

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

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The New Year



As the glory of the sunrise,
That dispels the darkest night
May the dawning of this New Year
Burst anew with heaven's light.

May our sorrows be forgotten,
Courage crowned with heaven's grace,
By the One who holds the future
In this solemn Christian race.

Days are coming, years are going,
Soon the wheels of time shall cease.
Let us crown our days with glory
Governed by the Prince of Peace.

May this New Year shine with beauty,
Leaving failures in the past.
May it sound the proclamation,
"Christ is reigning, e'er to last!"

—Selected.

"I'm Glad I Settled It Last Night!"



In a certain coal-mining town a revival was being held. One night a miner came to the altar seeking Christ. He had a hard struggle striving to enter "in at the strait gate." Finally, after more than an hour of seeking, the minister dismissed the congregation. He himself remained with the seeker. After a long time he suggested that they go home, and urged the seeker to keep praying and come back to the altar the next night. But the penitent man would not be put off. He said, "I want this settled tonight." Together they prayed until long after midnight, and finally the repentant sinner found the Savior, and was happily converted. Oh, how he shouted the high praises of God, and rejoiced in his pardoning grace!

Next morning he bade his family goodbye as usual, took his dinner pail, and hurried to the mines to engage in his work. About 4:30 p. m. the roof caved in, and several tons of slate and rock fell. It caught this miner. His fellow workmen rushed to him and

found his body under the mass, but his head and shoulders protruding. As they knelt around him with their digging-lamps, there was a smile on his face. Just as he expired he whispered, "Oh, I am so glad I settled it last night."

A minister was conducting a revival in East Liverpool, Ohio. One night a young man standing near the door wept while the invitation was being extended. While the minister and others urged him to surrender now and not wait another moment, he trembled from head to foot, but finally replied, "I know I ought to be saved tonight, but I am an operator at the railway station, and my duty will soon call me there. I will promise you, however, that I will come back and get saved tomorrow night." They warned him of the danger of delay, but he kept saying, "I will get saved tomorrow night."

He left the services shortly and was not seen again until about thirty minutes later. The minister was on his way home, and as he neared the railway depot he noticed a group of men running together excitedly, as though something had happened. He hurried to the spot, and saw a young man lying upon the ground with both his legs cut off close up to his body. He had accidentally fallen under some shifting freight-cars. The life blood was gushing from his body. The minister looked into the pale, upturned face of the dying man, and he was horror-stricken to see that it was the same young man who had, not more than thirty minutes before, stood in the meeting trembling under conviction, and said, "Not tonight, but I will return and get saved tomorrow night." He was now dying. The death-damp was already gathering upon his brow, and the scenes of earth and time were forever fading from his view. As the minister knelt beside the poor dying boy as he was breathing his last, he distinctly heard him whisper, "Oh, if I had only yielded tonight!" Too late forever! Oh, how sad! He let the last opportunity pass. To the Holy Spirit he said for the last time, "Go thy way." He went, and the young man died in despair.

Reader, how is it with your soul today? If you are not saved, you had better repent and seek the Savior for the forgiveness of your sins NOW!

Like a muffled drum, your heart is now beating a death-march to the grave. The end will come. Beyond the tomb there is no hope, no power to save.

Remember that "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Reader, "Today, if you will hear his voice, harden not your heart."

—H. M. Riggle

Stop! Look! Listen!

If you were at a point where you could see cars on a highway with men, women, boys and girls in them racing past danger signals, red lights, barricades, and policemen, and plunging to their death into the swirling waters where a bridge was out, you would feel that you needed to personally do something about it. I am sure that you would tell them with earnestness to stop, look out, and listen. You would feel that they were very careless, unconcerned, or maybe they were just asleep. You would shout to them loudly, "Awake thou that sleepest!"

Dear souls, do you know that something like this is taking place right before our eyes? There surely is cause for alarm. We see men, women, boys and girls all around us going on day after day, not heeding the red lights of warning presented by the gospel message. They are carelessly racing down the broad way toward hell. We call, we cry out, we warn, but on they go!

There is a hell. Hell is real. It doesn't make any difference whether anyone says there is no hell, that doesn't make it so. Jesus told us about a man who is there. "And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." (Luke 16:22-31). Hell is described as a "lake of fire burning with brimstone." (Rev. 19:20). Nothing is more intolerably painful than suffering the violence of fire increased with brimstone. Hell is represented as a dismally dark place, where there is nothing but grief, sadness, vexation, hate, despair, and gnashing of teeth, like one excluded or shut out from the warmth of love. Jesus says that they will be "cast into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 8:12). The wicked in hell will undergo the punishment of being separated from God. Add to this the eternity of their misery which, above all other considerations, makes it intolerable. Jesus has said, "Their worm dieth not, and their fire is not quenched." (Mark 9:48).

Dear souls, we beg you in Jesus' name to stop! look! listen! Jesus is standing with a yearning heart, calling and pleading for you to come to Him. He loves you and sent His only Son to this world to die on the cross for your sins. You should see His precious blood that was spilled on the cross for you. Accept it as your covering for sins. Don't plunge into that terrible place of torment. Please stop! We beg you in Jesus' name to turn to the Lord today, confessing, forsaking your sins and call on Him for mercy.

Again we say that hell is real. Oh, the deadly killing pains, the horrors, the agonies of hell are indescribable. There you will be with the vilest, cruel-

est and wickedest of all the earth. The devil and his angels will torment you. Again we cry out, "Awake, thou that sleepest, arise from the dead, [dead state of sin] and Christ shall give thee light!" (Eph. 5:14).

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins." (1 John 1:9). Won't you get down upon your knees right now and call upon the Lord? Jesus is standing with outstretched arms, saying to you, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matt. 11:28). You are carrying around a heavy load upon your heart. All those sins are a big weight. Jesus wants to take them all away. Oh, how happy, light and free you will be! Then you can lie down upon your pillow and sleep with such sweet rest. We beg you in Jesus' name to stop, look, and listen to the warnings and save your soul from eternal damnation.

—Sister Marie Miles

Prophecies of Christ Fulfilled

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good. For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings." Isa. 7:14-16.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isa. 9:6, 7. "The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it lighted upon Israel." Balaam, under the influence and power of the Spirit of God, prophesied and said, "I shall see him, but not now; I shall behold him but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth." Num. 24:17. "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings." Malachi 4:2a.

The foregoing texts of scripture are some of the outstanding prophecies of holy men of old, that spoke as they were moved by the Spirit of God to inform the world of the coming Messiah. There were many prophecies that were heralded forth by the servants of the Lord hundreds of years before His advent into this world with definite and precise statements that applied directly to the Lord, Saviour, Redeemer, Deliverer, and Healer of men, and every single one of them was fulfilled. Not one passed by as a failure.

Joseph, Mary's husband, was directed by the angel of the Lord to take the young child and his mother and flee to Egypt that the prophecy, "Out of Egypt have I called my Son," might be fulfilled. Also the

prophecy of Rachel weeping for her children was fulfilled when Herod had all the male children put to death from two years old and under. See how Joseph turned aside, when returning, to a city called Nazareth that Jesus might be called a Nazarene. Other sayings concerning the Christ child were fulfilled—every one of them from the manger to the cross.

When Jesus started on His mission on one occasion He read the Scripture concerning himself, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel," etc. He said, "Today is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."

Let us note that not only the things concerning Christ as foretold by the prophets were accomplished, but there was a time factor included, also. Jesus did not appear on the scene until the time appointed by the Father. "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal. 4:4. The Jews sought to slay Him on various occasions, but could not, because his hour was not yet come. But we hear him say in John 17:1, "Father, the hour is come." "I have finished the work thou gavest me to do." v. 4. On the cross he cried, "It is finished." Salvation's plan is all complete. The day of salvation is now at hand. Behold, now is the day of salvation; behold, now is the accepted time. A voice rings out by divine inspiration, "It is time to seek the Lord till he come and rain righteousness upon you." Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so has the son of man been lifted up. His side has been pierced, the fountain has been opened. The invitation is to whosoever will, let him come.

Christ not only died to give a ransom for the souls of men, but He rose again for our justification. He is gone on to prepare an eternal home for all who will serve and obey him. Will you live for Him who died for you?

Christ died for all, and Christ being raised from the dead, dieth no more. Death hath no more dominion over him. He declared himself to be the light of the world. He is the bright and morning Star. He is that light that shineth in the darkness, and He said he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Christ is now at the right hand of the Father where He ever liveth to make intercession for all those who will come unto God by him and is able to save them to the uttermost. His blood is sufficient to remove the sinful stains of the deepest dye.

