didn't go to a doctor so I'm not sure what it was. We don't really have to know, as long as Jesus knows and He is able to heal us. I know I was very sick. I had it settled, live or die, I was going to trust the Lord who is the author and finisher of our faith. My husband's aunt was staying with us to help out with the family, etc. She knew the stand I had taken and was afraid I was going to die. She really got in earnest and prayed with me. About twenty minutes or so after I started to vomit some terrible green stuff. From that time on I started to get better. Glory to God! My husband's aunt wasn't used to things like this, and I believe it was for her benefit that God did a mighty miracle.

About three years ago my husband suffered a nervous breakdown along with other ailments, so that he was unable to work. When the saints heard of this they really helped in every way, financially and through their prayers. It is so precious to be in the family of God.

Truly they do carry each other's burdens. Since then God has helped Ralph in a wonderful way. He is able to work in our garage, doing mechanic work. God has been faithful to supply our needs. Time would fail me to enumerate all the things God has done for me and my family.

Dear ones, we are serving a wonderful God! He will never leave us nor forsake us. Some times the way gets dark and dreary, but remember the sun is shining just behind the clouds. Let us stay true to Him through every trial, knowing that there is a crown of glory waiting for those who stay faithful to the end. If we want to wear a crown, we must be willing to bear the cross that awaits us. Jesus always carries the heaviest end of the cross. Jesus suffered all that we might have eternal glory.

I surely do enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It is really a source of encouragement to my heart. Please pray for me that I will be found doing the Lord's will at all times. I truly want to draw closer to God in my daily living. Pray also for my children that they will get saved and give their lives to the Lord.

Your sister in Christ,

—Dorothy Wilkins

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Mo.—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings to each one of you in the precious name of Jesus: I am writing my testimony to thank the Lord for the way He has touched my body. I had been having trouble with a hurting in my back since before and during campmeeting. I didn't consider it too much because it hadn't been real bad. Then lately it started bothering me real bad at times. I would pray and get some relief for awhile, but it would get real bad again.

On the night of September 28, I had the privilege of going to Coffeyville, Kansas, to the meeting that was being held there. Just before we left, my back started hurting real bad, so I decided I would be anointed and prayed for. After meeting, I told Bro. Curtis Williams I wanted to be prayed for, so he and others prayed for my healing. I knew the Lord was going to heal me and I felt relief immediately after they got through praying. However, the devil really started working hard on me, and by the time I got home that night I could hardly walk, the pain was so severe. I know the Lord let this come to test my faith. That night I told the Lord I knew He had healed me and that I knew it was just the devil trying to make me think I wasn't healed. I told Him I was just going to trust Him and asked Him to keep my faith strong. Praise the Lord for the way he touched my back that night! The next morning I felt the relief in my back. Thank the Lord! There are still times when the devil tries to make me think I'm not healed, but I know I am. Thank the Lord! Once the Lord heals of something, one never has to worry about it again. I told the Lord when He healed me I would write my testimony to the paper. I don't want to fail to thank the Lord for His healing touch to me and for His many blessings. Pray for me, saints, that I'll grow stronger in the Lord every day and be what He wants me to be. I surely give Him all the praise and glory for healing me. I know He has just what we need in every way, if we will trust Him completely. Pray for me. —Lana Lasiter

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Mo.—Dear Saints, greetings of love to all the dear children of God. I am still saved and much encouraged to press the battle on. If there were no battles, there would be no victories. The dear Lord is so wonderful. He has done so much for us. Surely it pays to live for the Lord. We have found him a present help in time of need. Our trials may be many, but if we compare them with the blessings we will see there is no comparison.

Each trial proves a blessing if we come out with victory. The Word says that when we are tried we will come forth as gold. I have had many trials and afflictions, but the dear Lord has been with us through them all. Thank the dear Lord, though it be trials or afflictions, we can still have the peace and joy of salvation in our hearts.

We want to thank the dear ones everywhere for their prayers for our daughter. She isn't saved but she knows the children of God get answers to their prayers. It was wonderful how the Lord answered prayer in her behalf. The Lord is still in the healing business. About five years ago my daughter had a small lump come on her neck. She had it removed and was told it was cancerous and that she would have to have another operation soon. We began to pray and send requests in to the saints. The doctors decided she didn't need the other operation. We knew it was in answer to prayer and she did, too. That was five years ago. Then during the Guthrie, Okla. campmeeting we got a letter from her saying they had found another lump. Oh, the dark pictures the enemy did paint for us! The doctors told her she needed several pints of blood and that it would be a very serious operation. She said she was afraid to go for that operation without prayer. We sent requests for prayer and prayed and asked the dear Lord to dissolve that lump. When they made the incision, they could not find anything. Praise our God forever. The doctors told her she was well, had no more worries. What a mighty God we serve! There's nothing too hard for him. "Casting all your cares on Jesus, sickness, sorrows, grief or pain. Oh, believe His blessed promise, There is healing in His name." Thank God, He can heal the sinsick hearts, too. My daughter asked me to thank you for your prayers. Remember us in prayer, —Sister Vena Sell

La.—Dear Saints: I want to send in my testimony for what the Lord has done for me. I am bothered a great deal with arthritis. I had such a bad spell last week that I could hardly walk at times. Some of the saints came in and had prayer for me. That was Friday night and by Tuesday I was as well as usual. I know the Lord can clear up all this trouble and I would like to be remembered in prayer. I am so thankful for what He has done for me.

Your sister in Christ, —Maurie Lea

Miss.—Dear Ones, I think about you dear saints but do not have much chance to write. I love you and pray for you. God still blesses us in different ways for which I praise Him. A while back I was in a car wreck and hurt my head. It caused my heart to bother me. The 10th of this month a heavy sharp plank fell on my foot. It hurts and feels like some of the bones are almost broken. Last night I slipped and fell and hurt my knee joint. It hurts to walk. My foot is still swollen and sore. I will appreciate your prayers. I enjoy hearing from you whether I get to answer or not. My trust is in God. In Christian love, —Dorothy Bridges

Calif.—Dearest Sister Marie: I felt impressed from the Lord to send in my testimony. I want to say I am grateful to God for His Son, Jesus, and the many blessings that are bestowed upon me. There are not enough words to express my gratefulness. I am saved and still very much encouraged to live for the Lord as long as I am on this earth. By the grace of God I am determined not to let anything turn me around. You know the many letters that I wrote you about the trials that were coming my way when my husband filed a divorce action against me. Since that time we both, I believe, have seen our

lives. He comes now and takes me different places and acts as if he is a different person or the person he was when I first met him. I realize all this is the handiwork of the Almighty. My cup is running over because of every little bit that the merciful Father lets come our way. I've learned it is a blessing, even though the trial has lasted well over a year. I thank God. It is nothing of my goodness, but the merciful grace that worketh through his Son, Jesus, that is keeping me.

January 4, 1966, the divorce will become final unless the Lord undertakes. Even if it does, I believe the Lord is going to give me my husband back. Since he has been gone I've learned a lot of needed lessons. Our pastor, Bro. Smith, taught us that the Lord knows the easiest way to get us to heaven. Through it all I am very much encouraged to live for the Lord. I want to encourage every divorced or separated wife and husband to look straight through to Jesus and remember the promise, "If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." The Bible is true, every word of it, and if anything doesn't happen, it is on our part. Therefore let us all be up and doing all we can for the Master that when we ask, all we have to do is believe and never doubt. Pray for me. Your Sister in Christ, —Dorothy Stubblefield

La.—Dear Saints everywhere: I want to send my testimony telling what the Lord has done for me. I am truly grateful in my heart for salvation and the healing power of God.