He has promised to return. He said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself." His first advent seemed to have been somewhat obscured. Many were in doubt, and did not believe he was the Christ, but when He returns the second time every eye shall see Him and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord of all. They also that pierced His side shall know and acknowledge Him to be the Judge of the quick and dead. He hath appointed a day. The prophetic

clock will soon strike the hour when it shall be declared by Him that sits on the throne that time shall be no more. The signs of the time point to His soon coming. "Lo, I come quickly, and my reward is with me to reward every man according as his work shall be."
—Ulysses Phillips

Redemption Twofold

The Scriptures clearly prove the incompleteness of the justified state. Jesus, praying to his Father, said of His disciples, "Keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me;" "I have kept them in thy name;" "I have given them thy word;" "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world" (John 17:11-16). Surely, there can be no doubt that men of whom all this could be truly said, were justified. Yet Jesus acknowledges the incompleteness of their experience in the words of the seventeenth verse of the same chapter: "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Again, in the nineteenth verse He says, "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth."

The first Christian experience of the Samaritans was incomplete. They "with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke" (Acts 8:6). "When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). Yet in the following words the incompleteness of their justified state is acknowledged: "Now, when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:14-17). This infilling, or reception, of the Holy Spirit and the purification of heart are simultaneous experiences. In the following words Peter speaks of them as such: "God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8, 9).

Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, admits a partial but incomplete experience when he says, "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly." These people were evidently sanctified in part, that is, justified; but Paul wished them to be wholly, or entirely, sanctified. The experience of sanctification, using the word "sanctification" in its broadest sense, begins with justification and reaches its completeness in entire sanctification.

The two negative conditions of the unregenerate heart are native depravity and acquired guilt. These are the double need of man and constitute the basis of the double cure. Justification removes guilt, but does not accomplish entire sanctification, or complete redemption. —From "The Double Cure" by D. O. T.

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

EDITORIALS

Greetings in Christian love to all of our readers at the dawn of this New Year of 1966. Should the Lord delay His coming and extend time, may He bless each of you, and especially that your soul would prosper and flourish in the love and grace of God.

A special welcome is extended to the several thousands of new readers who will be receiving copies of this paper for the first time. If you are a new reader, it is very likely that a friend of yours has subscribed for you with the hope and earnest prayer that the contents of these issues will prove a spiritual benefit to you and your family. Please read it carefully and prayerfully, and compare its teachings with the Bible. Over the years God has used these columns to edify and unify the spiritual Body of Christ, which is the Church of God, "the pillar and ground of the truth."

As this January paper goes to press, there are nearly 6,000 new names on our mailing list to receive the paper for the next three months under the special trial offer. In anticipation of planting the truth of the gospel in many new homes, we thank the Lord and all our readers who have so faithfully co-operated in this literature extension effort. May heaven's blessings rest upon each one. Pray that the Holy Spirit will accompany the printed message.

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On the night of Nov. 22 Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver gave the congregation at Guthrie, Okla. an account of their recent missionary journey to Nigeria, and Bro. Carver also recounted the experiences of his additional trip to India, emphasizing the fact that now the time is ripe for a harvest of souls in that great sub-continent.

The question is: Will the Church enter this open door or let the opportunity pass forever? Many nations have and are falling under the power of the Communists' "hammer and sickle," and as a result of the evil designs of this atheistic spirit the foreign mission doors are being closed to the gospel of Christ. Time is running out and the urgency of the situation demands immediate action. Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." John 4:35.

Bro. Carver says that at the present time the best way to reach the millions of India with the gospel message is by the printed page.

The native minister in India, in whose home Bro. Carver was a guest while there, has definitely embraced the teachings of the Church of God and is now actively taking the truth to those with whom he formerly labored. He is well educated, knows English and has offered to translate tracts and other gospel literature into the native language, have them printed and distributed to the people provided that the funds

are supplied for the printing. Though nearly 60% of the people in the state of Kerala, S. India can read and speak English, yet the gospel must be printed in the native language in order to reach the masses. Since India is halfway around the world and shipping charges are so high, no doubt it would be cheaper to have the literature printed there for distribution. As the Lord supplies, we plan to accept this Brother's offer and have him translate and print the gospel literature for free distribution. Would you like to co-operate with us in entering this open door to reach India's millions? You may send your offerings to the Missionary Fund maintained at this office, specify it for this purpose, and it will be used accordingly. May the Lord bless you for your sincere interest in the cause of Christ.

Each month we send free of charge many rolls of papers to foreign lands, especially to Africa and India. Also many pounds of tracts and books are sent to extend the gospel of Christ. About 30 pounds were mailed on December 11.

About 1200 copies of the December issue of the Spanish paper, "Luz de La Esperanza" (Light of Hope), edited by Bro. Clifford Smith, Pacoima, Calif., have been printed and mailed free of charge to the Mexico mission workers for distribution to the Spanish-speaking people.

The writer and his wife were privileged to attend the latter part of the Hammond, La. Assembly meeting in November and to visit their son, Byron, and his family who live near Hammond. It had been a year since we had seen our children. The few days' relief from the constant work at the office was a welcomed change and we certainly enjoyed the fellowship of the saints attending this annual meeting in the South. Bro. and Sister Hyrum Ray, their children, and Sharon Watkins, a worker from this office, were also at the meeting from Guthrie.

A number of ministers were present at the meeting, and the preaching was with rich anointing, heart-searching and definite. On the day of prayer and fasting several were healed of their bodily afflictions. Jesus healed in Galilee and He is just the same today.

On Thanksgiving morning Bro. C. C. Carver gave to the full chapel a very interesting and encouraging report of his recent trip to India in the interest of that great foreign mission field. This report presented a greater challenge to the Church to enter the opened door in India with the pure gospel and to co-operate with those who are declaring their freedom from human religions.

Just off the press is another excellent reprinted book by H. M. Riggle, entitled "Jesus Is Coming Again." Consisting of 111 pages, paper bound, it is reasonably priced at 60c each, or two for \$1.00 postpaid.

The "Evening Light Songs" book is now in stock again for immediate shipment, contains 512 pages, cloth bound—priced at \$1.80 each, postpaid.

Heavy paper bound books of the 11 issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1965 are now available at \$1.00 each, postpaid. The 1965 "Beautiful Way" books (52 papers for the year) are also ready at \$1.00 each, postpaid.

We keep in stock over 300 different titles of gospel tracts. Send for a free sample to read and pass on. One tract may cause a soul to turn from sin and its tragic consequences.

In stock now are paperbound reprints of a number of the old books written by the pioneers of the Church of God reformation, and more are planned to be reprinted as the Lord opens the way. Write for a list of these books which are very reasonably priced for a wider circulation. —Lawrence Pruitt

Meeting Reports

WICHITA, KANSAS MEETING REPORT

The autumn meeting at Wichita, Kansas was held Oct. 22 through Oct. 31. God richly anointed for the services from the beginning to the end. One soul was saved about a week before the meeting began and sits on the front seat on fire for God. During the meeting 25 souls were saved, and a few sought sanctification.

Out-of-state ministers laboring in the meeting were Bro. Curtis Williams from Kentucky, Sister Katherine Williams, Bro. Merle Eddens, Bro. Woodrow Warren, Bro. Willie Murphey from Oklahoma, and Sister Hazel Clark from Akron, Ohio.

On the night of Oct. 30 from 17 to 20 souls sought the Lord. It was most glorious! What has enraptured my soul is that almost every week one or two more have gotten saved. We are certainly thankful to God for what He is doing.

—By Sister Gladys Williams
—Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor

OREGON ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The Oregon State Assembly meeting held here at Jefferson, Ore., Nov. 5 through 14 has closed, leaving behind many blessings. All seemed to appreciate the good spirit that prevailed throughout the meeting.

Many good messages were delivered and the Lord freely anointed in preaching His Word. Although there was quite a bit of sickness, the Lord was present to heal.

The Friday our meeting started our dear Mother Ridgway went Home to be with the Lord. This cast a sadness over all, but God gave us a precious meeting and sent ministers from Calif. and Okla. Saints came in from Calif., Wash., and different parts of Oregon.

Some were at the altar for spiritual help and the church was edified.

We do thank God for the beautiful church of God. We are encouraged to press on, knowing that in due season we shall reap if we faint not. Also we wish to say that God is blessing the work here. The sick are being healed and the grace of God is upon the saints, although, as Paul said in 1 Cor. 16:9, "There are many adversaries."