I have just been reading Bro. and Sister Carver's diary of their trip to the "Holy Land" and to Nigeria and some experiences after getting there. My heart rejoices with them for how the Lord is so wonderfully taking care of them and for touching Sister Carver's back, arm, knees, and ear.

I want to tell how the Lord removed a little growth from my face that started coming three years ago in August. A little lump about the size of half a pea came on my cheek just below the edge of my glasses. Every four or five weeks it would itch and then bleed—not very much at a time. My glasses would drop down and rest on the growth and this helped to aggravate it. The little blister-like growth grew slowly in size and especially in height till about a year ago when the itching and bleeding came less often and the growth began to diminish in size. By the last of August it was almost completely gone. One can barely see a sign of it now. Praise the Lord forever and ever.

We are living in such a wicked age. The people who are in sin can't see the evil of it. But as Lot was vexed by the wickedness and unlawful deeds of the people of Sodom, so our soul is vexed by the evil of today. The ungodly, immodest styles of dress are so detestable and we are so sick of seeing ugly knees—all of them are ugly! How can a mother teach her daughter modesty and she with her dress up to and above her knees and much above when sitting? It is bad enough for sinners to do these things, but much worse for professors of Christianity. Dresses don't have to be up to the knees to be much too short for saints, especially mothers and grandmothers. Sisters, let us be careful that we don't displease our heavenly Father, but set a good example.

Christian love, —Mrs. A. E. Flynn

Pa.—Dear Saints, greetings to you in the mighty name of Jesus. I have felt an urge in my heart to write my testimony. I thank God for being born again, not of corruptible seed but of the Word of God. Thank the Lord for keeping grace. Thank Him for His Holy Spirit,

shedding the love of God in my heart and His precious blood applied to my soul. I will bless His name at all times. His praise shall be continually in my mouth. I love Him and His dear saints everywhere and am determined to go through with Him and all that endure unto the end. Thank and praise God for such wonderful things He does for me. He gives me power to live and be a witness for Him. Truly it is joy unspeakable and full of glory. I am so happy though I am old in years, yet His love and His service brings joy to my soul.

I have a son who is not saved. He is in the hospital. He had an operation. The church prayed and God heard and spared his life in answer to prayer. I thank Him over and over for hearing and answering prayer. I have learned to trust Him for life, time and eternity.

We are praying for the salvation of my son and ask your prayers that he get ready to meet the Lord.

Saints, there's so much to pray for. God bless you all and may we all be so dedicated that the Lord will be pleased with us and answer our prayers as He sees fit. May our Heavenly Father bless all our labors for Him and His cause. Every day I am learning more and more to love, trust, and obey Him. It brings such pleasure and it is a wonderful privilege.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sister Olive Harris
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ky.—Dear Saints of God: I promised the Lord if He would heal me I would testify through the "Faith and Victory" paper and try to encourage someone else to trust God fully for body and soul.

Last December 24, I slept on the couch in the living room. When I tried to rise up, there was such an awful soreness in a spot on my back, down low, I could hardly get up at all. The trouble grew worse. When I would eat anything or drink water, there would be an awful burning starting on my lips and going all the way through. It appeared to be some kind of colon trouble. There was nothing that passed but blood the third day. It continued for several weeks. I called for the elders. Bro. McCoy, Bro. Samons, and Bro. Curtis Williams came and anointed me. The trouble stayed on for a few weeks longer with me daily praying for the Lord to keep me on my feet. One day as I sat in the recliner I had such an awful headache. I thought of the crown of thorns pressing on our dear Saviour's brow; also his arms and legs as he hung on the cross, aching worse than mine. When my throat would burn so badly I thought how His precious throat must have burned as He cried from the cross, "I thirst." The awful sensation of nervous tension in my chest must have been akin to His, as He cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!" And He did that all for me. I said, "Yes, Lord, I can endure it if I can't enjoy it, if you can get glory out of it." I began to mend from that hour.