Our assembly meeting is now only a memory, but, oh, what a sweet memory of victory and blessings!

We are praying the dear Lord to bless you one and all and ask you to remember us here.

Your sister in Christ, —Bea Spaur

HAMMOND, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The saints here at Hammond, La. are still digesting the wonderful spiritual food received during our assembly meeting which closed November 28, 1965. The preaching was soul-searching, and satisfying to hungry souls. The Lord sent in ministers of His choosing, and every message was anointed of the Holy Spirit. Bros. Martin Samons, Darius Gibson, Sam Abbott, Murphy Allen, and Sister Abbott were wonderfully used of the Lord. Also, we were glad to have Bro. Charles Smith with us for one day, and he brought a wonderful message on Thursday night. Bro. Cecil Carver gave us a report on his visit to Nigeria and India, which was very interesting and challenging to everyone. Bro. Curtis Williams came in for the latter part of the meeting and helped out with the preaching.

Several were helped in soul and body. On Saturday we had a wonderful time together in partaking of the ordinance of feet-washing and the Lord's supper.

Saints, when you pray, remember us and the work here at Hammond.

Yours in the true body of Christ, —T. H. Coffey

Prayer Requests

We count it a privilege to take others to the Lord for healing. I think about the four men who brought the man who was sick of palsy to Jesus for healing. They put forth a tremendous effort to get him to Jesus. They diligently sought for a way. They knew if they could just get him to Jesus He would heal him. They tried to push through the crowd, but no one would let them in the house. They did not feel the effort was too great to take him up on the house and take the roof apart and let him down before Jesus. When Jesus "saw their faith," He said to the man who was sick, "Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house, and he arose, and departed to his house." (Matt. 9:1-7; Mark 2:4).

Dear ones, God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6). "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16). So with faith, let us take these requests to the Lord in prayer.

Okla.—Sugar diabetes.

Okla.—Choking in throat.

Mo.—"Pray for me—soul, body, and mind."

Okla.—Pray for Sister Spears who had a stroke.

Ill.—Pray for an affliction on my body.

Va.—Pray for Sister Powell who is an aged minister. She has cancer on her head and it caused her to go blind. She has trusted God fully.

Calif.—"I want to be saved more than anything else in this world."

Calif.—Sore limb.

Ky.—"Pray for the Lord to heal a lump that has raised up on my body."

Texas—Colon trouble.

Colo.—Eye inflamed.

Miss.—Nervousness, need to regain my balance.

Ark.—Growth on neck.

Pray for dear Mother Christ who is here in Guthrie. She fell and hurt her arm but it is better. She is 87, afflicted, in bed, and requires constant care. Her daughter Mildred is with her. She is trusting God fully.

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OBITUARIES



Lydia Elizabeth Ridgway was born at Oil City, Pa. Sept. 22, 1874. She passed away at her home near Jefferson, Oregon, Nov. 5, 1965 at the age of 91 years, one month and 14 days.

She was saved at a young age and was very active all of her life in the Church of God. Through this association she met Henry W. White and was married to him Sept. 13, 1900. From that marriage there were born three sons and one daughter: Noah, Arthur, Otis, and Anna.

In 1909 she and her family moved to Woodburn, Oregon and in 1922 settled in the Jefferson area. Her husband, Henry W. White, passed away in 1941.

On Sept. 19, 1949 she was married to Everett B. Ridgway who preceded her in death in Oct., 1956.

She is survived by two sons: Arthur White of Jefferson, Oregon and Otis White of Dinuba, Calif., one daughter, Anna Taylor of Dinuba, Calif., two step-children, Clarence White of Portland, Ore., and Minnie Haskin of Vancouver, Washington; 16 grandchildren, 39 great grandchildren, 1 great-great-grandchild, three brothers, Ernest Weir of Raton, New Mexico, Frank Weir of Salem, Ore., and Harrison Weir of Portland, Oregon; one sister, Minnie Barnard of Salem, Oregon, many relatives and friends.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. A. E. Harmon, assisted by Sister Bea Spaur.

Sister Spaur, pastor at Jefferson, Ore., writes:

No one knows but the congregation here how she will be missed. To me she was such an inspiration, always so ready to be a helper in praying for the sick. She had great faith. She was zealous to go with us in the meetings in the homes and busy making quilts to give to the saints and to needy ones. In her last illness, as we visited her from time to time, we found her so sweet and patient. Although at times she suffered much, God through prayer and faith would undertake. Yes, we will miss her, but our loss is heaven's gain.

Asleep in Jesus, oh how sweet the scene of closing day,
When holy angels came to greet and bear the soul away.
Thy prayers and tears have gone before, Thy works shall follow on,

And gather gems forever more to glitter in thy crown.
The angels bore our loved one Home in shining garments fair,
And some bright day we hope to come and join thee over there.

Clark Junior Porter was born on April 25, 1923 in Oklahoma City and passed away at Guthrie, Okla. on Dec. 2, 1965 at the age of 42 years, seven months and seven days.

Clark was the eldest son of O. C. and Bonnie Porter. His mother preceded him in death on October 8, 1959.

In July, 1946 he was united in marriage to Frances White. To this union were born two children: a son, Merle Dean, and a daughter, Marsha.

Clark lived in Guthrie most of his life. He was reared in the Church of God teachings and since a child he has always lived for the Lord, doing what he could in the work of the Lord. He had very deep convictions, which he lived by and died by. These convictions were based on the Word of God. He proved to all during his five months of illness that God never fails those who will live up to His Word. All through his long illness he maintained a bright testimony and demonstrated a strong faith in the

Lord. He manifested completely the characteristics of a Christian, never speaking an unkind or impatient word even though the road was rough and long. He often expressed to his pastor that he felt the blessings and the presence of the Lord and that he was just waiting. The Lord was with him and he just fell asleep in Jesus. We can say with the Apostle Paul that he "fought a good fight" and now has laid "hold on eternal life" with our blessed Lord in eternity. He will be greatly missed by the Church of God in Guthrie.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Porter; one son, Merle Dean; one daughter, Marsha Elaine, all of the home; his father and step-mother, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Porter of Guthrie; two brothers, Gene of Guthrie and Carroll of Phoenix, Ariz., one sister, Mrs. Anecia Wall of Tulsa, and a host of relatives and friends.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Ira D. Stover, assisted by Bro. C. C. Carver, and Bro. Archie Souder. Text: Titus 2:13.

Gus Peter Poulos was born in Greece on March 2, 1899, and departed this life at his home in Highland, California on December 2, 1965 at the age of 66 years and nine months. He came with his uncle to the United States in 1915 when he was 16 years of age.

On October 14, 1928 he was united in marriage with Nellie Whiting. To this union three children were born—one son and two daughters.

About 40 years ago through the instructions and prayers of one George Collins, he was acquainted with the redemption story and the plan of salvation and was brought to repentance for his sins and through faith in the all-atoning blood of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was born again and saved from a life of sin and became a child of God. He maintained this relationship with God and was a worshipper of the true God from that time until his death.

The man who instructed him in the way of salvation was one of the saints of the "evening light," so Gus Poulos was ushered right into this glorious truth in which we now live and rejoice, at the very start of his Christian experience and was true to its light and standards the remainder of his life. He died trusting God just as he lived.

He worshipped with the Church of God on West Ninth Street, San Bernardino, Calif. for many years. In fact, the church that now holds services there was begun in Gus Poulos' home a number of years ago, and the services were held in his home until the present chapel was built some time later. He was also a familiar figure in other congregations of the Church of God throughout southern California and his passing will be felt and he will be greatly missed throughout this area.

By the grace of God he was able to live the Christian life before the men with whom he worked until they believed in him, and some of them have come to him for prayer and help in their problems since he retired from active work about four years ago.

He is survived by his wife, Nellie of the home; one son, T. Gus Poulos of San Bernardino; two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Wright of Rialto, Calif., and Mrs. Esther Hardy of Plymouth, Indiana; one sister, Mrs. Angelena Veros of Chicago, Illinois; three brothers, Tom and Pete of Greece, and Jim of South Africa, nine grandchildren, other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Charles R. Smith, A. E. Harmon and Ostis B. Wilson, at the Mark B. Shaw funeral chapel in San Bernardino, California. Bro. I. C. Chandler had charge of the committal service. Interment was in the Mt. View Cemetery in San Bernardino.

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our appreciation for the interest, love and prayers shown to our dear husband and father during his illness. We want to acknowledge also the many flowers, calls, telegrams and cards received since his departure.

—The Gus Poulos family

My change of address is Nellie Poulos, c/o Golden Rule Home, Route 5, Box 74, Shawnee, Okla. 74801.

Sister Maggie L. Pike was born June 2, 1895 in Springfield, Tennessee and passed November 12, 1965, at her home in Tulsa, Okla.

She met the saints in Tulsa, heard the truth and got saved. Her sincere desire was to please the Lord and for her children to be saved. She had a great interest in children and they loved her. Sister Pike was quiet and always willing to help in whatever the church had to do and remained faithful until death.

Sister Pike was united in marriage to Albert Baker in 1911. To this union one daughter was born. Later she was married to A. W. Pike, and to this union one daughter and one son were born.

The survivors include one son, Wm. Pike, Tulsa, Okla.; two daughters, Mrs. Alene Henderson, Los Angeles, Calif. and Mrs. Cornelia W. Wooten, Lovelady, Texas; twelve grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, a host of relatives, friends and saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren and Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bro. Sam Barton and others.

Mrs. Ruthie Mae Mustin was born May 6, 1917 in Boley, Okla. to Bro. and Sister W. W. Crawley.

She was married to Mr. Obie Dial Mustin in 1932. To this union twelve children were born. The family moved to Bakersfield, Calif. in 1942.

During childhood she attended services of the Church of God in Boley, Okla. and in the latter part of her life she professed a hope in Christ.

She departed this life Nov. 26, 1965 at Bakersfield, Calif. at the age of 48 years, 20 days and six months.

She leaves behind a husband, Obie Dial Mustin; parents, Bro. and Sis. W. W. Crawley of Okemah, Okla.; four sons, Obie Dial, Jr., Sedell, Phillip, and Robert Lenn of Bakersfield; six daughters, Armer-Jean, Ollie Mae and Catherine Mustin, Mrs. Oretha Powell, Mrs. Juanita Fite, and Mrs. Marie Brooks, all of Bakersfield; 21 grandchildren, three sisters, four brothers, other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the saints' chapel, Bakersfield, Calif., by Bro. I. C. Chandler, assisted by Bros. J. T. Johnson and Lawrence Francisco.

—Hazel Davis

1966 SCRIPTURE TEXT CALENDAR

Beautiful Scripture Text Wall Calendar, size 9 3/8" x 16", featuring choice Scripture texts (King James Version) with references for each day, guide to daily Bible reading and meditation, International Sunday School lesson assignments and memory verse selections. Single copy, 50c or 3 copies for \$1.25, postpaid. Limited quantity available. Order from Faith Pub. House, Box 713, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

The kingdom of grace here, and the kingdom of glory above, form the endless government of Christ.

—A. Clarke

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM NIGERIA, AFRICA

Nigeria, Africa—Nov. 30—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints, Christian greetings and fellowship in Jesus' holy name:

Enclosed is a report of this mission's activities for November written by our secretary, Bro. Nse Umanah. Your reading it will acquaint you with information about God's manifestations in the work here.

The Lord has not only been good to me but also to everyone who trusts Him. I am happy in seeing many diseases healed even since I began to recover from mine [a stroke in September]. I am happy and praise the Lord that my people are establishing more faith in prayers for healing than anything.

Thank you for continual prayers on my behalf and for the work here. Words of encouragement add much strength and hope to me. I feel better than last month and trust my dear Lord will completely heal me.

The cries of this mission are for resident missionaries and God to provide funds to meet the needs. Some of these needs should be supplied before God sends missionaries.

Yours in Christ,

—B. U. Etuk

With the foregoing cover letter was Bro. Nse's typewritten reports of the month's activities which are summarized as follows:

The combined service was held on Sunday, Nov. 7, at Nung Asang Ikono. Bro. Etuk, Pastor Udoka, Bros. Enu and Felix from Benin City and I arrived at the station at 9:15 a. m. A Sunday school was held for different aged groups. After a prayer by Bro. John J. Udo, another inspiring hymn was sung, followed by a number of choruses. Bro. Sunday Udo Udo read 2 Chron. 15:1-12. Pastor Macauley U. Ekpene prayed and then preached a sermon from the text in 1 Cor. 16:9. Seventeen souls were saved and the total attendance was 813. Bro. Brownson U. Ekpene is the minister at this station.

On Sunday, Nov. 14, a special service was held at Ikot A. Eda. Bros. Nse and Etuk arrived at 9:15 a. m. The Sunday school was held with 156 souls centering their minds on the Lord's sermon on the Mount. At 10 o'clock Bro. John J. Udo continued the service with hymns, choruses and prayer. Evangelist Willie G. Udoffia preached a sermon on "Light and Darkness," using the text in Ephesians 5:8.

The sewing classes and adult reading classes are continuing on schedule. Bro. Nse and Bro. Brownson U. Udeme are interpreting Bro. Wilson's written messages at the various stations. These are much appreciated.

Bro. Nse Umanah closes his report with this verse:

Throughout this season of His birth
And through the New Year, too,
May happiness and peace on earth
Fill every day for you!

When Bro. Carver returned from Nigeria he handed me about 15 written requests from the various Nigerian stations for financial help in building new permanent chapels, repairing the ones they have, a building equipped to care for their sick while they are being prayed for, a permanent missionary home and bicycles for the ministers in charge of stations. We are bringing these requests to the attention of the church and pray the Lord to direct each one what to do about these worthy projects. It would seem that the first need would be a resident missionary and competent business person who could supervise the handling of the funds for these projects on the field.

—L. D. Pruitt

C. C. CARVER'S REPORT ON MISSIONARY TRIP

To all the dear saints: I want to express to each of you my thankfulness for the many prayers you offered up for wife and me while we were on our trips overseas. I also want to thank those who contributed so freely of their means. Your letters and prayers meant so much to us.

From the beginning I became desirous of going to Nigeria, even before Bro. Madden or Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson went. This year when Bro. Wilson approached me wanting to know if I sincerely wanted to go, I told him I surely did want to go. He had learned that wife and I could get reduced rates because our son Vernon was an airline pilot, and offered to furnish funds for our tickets round trip to Nigeria. Immediately I began to make preparations to go. Passports, visas, etc., had to be arranged for. Wife wanted to go, to take care of me, and we had that problem to pray over. Should she go or not? Learning from Vernon that a side trip to the Holy Land could be made at a very reasonable price, I borrowed \$400 for us to make that trip with. Since Bro. Etuk wired us to put off our trip to Nigeria until the rainy season moderated, we decided to go on to the Holy Land before going to Nigeria. This we did, and surely it was an inspiration and blessing to visit the scenes of Jesus' life and ministry here on earth. It surely brought us closer to our blessed Lord to know we were seeing places where He lived and preached and visited. Two nights in Rome on returning made Paul's travels more real. We had flown over Thessalonica and Thessalonians became more important. Returning to Amsterdam, the headquarters of the Royal Dutch Airline KLM (and here I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to the KLM officials and crews for their many, many helpful actions in our behalf), we flew toward Nigeria, landing at Madrid, Spain on the way down. Going on, we were met at Port Harcourt in Nigeria by Bro. Alalibo. We visited his home, and preached at their place of worship that night. Next morning our Bro. Nse Umanah and the driver met us for the 80-mile trip to the interior. I'll let my wife tell of Africa.

While there, Sister Marie Miles and Bro. Lawrence Pruitt wrote us of the contact that a brother in India had made with them. He had received a copy of the 40th anniversary edition of the "Faith and Victory" paper dated March, 1963. They and Bro. Wilson hoped we could return by India and meet the Indian brother. But they learned that KLM was not flying to India because of the India-Pakistan trouble and they regretfully spoke of the trip there as impossible. About the time we received their letter, that trouble subsided and I learned that KLM had resumed their Indian flights. I wired Bro. Lawrence, also phoned him from Amsterdam, and expense money and a ticket for India was wired to me at Amsterdam.

Wife felt it was time for her to return home, so she boarded the KLM plane for New York, then on an Eastern Airline plane for Washington and our son Vernon's home to await my return.

I went from Amsterdam to The Hague in Holland to get an Indian visa, which I got for 30 days. I made this trip by train. Holland is a very nice country; so clean looking, with its canals, its fields and cattle.