I went to Dayton for the ordinance service, over the Easter week end. I had practically no elimination for five days, but I held on to the promise, "Ask what you will and it shall be done." I was using righteous judgment. I did not judge according to my feelings for sometimes I was so hungry I could have cried, and got so weak I would stagger. But praises be to God, He kept me on my feet, and brought me out of it all. Although sometimes I have a little touch of the trouble yet if I eat too much acid foods, yet I am healed by the mighty power of God.

Sometimes instead of examining ourselves and keeping ourselves in the center of God's will we lean too much on human props or other's prayers. Please do not misunderstand me, for Christians should and do pray for each other. Let us be sure we are submitted to God's

will, then truly He will come to our rescue. He knows just the right time. We must wait. Let patience have her perfect work that we may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

I have been healed of cancers. Dale has no symptoms of diabetes now. Praise the Lord. Sometimes we get impatient with ourselves, thinking we are not accomplishing anything for the Lord. We can only do what He tells us and we must leave the results up to Him who never makes a mistake. Remember He knows just what is best for each of His children. Eternity is at the door. God is trying to wake up the nations. These awful storms, floods and such should waken them, for they surely will be awakened at the Judgment. Then it will be too late. Hold fast to His promise, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" until thou hast finished all the work. We must keep at that work or we will grow lukewarm and be spewed out of His mouth. Remember it is the Lord who does the work. His children are only the instruments through which He works. Our hands and feet are the only ones He has to take and carry the message to others. Let us present our bodies as clean vessels. Make a complete deed to houses, lands, money, husband, wife, children, friends, and all for Him to do with as He pleases. Then when the vessel is clean and empty, ask the Lord to fill and possess it with all the fullness of God for time and eternity. If we are sincere He will do just that. If we have wronged anyone by word or deed, we surely will not get the blessing until we confess to them and ask forgiveness. Otherwise the vessel will not be clean enough for the Holy Spirit to dwell in.

I would like to ask all you dear ones to agree with me for a serious problem that has arisen for us that God will work it out for His glory and the good of all concerned. Dear ones, be encouraged. Remember that all heaven is backing God's people. There is really no place for discouragement in the life of a saint of God. Let us fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on eternal life. Heaven will surely be worth it all.

Yours in the Master's service, —Sis. A. F. Baldridge
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Penn.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints everywhere, greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord: Oh, how wonderful to know Him, whom to know is life eternal! Praise His name! We have the beautiful October weather now. God gives us so much to enjoy—the beauties of nature and the birds to sing. We cannot praise Him enough.

Mother is still making her afgans. She seems to be getting her second sight. God is so good to us in that He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us, and will supply all of our needs if we but put our full trust in Him.

I want to say how many times He has healed me. He removed the growth in my neck, probably a goiter starting. He healed my leg when it was swollen like it would burst. He healed me during my menopause. So I do thank and praise Him so much for all His goodness to me and to mine. Mother trusted God for our whole family while we were growing up. She had her children by herself without a doctor or midwife. What a mighty God we serve!

We expect to get our names sent in very soon, and we may want some more folders, for truly this old world is rocking and reeling in sin, and needs to hear the precious truth of God's Word.

I do pray that God will bless each one who works on the paper, giving wisdom to write the very things needed most to win the most people. Our offering is enclosed and you may use it where it is needed most. We

would like to send some to be used by the missionaries, and a little later we hope to do just that.

Will you please remember me with what seems like a gall bladder spell, also it seems like I might have sugar diabetes. God knows, and I will trust Him. He touched my back when a sciatic nerve was pinched. When I work too hard, it is very painful, but He knows and cares and I want to glorify His Name in witnessing to His power to heal to all whom I meet.

Would you please send some tracts on smoking and drinking? I have some dear ones I want to give them to, maybe it will help them to see the wrong of defiling their bodies, which are the temples of God.