Arriving back in Amsterdam, I took the 5:00 p. m. flight to Delhi, India. We stopped at Zurich, Switzerland, Athens, Greece, Cairo, Egypt, and then headed for Abadan in Iraq. After making an attempt to land in the fog and not being able, the pilot headed for Kuwait, where the same condition prevailed. Then he headed south for Dharan in Saudi Arabia where we found hot

clear weather. But since it was an unscheduled landing, and on their holy day, all officials were asleep and we had to wait until after 9:00 a. m. before we were able to get clearance to leave. From Dharan we flew to Karachi in Pakistan. On account of the troubled border conditions between Pakistan and India the captain headed out to sea and went south over the Arabian Sea to Bombay, India and then flew inland heading for Delhi. So we arrived at Delhi late, and I missed my booking on the Indian Air Line. We missed the 2:10 p. m. flight by arriving at 4:30. The next flight was at 7:15 p. m. but it was booked solid with 24 standbys. Agent said, "Not a chance." But God came to my rescue in the person of the supervisor who took me in hand and worked until nearly 6 p. m. to get me on that Bombay flight. I don't know how he did it, but he got me on. Upon landing at Bombay I was in the same predicament. I had a ticket, but I had missed my booking and the planes were loaded to capacity. I cried unto the Lord, as at Delhi, and expected to get on the next plane (it had 40 standbys waiting) and I could hardly believe it when I was left. My greatest concern was for Bro. V. who was to meet me at Cochin, over 80 miles from his home. I wired him telling I would see him Sunday at 9 a. m. or Monday at 10 p. m. But when I arrived at 10 p. m. Monday, he was not there. He arrived the next morning about 7 a. m. while I was eating breakfast. He had called on all the hotels until he found me. He had made three trips of 80 miles to meet me. But we were both thankful that the dear Lord had worked it out that we might meet. So after breakfast we took the train for Kottarakara, and there got the bus for the last three miles to his home. He has a beautiful home, on a small acreage, above a beautiful valley green with growing rice. His hillside acreage had cocoanut palms, plantains, pepper trees, tapioca, breadfruit, and jack trees. A Bro. Daniel was there to meet me with outstretched arms. We had family devotions that night and he was there with others of his family. There was a deep dug well in the front and a bath house. I was given a room to myself, with a nice three-quarter bed. This was my home for about 25 days. It was a very nice home and very nice surroundings. I enjoyed being there.

I found the people of India that I talked with, very unhappy with the way the churches were being run. There are many missionary movements in India, with the money coming from America. Seems that there is plenty of American money to be distributed. It is used to build mission centers, chapels, cemeteries, and to subsidize the local ministry. The cemetery situation is very important. The cemeteries are controlled by the churches. The government allows that. So, many people join the church merely to have a place to bury their dead. It is hard to bury one who is not a member of some church with a cemetery. Our brethren over there are faced with this difficulty when they "come out" of Babylon. Bro. V. plans to allot a plot from his little holding to be used as a cemetery, but he thinks there should be at least 3 or 4 other plots. I trust that our people will recognize this need and help to buy plots for cemeteries.

Of course, we in the Church of God know that man-rule is the way of Babylon. Only the Church of God has Holy Spirit rule. No doubt they do need financial help. One young business man in India told me that American money was the curse of the Indian churches. The American controlling or handing out money had a power that was demoralizing their ministers. It will be easy for ministers there to look to us for their needs rather than to God. I think we should pray earnestly and faithfully that God will work, and that the Holy Spirit will place the gift of "government" in the proper, Holy Spirit-filled

servants. "Look ye out among you seven men of honest report, FULL of the HOLY GHOST and WISDOM, whom we may appoint over this business." I feel that the foreign churches should be self-supporting as they are here in America. Also, I recognize that there is an urgent need to spread the truth NOW! Dedicated men who are willing to carry the gospel should have traveling needs supplied. And we are the ones living in a country where there is a much higher standard of living than over there. Maybe God has prospered us so we can help them "GO." "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" We may think we are poor, but you should see the barefoot, barelegged, poorly clothed man of Africa or India to know what real poverty is. Food is more important than clothes. When a pair of thongs costs two days' labor he is likely to go barefooted.

I feel that the expense of this trip was not wasted. I know that I have had a startling eye-opening experience that will never fade from my memory. I believe that we will, through the "Faith and Victory" paper, and by personal correspondence be placed in touch with sincere saints who will rejoice in the knowledge that there is a living, active, working Church of God in America. They have "come out" without knowing where to go. They left sectism because it was abhorrent to their spirit. They naturally want to be one flock with God's people in other countries. There are multitudes of literate, educated, sincere people in India looking for leadership—I mean real Christ-like leadership. There is a working nucleus there now. They need literature, Bibles, chapels, cemeteries, traveling expenses, (bus or train travel is less than 1c per mile), and food for their families. They have not been taught much doctrine. We should supply that need. I visited homes where they had already taken the name Church of God. I found them willing to receive light on all the doctrines of the Bible. Let us do what we can to enable them to come to the fullness of the light.

Again let me thank each one of you who contributed prayers, money, encouragement, letters, or good-wishes, smiles, or tears toward our wonderful journey to the far side of the globe. May God bless you. I may not have answered all letters, and I trust those who did not receive a personal reply will accept this through the paper. I just thank God for YOU ALL, my brothers and sisters in Christ. Your saved brother,
—C. C. Carver

(Editor's note: Sister May Carver's informative report of their missionary visit in Nigeria will appear in the February issue, Lord willing. Look for it next month).

LETTER FROM NATIVE MINISTER IN INDIA

(Editor's note: Following are excerpts from a recent letter from Bro. V. who first wrote several months ago after receiving a copy of the "Faith and Victory" paper dated March, 1963):

Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Sincere greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior who has done so much for all of us. I hereby acknowledge with thanks your kind letter with the enclosed bank draft. This is a great help for me in the work of the Lord. I just returned from my northern trip.

I am amazed to see that the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, is paving the way for reaching the people with the "evening light" message. Yes, it is true that millions in the great land of India have not heard the gospel of Christ in its fullness. I believe God is going to do a mighty work in India and it's on our part to surrender

ourselves and our all fully at His feet as workers together with God.

Recently I received a call from Assam. This state of Assam is situated on the northeastern frontier of India about 2500 miles away from here. This call came just before Bro. Carver left and he longed to go to Assam and visit the precious souls there, but he had no time, as his visa time expired. Last year I visited just three of the 300 congregations of the Church of God in Assam. They are purely indigenous and independent. Each congregation holds an average of 1000 families. Late Bro. Nicholsroy was instrumental in mass conversions of the hill tribes, very sincere believers. They were kept all these years from compromise, apostasy and innovations. The saints must have much concern and prayer for these children of God. I am looking forward to going and visiting them at the guidance and leadings of the Holy Spirit. May He supply the needs according to His will. I want to send some English tracts to them.

Bro. C. C. Carver's visit was a great blessing and a season of refreshing and joy to all the believers here. He received quite a warm welcome from all the congregations and places he visited. He could have visited several other stations had he stayed here longer. I am sure he has encouraging news to convey to the saints in America. He felt the ardent and genuine response of love from the souls of the same spirit and faith, of the same family of God. In him and through him, we could sense the pulse of warm and sincere love of the saints in America. All sincerely wished he had stayed here longer. He left us on Monday, the 15th of November.

Dear brother, the field is ripe and open for us to work through the length and breadth of Kerala, Madras state and North India. The harvest is truly great and the laborers are few. Let us pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers. We are doing it and praying according to the suggestions of our Lord. A few workers met Bro. Carver and boldly said that they have decided to come out and be one in the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit is separating some good, gifted brethren from the sects and they have taken a definite stand with us.

On the second Saturday of every month we have a fellowship meeting when sisters and brothers, young and old, come in groups from different places with songs of Zion. They get up to testify, very eagerly looking for a chance to get up before another. It is a time of refreshing and edifying. Bro. Carver attended one of such fellowship meeting.

We are in the midst of terrible enemies, but the Holy Spirit gives us power and victory. Praise the Lord!

Thank you for contacting Bro. Ostis Wilson for his Bible lessons.

I remind you once again of the urgency of the need of purchasing cemeteries, at least three or four in central places, and also the need of building two chapels. I place the needs here for prayer and necessary deliberation to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray and do the utmost. With much concern for souls. I remain yours in Him,

—Bro. V. . .

TESTIMONIES

Ohio—To the dear Saints of God, greetings of love in our dear Savior's name: We are happy to send in our testimony, and to say that we are still saved and abounding in the graces of our dear Savior.

We would like to tell of some of the Lord's gracious dealings with us. We feel so unworthy of His many blessings. The Lord has healed my body of what we believe

to have been ulcers three times. At times we suffered severely, but God has been faithful to give us grace and strength to trust Him through all three attacks.