God bless all of you there in all that you do is our prayer daily. Pray for us that we may do more for Him and bring some into the knowledge of our Lord.

Also pray for my daughter. Her husband is stationed out in San Diego. He wants her to come out, but he is in the Navy and goes out on a boat and may stay as much as eight months. I pray God will have His way in this matter. It is hard for her to travel alone with their dear little baby girl.

Your Sister in His service, —Mrs. Eva Cox and Mother

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints, greetings in the dear name of Jesus: I thank God for saving my soul. I also thank Him for His dear saints. We have trials and tests, but we thank God we can go through these things. It seems real hard sometimes but the dear Lord brings us out. We praise the Lord for all that He has done for us.

Dear Sister Marie, I am sending in a prayer request for my niece. She is real sick. She doesn't talk. She is five years old. Also pray for her mother and daddy that the Lord will save them. Pray for all my loved ones and friends.

May the dear Lord bless each one is our prayer.

—Elmer and Edna Blacksher

The Pagan and Papal Origin of Halloween

There are three feast days associated with Halloween. All Hallows Eve or Halloween (Halloweven) is celebrated on the evening of October 31. Hallowmas, All Hallows, or All Saints' Day falls on November 1, and is described by the American Dictionary as: "a feast of the Roman Catholic Church in honor of all the saints." All Souls' Day is defined by the same dictionary thusly: "The second day of November, a feast of the Roman Catholic Church held to pray for all souls in purgatory."

The observance of these festival days was first introduced by pagans about thirteen centuries ago. The Druids celebrated their harvest at this time and many strange ceremonies were performed. The participants of the "witches' Sabbath"—the notorious Black Mass—embraced horrible, superstitious, and obnoxious rituals during demon worship ceremonies held on All Hallows Eve. Having previously anointed themselves with the fat of a murdered child, neophytes (beginners) were then introduced to the devil at such meetings, where they received his mark on their bodies as evidence that they had sold their souls to him. In Germany the witches' Sabbath was held on Walpurgis Night. Why mischief on Halloween? Be-

cause when the neophytes had completed their gory initiation, they had to prove their good faith further by performing whatever nefarious deeds their sponsors assigned.

The American Encyclopedia states as follows: "All Saints Day, a festival instituted by Pope Boniface IV early in the seventh century, on the occasion of his transforming the Roman heathen Pantheon (the present Rotunda or Santa Maria dei Martiri) into a Christian temple or church and consecrating it to the Virgin Mary and all the martyrs. It was first made a feast of obligation by Gregory IV in 835. It is kept by the Roman Catholic Church and by churches in communion with the Church of England on November 1, and by the Greek Church on the Sunday after Whitsunday."

All Soul's Day is the day on which the Roman Catholic Church especially remembers its deceased. It was first enjoined in 998 by St. Odilo, abbot of Cluny, in the monastic order of which he was the head, and soon afterward came to be adopted by the church generally. It is observed on November 2, at which time all the souls in purgatory are prayed for.

In the north of England, Halloween is known as Nutcrack Night. In Scotland, where my father was born, the ceremonies of the eve were formerly regarded in a highly superstitious light. It was believed that children born on Halloween had the ability to converse with supernatural beings.

In the light of the foregoing historical information, which can be obtained from any reliable encyclopedia, we would conclude that if any adults or children take part in Halloween practices, they are helping to promote, knowingly or unknowingly, the observance of pagan and Roman Catholic rites.

Let us notice the following Scriptures: "Thus saith the Lord, learn not the way of the heathen..." (Jer. 10:2). "Neither be partakers of other men's sins: keep thyself pure" (1 Tim. 5:22). "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:22). "The foolish shall not stand in thy sight" (Psa. 5:5). "... Let it not once be named among you as becometh saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting which are not convenient" (Eph. 5:3, 4). "Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path..."

—Eileen Burford

Satan Is Conquered

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit." Isaiah 14:12-15.

These scriptures are misinterpreted by many false teachers today to substantiate their theory that the devil was one time an angel in heaven where God

dwells. They teach that because he got lifted up he was cast out of heaven. Let us consider these texts for a while.

Let us look at the first part of the chapter and see who the prophet was talking about. We notice in verse four that the prophet said, "That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!" The prophet is talking about the king of Babylon. What king of Babylon was lifted up with pride and was brought down? It was none other than Nebuchadnezzar. (Dan. 4:29-33) We read how he in pride attributed to his own power and might the conquering of all the countries in the then known world. He had even taken many of God's chosen people into captivity. But God smote him and brought him down from his lofty position. "The Lord hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers" (vs. 5). Eventually Babylon was conquered by Medo-Persians.

Those scriptures do not have any reference to Satan being in heaven. The word heaven used here would just mean the lofty place that he fell from. His reason was taken from him and he ate grass like an ox. What could be more humiliating? How much further could he have fallen from a proud, arrogant ruler?

"The Verisons in general agree in this translation; and render heilel, as signifying Lucifer, the morning star, whether Jupiter or Venus; as these are both bringers of the morning light, or morning stars, annually in their turn. And although the context speaks explicitly concerning Nebuchadnezzar; yet this has been, I know not why, applied to the chief of fallen angels, who is most incongruously denominated Lucifer, (the bringer of light!) an epithet as common to him as those of Satan and Devil. That the Holy Spirit by His prophets should call this arch-enemy to God and man the Light-bringer, would be strange indeed. But the truth is, the text speaks nothing at all concerning Satan nor his fall, nor the occasion of that fall, which many divines have with great confidence deduced from this text."—Clarke's Com.

Heaven, the abode of God and his angels, is a holy place. Sin has never been and never will be there. The angels were not given a choice or made free moral agents. They are ministering servants of God. (Heb. 1:14) There are just two spirits working in the world today. The spirit of the devil and the spirit of God. Each has helpers who are their servants. But God has power over all the power of the devil. Praise God! The devil can't do any more than God permits him to do. But God is letting people choose whom they want to serve. That is the reason so many are doing wickedly because they are serving their master the devil. In the end Jesus will say unto them, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" Matt. 25:41.

"Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him" John 8:44. The word abode

means to live. From the beginning he did not live in truth, because there never has been truth in him. He could not fall from something that never was in him. Therefore he never lived in that heavenly realm with God and his holy angels.

The devil talked to Eve through the beast of the field (not through a beast of Eden because the devil never was in the garden of Eden before Adam and Eve sinned) and caused her to disobey God. She gave to Adam and he also disobeyed God. Through their disobedience sin passed on all mankind. (Rom. 5:12). Through the laws of Moses they were to bring sacrifices, which was a type of the Lamb of God, Jesus, every year for their sins. They could not live without sinning. One day after Jesus had come, he sent out the seventy. They returned, rejoicing because the devils were subject to them. Jesus said, "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven." John 10:18. The power and sway that the devil had over the people since Adam's fall had been broken. Jesus saw through the power of the Holy Spirit and the preaching of the gospel that the pagan (dragon) anti-God spirit was broken. (Rev. 12:9-11; 1 John 3:8.) The devil had lost his lofty place in the hearts of mankind. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the principle of sin could be destroyed (Acts 15:8, 9, Rom. 15:16)) Jesus told his disciples, "I give you power . . . over all the power of the enemy" (vs. 18). "He that committeth sin is of the devil: for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil." 1 John 3:8. Thank God through the manifested Son of God and the power of the Holy Spirit all who will humble themselves before Jesus, their Saviour and obey Him can live without sin today. Read Eph. 6:10-18, 1 John 4:4. —Sister A. Marie Miles

BIBLE STUDY

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

November 7, 1965

HANNAH

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 1:1, 2, 10, 11, 20-28

1 Sam. 1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaimzophim, of Mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihus, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Penninah: and Peninah had children, but Hannah had no children.