There is one special blessing we promised the Lord that we would tell about if He would bring it to pass, for our good and His glory. We were blessed with a little baby boy who is now a little past six months old. At birth he had a lump on the left side of his head. When we were told of this condition, we asked the doctor what it was. He said that it was a blood tumor and that he could drain it with a needle if we wanted him to. I asked him if we didn't have it drained would it eventually go away. He said, yes, but the thicker particles of the blood would not dissolve, thus leaving a small knot on the child's head. We had an appointment with the doctor to give the baby a physical check-up in two weeks. I must say that during these two weeks at times our hearts were very heavy and the pictures that the devil painted looked very dark, but the dear Lord comforted and encouraged our hearts. We met our appointment after two weeks. The doctor asked us if we were willing to let him drain the lump. While he was examining the child, we were looking to the Lord. The Lord gave us a Scripture that enlightened our hearts. I quoted this scripture to the doctor: "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. His reply was, "I wish that it would work." We told him that it would work, and left the doctor's office with a determination in our hearts to trust God for the healing of our baby's body.

We wish to say with joy in our hearts, that the Lord did heal our baby. The doctor stopped in about four weeks later to see the baby, and my wife asked him to look at the baby's head, testifying to him as she had promised the Lord. She reminded him of the Scripture, John 15:7, and how that it did work. His reply this time was: "I know you people are right."

The Lord has done so much for us we couldn't begin to tell it all. Our desire is to be faithful to the end. Pray for us.

—Bro. and Sister Kenneth Abbott

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I want to write my testimony and tell what the Lord has done for me. October 14 I fell and hurt myself pretty badly. I couldn't walk very well for awhile. I hurt my chest and back. I never slept that night. The next morning I called the saints for prayer. I got better and rested some. Some of the saints came and anointed and prayed for me. The Lord undertook and I could rest better. I slept well until Monday. The hurting in my chest and back was worse. I called for prayer and again the Lord touched me. Now I am feeling pretty well. Praise the dear Lord!

I can't thank the Lord enough for all His blessings. He has healed me many times. I want to go all the way with the Lord and do His will. I thank all the dear saints for their prayers. I love all the saints and everybody. God is a present help in time of need. Pray for me and all of my unsaved loved ones. —Myrtle Niswonger

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear Saints, greetings of love in Jesus' loving name: I would like to testify to the Lord's blessings on my life and that I am His child.

Christ could not rise triumphantly
If He had never died.
And we can never live for Him
Till we be crucified.

I was thinking this morning while alone, how gloomy it was outside, but in my heart Christ was dwelling. When-

ever alone, we don't need ever to be lonely, for God is with us always. In Hebrews 13:5 we read, "And be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." There is always the blessings of prayer and the Word of God to read. How precious to have a living Savior dwelling with us, teaching and guiding us along the way!

The phone rang just as I was writing this. It was my mother, Sister Annie McKinney. I'm thankful to have a dear sweet Christian mother to call to see if I am well. She was 87 on November 23.

Please remember me in your prayers at the "Faith and Victory" printing office. We enjoy the little paper so much with all the encouraging testimonies. May God bless all of you.
—Sister Lucille Allen

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

Virginia—Dear Ones in Christ: I am some better and my boy is better. My brother is some better for which I give the dear Lord the praise. I do thank the dear Lord for a praying people. I am pretty nervous yet but the dear Lord is able to help me. He has been so good to me. I desire your prayers. I can walk now and go about the house. I am so thankful. I couldn't walk nor sit up when I wrote to you. I believe the old time way. Praise His holy name. Still pray for my boy and brother. Pray earnestly for us as we need your prayers.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. Press Angles

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

Pa.—Dear Saints, greetings to all of you in the blessed name of Jesus our Lord: I have just received my paper, "Faith and Victory" and it fills my heart and soul with joy and happiness to read all the good things written there.

Today finds me happy in Jesus, my Lord, and encouraged to press on with Him guiding me. I am so glad I ever found this gospel way. I am determined to go through with Jesus and those who endure to the end.

Remember me in prayer and the work of the Lord here. I love all of God's people and I pray for all of you that the Lord will bless and supply and keep you ready for His coming.
—Sister O. Harris

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

Calif.—Dear Saints, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: I am thankful that I am saved and can report victory over sin and still very much encouraged to live for the Lord. The Lord has been good to me. I appreciate His blessings and His dealings with me.

I have for some time been concerned about myself and my place in the body. I have been looking to God and seeking Him for a closer walk with Him. I desired to know what He requires of me and how to obtain that place. Through my seeking help along these lines, God took me away from the cares of daily life and my family affairs and began to show me some things.

While away in this place, God showed me a virtuous woman. God showed me that she is a woman of strength, a woman of power, and a woman of wisdom. She is a woman whom God can use to get a hold of burdens, able to pray, and be a burden sharer; someone who has wisdom to take hold of a need and is able to be a help and strength in that particular need. He has shown me this virtuous woman holds an exalted place above other women. She is able to give strength and comfort to others where it is needed. It is through her humility, her chastity and courage that she has become a virtuous woman. She works along with her pastor, able to share the burdens and is one that is a help instead of a burden herself.

As I looked on and beheld this virtuous woman, God began to show me myself, my shortcomings, and how far I was from this place. As I beheld this virtuous woman God brought me up to a particular trial. Through this

trial God began to show me the death I had to die. He showed me that I, myself, not someone else, but I, had to die to self, all my feelings, inward and outward. He showed me there was some humbling of heart I had to do. It grieved me in my heart to find myself in the condition I was in. I went before the Lord and poured out my heart to Him until I came to a place where I could say, "Here I am, Lord, take me, mold me and do whatever it takes to make of me what you will have me to be." There are a lot of things about myself I don't know about as yet, but I am willing for God to have His own way with me. I desire through the grace of God to obtain whatever place He has for me. I desire to be the mother God is calling for in my home and to live humble and prayerful before Him that I may obtain the wisdom and knowledge that is needed to rear my children up in the fear of God.

Looking and beholding this virtuous woman, her joy, her soundness of judgment, her delight, and her faithfulness, I consecrated my life more fully to God. I don't want to have any reserves or hindrances between me and the things God wants of me.

Pray for me that I walk a chaste, upright, and a virtuous life and be all God will have me to be.

Your sister in Christ,

—Gladys Foster

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

Mo.—Dear Saints: I'm thankful today for salvation and for all the many blessings the Lord bestows on us each day. He has been so good to us, we can never thank Him enough for the peace and contentment that we have each day. We are so glad to be living close to some of the saints, and to be able to be in meeting each week.

I had a bad-looking place to come on the inside of my lower lip and it bothered me when I talked or ate, as it would rub against my teeth. One night at meeting I felt impressed to be anointed and prayed for, and the Lord touched my lip while the ministers were praying. It surely encouraged my heart. The enemy tried to tell me the next day that I wasn't healed, but I just rebuked him and told him I knew better, as I felt a definite touch. In a few days it was completely gone. I do want to live close to the Lord and be faithful in every way. I desire your prayers. Christian love,
—Mary Marler

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

La.—Dear Saints, greetings of love in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour:

It has been some time since I have sent in a testimony but I wish to express my gratitude for being able to serve such a mighty God. Surely the Lord has blessed us and been so good to us. To God be all the glory. Praise His holy name!

He blessed in such a miraculous way when Thomas and Myrtle (my daughter) were desiring to move here. We both put out a fleece. The Lord heard and answered prayer in such a way that we all felt it definitely was of the Lord for them to move. Also, when they looked for a place, He worked it out so they found just what they wanted. I am home now after caring for Myrtle and a precious tiny baby boy. She had had the measles and several complications before the baby was born. Many people had said discouraging things to her, meaning no ill, but they had it committed to the Lord to go all the way with Him.

I still love the Lord and know He is still on the throne. He still hears and answers prayer when we have problems, trials and tests. He heals our bodies and helps us to keep that perfect peace in our hearts.

Surely, my desire is to stand steadfast, to keep on the armor of faith and live so that my life will be an inspiration to others around me. Anything that I can

move up on in any way I want to be humble enough to do so. I have unsaved loved ones whom I hope to lead to Christ. I covet your prayers. —Sis. Marie Miller

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' name: We can still report victory in Jesus. I haven't been too well for a few weeks.

The saints here at Webb City, Mo. had the pleasure of having Bro. Curtis Williams for a few nights' meeting. The attendance was pretty good and there were quite a few at the altar, some to be saved and some to be sanctified. We all felt encouraged by the presence of the Lord and for the good word of God. The Lord blessed with good anointing for His Word.