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore.

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine hand-maid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

20 Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the Lord.

21 And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.

22 But Hannah went not up; for she said unto her husband, I will not go up until the child be weaned, and then I will bring him that he may appear before the Lord, and there abide for ever.

23 And Elkanah her husband said unto her, Do what seemeth thee good; tarry until thou have weaned him; only the Lord establish his word. So the woman abode, and gave her son suck until she weaned him.

24 And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the Lord in Shiloh: and the child was young.

25 And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to Eli.

26 And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the Lord.

27 For this child I prayed: and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him:

28 Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.

Memory Verse: Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6.

Practical Truth: God answers prayer.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The story of Hannah is one of the most touching incidents written in the Bible. She had a great sorrow which drove her to the Lord. Elkanah, her husband, had two wives. His other wife, Penninah (Pen-nin-uh) mocked Hannah because she was childless and Hannah was sorely affected. Instead of taking it out on others she took it all to the Lord. She was so troubled and burdened that she would not eat when they went to the yearly feast at Shiloh. She was misunderstood by her husband and Eli, the priest. Her husband felt that his love for her should mean more to her than ten sons. Eli, the High Priest, saw her weeping out the bitterness of her soul in prayer, although only her lips moved because she prayed in her heart to God and he thought she was drunk. But God understood perfectly all about it. Hannah was glad that God understood. She said, "The Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." (1 Sam. 2:3.) God heard her earnest prayer.

Hannah promised the Lord that if He would give her a son, she would give him back to God. Our lesson bears out the fact that God heard and answered her earnest prayer. She took her son to live at the temple and work for God. God made a wonderful man out of Samuel. God gave Hannah other children. You can't out-give the Lord. When we make solemn vows to the Lord we are to keep them.

November 14, 1965

JONATHAN

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 20:12-17; 23:15-18

1 Sam. 20:12 And Jonathan said unto David, O Lord God of Israel, when I have sounded my father about tomorrow any time, or the third day, and behold, if there be good toward David, and I then send not unto thee, and shew it thee;

13 The Lord do so and much more to Jonathan: but if it please my father to do thee evil, then I will shew it thee, and send thee away, that thou mayest go in peace: and the Lord be with thee, as he hath been with my father.

14 And thou shalt not only while yet I live shew me the kindness of the Lord, that I die not:

15 But also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house for ever: no, not when the Lord hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth.

16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, Let the Lord even require it at the hand of David's enemies.

17 And Jonathan caused David to swear again, because he loved him: for he loved him as he loved his own soul.

23:15 And David saw that Saul was come out to seek his life: and David was in the wilderness of Ziph in a wood.

16 And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God.

17 And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth.

18 And they two made a covenant before the Lord: and David abode in the wood, and Jonathan went to his house.

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

Practical Truth: We need to be a friend to others as Jesus was a friend to us when we were in sin.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jonathan first admired and loved David when he killed the giant, Goliath. He knew from that time that David was God's man. Our text bears out the fact that Jonathan was sure that David was chosen of God to be the king after his father, Saul. Jonathan was the next in line to be king but he faced squarely God's will and with a self-sacrifice he bowed to the will of God. Only God could help him to be a man of faith and righteousness. He has been called the "uncrowned king," yet he was crowned with virtues that shine as the stars of heaven. He had learned the beautiful lesson of what is the supreme obligation in every person's life. Today that obligation is obedience to God and His will, because Jesus laid down his life for us.

David fled from the house of Saul because Saul hated him and wanted to kill him. David had asked Jonathan's help in knowing Saul's attitude toward him. Jonathan, before God, promised David to let him know the truth concerning Saul. Since Jonathan was convinced that David would be king he wanted his promise that he would be kind to him and his family. David fulfilled his promise. (2 Sam. 9).

The last part of our lessons proves that even after Saul's continued anger and murderous intentions, Jonathan continued to help his friend. In this is a lesson of being a true friend. Later Jonathan died in battle with his father. (1 Sam. 31).

November 21, 1965

NAAMAN

Printed Portion 2 Kings 5:1-5a, 9-15b

2 Kings 5:1 Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and

honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper.

2 And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

3 And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

4 And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel.

5a And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel.

9 So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.

11 But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.

12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

13 And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

14 Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

15b And he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel; now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

Memory Verse: For he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6b.

Practical Truth: God requires humility and obedience.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice our text brings out the greatness of Naaman but this was of no real value to him because he had leprosy. There are many like Naaman in the world today. It might not be leprosy that is blighting their lives but sin is eating away at their inner being. Money and position will not bring true happiness. Oh, for more who will take the glad news, like the maid, to souls that there is a deliverer for them! And how glad we would be for those who are spiritually sick to hearken to the good news, and seek God's help as Naaman did.

Sin is like leprosy in many ways. Sin separates us from God. "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God." (Isa. 59:1, 2) If sin is not repented of the ultimate separation is forever. Sin spreads and grows. One sin leads to another. Sinners need to wash in the blood of Jesus and be clean.

Naaman was proud and in his position he no doubt felt that he should be accorded some attention. He had more to learn. He was wroth because the prophet did not appear but just sent word for him to dip seven times in the muddy river Jordan. But he was soon listening to reason and humbled himself and obeyed. Six times of dipping did not heal him but complete obedience did. What a great lesson to learn. We cannot go around the Word of God or differ with it but must face it, believe it and obey it. Then the blessing will come.

November 28, 1965

AMOS

Printed Portion Amos 7:12-15; 5:14, 15, 18-24

Amos 7:12 Also Amaziah said unto Amos, O thou seer, go, flee thee away into the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and prophesy there:

13 But prophesy not again any more at Bethel: for it is the king's chapel, and it is the king's court.

14 Then answered Amos, and said to Amaziah, I was no prophet, neither was I a prophet's son; but I was an herdsman, and a gatherer of sycomore fruit:

15 And the Lord took me as I followed the flock, and the Lord said unto me, Go, prophesy unto my people Israel.

5:14 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the Lord, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken.

15 Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

18 Woe unto you that desire the day of the Lord! to what end is it for you? the day of the Lord is darkness, and not light.

19 As if a man did flee from a lion, and a bear met him; or went into the house, and leaned his hand on the wall, and a serpent bit him.

20 Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness, and not light? even very dark, and no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies.

22 Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them; neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts.

23 Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols.

24 But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Memory Verse: But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. Amos 5:24.

Practical Truth: It takes a brave person to do right when surrounded by evil.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Many years before our lesson, King Jeroboam, I, took ten tribes and set up his own government. To keep the people from going to Jerusalem to worship, he set up a place of idol worship in Bethel (1 Kings 12:26-33). The Lord told Amos to go and prophesy unto Israel. Amaziah, who was in charge of the idol worship told Amos to go to Judah and prophesy. Judah and Israel were rivals. Amaziah felt they would be glad to feed Amos if he would speak against Israel. This was man's way of looking at the calling of God. Amaziah did not want the king's court nor the town of Bethel disturbed. Amos did not regard things as Amaziah did for he was God's preacher. In verses 14, 15 Amos lets Amaziah know that there was not one doubt in his mind but that God had called him to prophesy.

Amos, who was God's preacher, thundered the judgments of God in the face of opposition. The people felt because they had prosperity then that God was with them but Amos told them to seek good and not evil, that they might live and then God would truly be with them. Amos told them they needed to establish righteous judgment among them and perhaps the Lord would be gracious to them. He told them that they were looking for the day of the Lord as being victory but that it would bring darkness instead of light. Verses 19, 20 show that there will be no escape from God's judgments. Sis. Marie Miles