Pray for us at Webb City. —Sister Ersa Carrick

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

Penn.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints, greetings to you in the blessed name of Jesus: I hope this finds all well there. I thank the Lord for what He has done for me. He surely did undertake for me when I sent there for the anointed handkerchief. I applied it and believed the Lord would heal me of an affliction I had for over 17 years. After applying the anointed handkerchief and believing the Lord would heal me, I have felt the trouble only slightly, so I thank God for healing me and am holding on to what He has done. He is a mighty God, whom we serve. I mean to serve Him all the days of my life. Times are so evil and sin on every side which makes me want to draw closer to the Lord.

Enclosed is an offering in honor of our dear Savior's birthday. Continue to pray for us. —Sister Avis Tinsley

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

Mo.—Dear saints and readers: The Lord has been talking to me to write my testimony about Him healing me when I was sick for two months.

I had pains in my side and stomach one morning. I suffered all day and started vomiting in the evening. For six weeks I would vomit up almost everything I would eat. My stomach was so sore I could hardly bear my clothes. I lost weight and got so weak I could hardly walk. My body was yellow and itched till I could not keep from scratching until I had bleeding sores. I suffered greatly. I had a high fever for the two months. At times I lay in a stupor.

My sister called Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson. They came and prayed for me. The dear Lord touched me. I went to sleep and rested a little while. I never will know what was my trouble. The dear Lord knew and He knew how and when to heal me. When He did touch my body He did a complete work. Now I can eat anything I desire, even all kinds of meat. I am 76 years old but I can do my own work and even go to the store for my groceries. Praise His holy name forever! I am so happy I clap my hands and raise my voice in praise to Him when I am all alone.

I have trusted the Lord for my healing for over 43 years. I don't want to ever turn my Lord down and take medicine or go to the hospital. Jesus suffered for us that we may have a way to have our sins forgiven. Can't we suffer for His sake? I do not want to die trusting in man's power. If God had seen fit to have taken me, it would have been better to die trusting in the Lord and go to heaven than to trust in man and be lost. The Lord said He would have a tried people. How can we be tried if we give up? If we stay true to the Lord and trust Him, then when we get healed we can give the dear Lord all the praise.

Dear readers, it pays to trust the Lord for all things and not be afraid. He will not let us suffer more than we can bear. He is always near to hear our prayers.

I want to thank everyone for their good letters and nice cards and for the many prayers that went up to our heavenly Father in my behalf. May the Lord bless, encourage, comfort, and help everyone who is saved and talk to poor unsaved souls to get saved is my prayer.

—Sister Fannie Williams

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

Kansas—I wish to send greetings of holy love to all the dear saints abroad:

Of a truth I can say I have "faith and victory" in my soul and a deep sweet fellowship for every blood-bought child. We are God's family, and all are needed to make the "One Glorious Whole," and too, we need the earnest prayers of each other to enable us to function as lively stones in the building of our God.

At present I feel very helpless and insufficient as I stand before what seems to be the Lord's assignment for me—a charge similar to the one given to Jeremiah as recorded in Jer. 30:2. So please pray fervently for your aged sister that I be blessed in this task. —Ethel K. Miles

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

Ohio—Dear Saints, greetings of much love in Jesus' dear name: I feel the Lord would have me to write my testimony of God's wonderful healing power. The Lord has been good to me. I surely thank Him for what He has done for me. The Lord is good to everyone. I surely love the Lord and want to please Him. The Lord has raised me up different times and never fails to come to my rescue. Thank the Lord, He never changes and never will. He is just the same every day.

When we had that wreck in August, I know He was with me. I wouldn't be here today if He had not been by my side. I know we couldn't do anything without the Lord. I want to go all the way with Him, by His help. I want to give Him the praise for everything. He does not allow anything to come our way only what we can bear. I want to wait on the Lord. I know He is going to heal me completely. I surely want to mind the Lord and do what He wants me to do.

I want all the saints to pray for my children.

—Alma Humphrey

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

Ind.—Dear Sister Marie and all Christians: I want to write my testimony in appreciation for what my dear Lord has done for me. He healed my daughter's back just recently. He healed my jaw and head where I was having terrible pain.

I have been saved about 15 years. The dear Lord has been so good to me so many times. I have written for all of you to pray with me for healing and other things. He has answered so many times. I cannot thank Him enough. Praise His name!

I have a very urgent unspoken request that I do want the saints to pray with me for. I am sending a Christmas offering as unto the Lord's birthday.

Pray for me. Your sister in Christ, Mrs. Silas Whitson

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and readers of "Faith and Victory," greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. "For there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Acts 10:13. I thank the dear Lord, that took in even me. The dear Lord has saved me from all my sins and has done so much for me that I feel like I owe Him more praise than what I have been giving Him. I feel led to write my testimony for His glory.

I was saved in 1905 and sanctified two years later. I was not where I could attend meetings as we can now. I had never before heard a sermon on salvation. I had

a bad fall and must have been hurt internally as I got very sick, and a little Bohemian woman that was saved said to me, "You are sick. Do you want me to call a doctor, or do you want the saints to pray for you?" I had not heard that there were saints on earth. She went back to her home where there were a few of the saints of God, and it was not long before I was completely healed. After that incident I searched my Bible and found in there that the Lord would heal our bodies as well as save the soul. When I read or heard about faith I did not know what faith was or meant, but I learned that it is to believe God's Word. He has given us many promises in His precious Word and I claim them as I have need for them. I had nine children and never gave them any medicine of any kind—only prayed for them.

While we were in Kansas years ago I called for a meeting and the saints from a neighboring town came with a preacher and he preached the truth. My husband was bound with his habits, but the dear Lord put conviction on him in answer to prayer and two weeks of meeting. He was a German and could not read English, but would take his German Testament and I would tell him where the minister was reading, and he got so deeply under conviction he would say afterward, "I don't know how I got to the altar. I just fell on my face and cried mightily to God." He was saved and the Lord delivered him from those habits of drinking, smoking, and chewing tobacco. After two weeks' meeting, the minister said he had to go home for a week and would be back. As my husband had gotten saved, the minister asked him, "Would you like to have my English Bible which I preached from?" Though my husband had no knowledge of reading English, the minister gave him the Bible and when he came back, Husband could read his Bible. The minister stayed there three weeks more, and announced there would be baptizing. Husband said he was baptized as a baby, the same as I, with a little water poured on our heads. But when he heard the minister preach on baptism, Husband was the first to go into the water. There were 22 baptized, and I was one of them.

The dear Lord has been with me all these years and has confirmed His many promises to me. He has been a present help in every need, healing all kinds of diseases, broken bones, severe cuts, and even doing miracles for me. While I was younger I suffered afflictions and now that I am aged, 86 years old, I have often said I feel better now than when I was younger. I am fully in the hands of my Lord and when afflictions do come on this old body, I just tell the Lord. I want His will to be done. I am ready to go or willing to stay.

I have many loved ones that I am praying for, that God will give them grace and help them to make it through safely. Heaven is a holy place, filled with glory and with grace; sin can never enter there.

I love my Lord and all His saints, and pray that we may all stand fast on God's truth without compromise or fanaticism. Only the truth will take us through.

Love to all, —Sister Emma Luehring

BE PREPARED

The burden on my heart is that we, the saints of God, be more burdened and pray more for the saved ones in Communist countries. Also we need to be more diligent about our own children and young people lest the Communistic or atheistic doctrines destroy their faith. I heard one young lady say, "Because of some of the classes I have been studying in college, I had

begun to think perhaps there was no God. But after this meeting I know there is!" She did live saved a while after this, but today is in a backslidden condition. Why? Because the devil had destroyed her FAITH! Many of the teachers are atheists who are undermining the faith of many of our young people each year. Many of the theological seminaries are damning souls under the cloak of "Free Thinking." We, the saints of God, need to be careful lest the devil slip some bondage of sin on to us through a supposed "freedom." Some say, "It will take away my freedom to do things just to please the saints." No, my brother, never; rather we make ourselves freer of self by submission to God's people. Self is our enemy; not the saints of God.

I suppose many have heard Bro. Probst tell about how in Cuba they teach the children against God by having them pray to Him for ice cream. Then after no ice cream comes, they would have them pray to Castro for ice cream. Castro would have someone waiting outside the door with ice cream for all. Bro. Alex Figueroa, an early refugee from there, says, "One of the principal plans of the Communists is to uproot little by little from the minds of the people the idea of a God who created the universe and a Christ who came to die for the sins of the world. We cannot say that in Cuba there is open persecution against the church such as has taken place in many other countries. Rather, the enemy is working more subtly, to cause men and women to forget their Saviour. Almost all religious programs have been taken off the air. When a tract falls into the hands of a Communist, he immediately begins to accuse the distributor and many times brings grave problems upon the church. All services in public buildings and open-air services have been suspended. Services in the prisons have been suspended. They try in every manner to get even the ministers to join the committees for guard duty, and when one refuses, everything possible is done to prevent them from receiving their rations of food. The streets of Cuba are full of books, very low priced, publishing the glories of Communism. These do away with God and the Bible and are available at a price even the poorest can afford. The school books, especially history and geography, have been changed. All heroes have been changed into Communists or traitors. The national hymn has been replaced by one called 'Internationale.' One verse reads like this: 'No more supreme being, nor Caesars; or privileged class, nor GOD; we alone will win our own redemption.' The life of a Christian in any atheistic, Communistic country is very difficult. Yet we know that the Kingdom of God is spiritual within our hearts and cannot be destroyed. However, God's people need His help and strength, and we need to earnestly remember those who are left behind. There are many ministers who work faithfully, in spite of hardships and scarcity of many things. In Cuba we didn't know what was coming, but may God help us here to be prepared for the future."

We are all aware of the many ways atheistic or Communistic spirits are influencing the people of our land. The Bible has been restricted in our schools

and not used in other gatherings in which it once appeared. Communism is an anti-Christ spirit. How can we fight against an anti-Christ spirit without the words of Christ recorded in the Bible? How much are we using the Bible and prayer in our gatherings? When I was a child we never visited the saints' homes, nor did they visit ours, unless the Bible was read and prayer was offered before parting. I know some of the saints' children are being reared in this same atmosphere, but far too few. Awake saints, one and all. The devil will destroy us if we sit at ease. Let us train up our children in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it.

—Charlotte Huskey

BIBLE STUDY

NOTICE: Primary Picture Roll, \$1.95; Lesson cards, 15c.

January 2, 1966

THE NATURE OF BELIEF

Printed Portion Matthew 8:5-13; Hebrews 11:1-6

Matt. 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,
6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.

7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.

8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Memory Verse: But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. John 1:12.

Practical Truth: Faith is believing God from the heart that he will do as he has promised.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lessons this month will be about the Christian faith. It is supremely important that we each one know what we believe and why we believe as we do. We should know the Word of God so we can convince others. We should seek for an intelligent and strong faith in God.

Our lesson today teaches us that Abel, Enoch, the elders, and even the centurion in Jesus' day received a blessing through faith in God. The last verse of our lesson must be believed from the heart or we will not be rewarded for our faith.

God has all power. He spoke and the worlds were framed. It seems the centurion that came to Jesus recognized the authority and power that God had. He also believed that Jesus was also invested with that power over diseases and the devil. He compared the authority he had as an officer over his military army to the authority that Jesus had. This was a great insight into how we receive from God those things we need. Jesus commended this and said, "I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." We can take a lesson on faith from the centurion.

Our lesson in Hebrews was written in 63 A. D. The Apostle Paul still teaches the same truth that the centurion had got a hold of. Our faith must be more than an intellectual faith. That intellectual faith must get down in the heart and work from there. "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." (Acts 8:37). Heart faith brings complete trust and victory.

January 9, 1966

THE BASIS OF BELIEF

Printed Portion John 20:24-31; Romans 10:8b-15, 17

John 20:24 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Rom. 10:8b The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Memory Verse: And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 16:17.

Practical Truth: Jesus is the rock upon which we build our faith and his words.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lesson brings out the mercy of God to a great doubter. It proves to us that God will deal with every soul who sincerely desires to know truth. After Jesus arose he appeared five different times to others on the first Lord's day (Sunday). In the face of these facts and witnesses, Thomas held firm and said, "Except I shall see." I don't feel that Thomas is an example for us. We should accept the facts presented by witnesses who have proved their truthfulness.

On the next Lord's day (8 days after resurrection) Jesus appeared to the disciples through locked doors. Oh, the joy, humility, and faith that filled the heart of Thomas as he felt his Lord. "My Lord and my God!" Jesus did not commend him for his unbelief but pronounced a blessing upon those who believe and see not. Today we believe yet we have not seen with our natural eyes.

To be born again we must have faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, our Savior. We must confess our sins with our mouth. We must believe in our hearts. This will bring real Bible salvation. This salvation is offered to everyone. Whosoever will may have it.

January 16, 1966

GOD IS HOLY

Printed Portion 1 Chron. 29:10-13; Rev. 4:8-11; Romans 11:33-36

1 Chron. 29:10 Wherefore David blessed the Lord before all the congregation: and David said, Blessed be thou, Lord God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.

11 Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all.

12 Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

13 Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

Rev. 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

10 The four and twenty elders fell down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Rom. 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Memory Verse: They rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. Revelations 4:8b.

Practical Truth: God is worthy and it is our privilege to praise Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first words of our holy Bible say, "In the beginning, God..." God is the beginning of all things and He shall be the ending of all things. People might rise up and persuade many after them declaring that there is no God. But God is still God, regardless of what man says or does about it. God is a holy God. There is not one speck of imperfection in Him. With that perfection is power and all wisdom. There are not enough words in the English language to describe God nor the glory and power that surround Him. We all have to bow to His greatness and wisdom. Truly his ways, judgments and power are unsearchable.

John the revelator was in the spirit and saw many things in visions which were symbols of things which had been, which were, and were to come. The four living creatures or beasts represent the people of God of all ages. The four are the ante-deluvian, post deluvian, Mosaic, and Christian. (Heb. 9:15; Luke 13:28). Each living creature had wings which would signify that the laity and ministers work together in sending forth the gospel. The 24 elders are the ministers who had robes of righteousness and crowns of authority. The entire company are worshipping God continually. Let us, from our heart, join the universal chorus, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty."

January 23, 1966

GOD IS FATHER

Printed Portion Hosea 11:1-4; John 14:6-11; 2 Cor. 1:3, 4

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

2 As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.

3 I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arm; but they knew not that I healed them.

4 I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

2 Cor. 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

Memory Verse: But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. Isaiah 64:8.

Practical Truth: God is a Father full of pity and long-suffering, yet metes out righteous judgments.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first four verses picture God as the father and the children as ungrateful and disobedient, not appreciating a Father's tender care and help. Seventy of Abraham's seed, who were God's chosen people, went down into Egypt. God heard their cry and with a mighty hand delivered them out of the hand of bondage. They were a child then and he loved them, led them into the land of freedom which was the land of Canaan. But Ephraim, as well as all the 12 tribes of Israel turned to worshipping the idol, Baal, instead of God. They forgot the tender care given them. Some children today seem to forget the sacrifices and the many hours of watchful care their parents give them in sickness and in health. Hosea compared God's loving care to the oxen who are gently led to the stall after a day's work and the heavy yoke lifted from them. With a few words of kindness, food is given them. In this manner God would lead Ephraim but they were too stubborn to yield to this kind of love and obedience. How sad!

Jesus spoke as the Father spoke. He grieved over the people of Israel because they rejected Him. When we obey God we become His children. (Gal. 3:26). God loves us. "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons, for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not." Heb. 12:6-9. God is perfect in wisdom, love, power, and we must trust Him.

January 30, 1966

GOD IS REDEEMER

Printed Portion Rom. 3:21-26; Heb. 10:19-22; Eph. 1:3-8

Rom. 3:21 But now the righteousness of God without

the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Heb. 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Eph. 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence.

Memory Verse: In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace. Ephesians 1:7.

Practical Truth: God had mercy upon us when we were lost in sin and sent a redeemer, Jesus Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

This world became in an awful state because Adam and Eve sinned and that sin passed upon all men. Adam and Eve fell from that pure and holy state in which God had created them. God looked down upon this sinful world and He desired to redeem mankind. God had mercy upon sinful man who was doomed to eternal punishment. They could not redeem themselves. God freely gave His Son to take the punishment of mankind. Jesus freely gave His life that we might be forgiven and restored to God. God is our Redeemer and Christ is Redeemer. We can only come to God our Redeemer through his Son Jesus Christ.

We can now through Jesus Christ come with confidence and faith in God that He will forgive us. The veil that separated the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place was a type of the flesh of Jesus, his body that was bruised, wounded, and made to suffer for our sins. As he died on the cross the literal veil in the temple was torn apart. Now with confidence and faith we can come into the presence of God. We can be covered by the wings of mercy and rest upon the mercy seat. —Marie Miles