

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Nothing Fails When God Is In It

Nothing fails when God is in it,
Be it great or be it small,
Though sometimes we're made to wonder
Why for us He gives a call,
When we feel so weak and helpless
For the work He calls us to,
As we think there should be others
Stronger far than me and you.

But the God of grace and wisdom
Knows the gifts and hearts of men,
Who will bless the lives of others
With the tongue or with the pen;
Who will sacrifice and labor
In the lands both far and near,
Out among all kinds of people,
All of whom to God are dear.

Nothing fails when God is in it—
If it's preach or pray or sing,
Or invite the poor lost sinner
To the altar of our King;
Or to help a little pilgrim
Who is tempted hard with sin,
Just to pray and hold quite steady
That the battle he may win.

Nothing fails when God is in it
When we give our best to Him,
Even if we lift a candle
Just to light some pathway dim;
Or to give a drink of water
To some fainty, thirsty soul,
Who has fallen by the wayside
On his journey to the goal.

—Walter F. Isenhour

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Out of print for many years, the book, "BIRTH OF A REFORMATION—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner" by A. L. Byers, will be available in June. 496 pages in cloth cover. \$4.00 per copy, postpaid. Order your copy NOW for June delivery.  
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GOD'S KEYS

Faith worketh by love. But how? First, by our perfect obedience to God, a continual obedience to our highest conception of His will. "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). One has said that life is like passing through a corridor with doors on either side, at which we must continually make decisions as to which we will enter. If we open a door into a realm of the flesh, it will affect our whole future life: if to the Spirit, we will find ourselves in a higher realm of light and grace each time. In the life of Abraham, how many times he was called upon to separate himself from that which was dear to him in the flesh. First from his father's house, then from Haran, third from his kinsman Lot, then from his son Ishmael. Lastly the supreme sacrifice came when God called him to offer up his son Isaac in whom was centered not only his natural affection, but also all his spiritual hopes. That for which he had left his father's house, had dwelt as a stranger in the earth, all his years of sacrifice and waiting now seemed about to be coming to a heart-rending consummation. But he believed God and therefore he was called the friend of God. Likewise we also, if we would approach the treasure house of God, must turn from all but Him, step out upon the seeming void, then we shall find the eternal rock beneath.

There are times in the Christian experience when we must persistently obey the heavenly vision. At this stage strenuous perseverance and patience are needed. Through darkness and through light, let patience have her perfect work. Patience is the key to perfection and fullness, then be not weary. God will bring you out into a large and wealthy place if you will but surrender to His will and working. The words of Jesus, "If therefore thine eye be single thy whole body shall be full of light," have a much deeper meaning than most of us have yet comprehended, but it is the way of faith and obedience. How many times our hearts have been made to feel a sense of deprivation and loss, because when we choose Godward we

have cut ourselves off from loved ones, friends, and even many with whom we had enjoyed a degree of spiritual fellowship, and have had to go out with strangers. Then above all, even the spiritual ideal for which we have lived and suffered seems to be taken from us. But this way of death is another key to the unbounded treasure of God Himself.

One day in viewing the riches of the 91st Psalm I said, surely we do not see this fulfilled in the lives of many. Then as I looked more closely I came to the conclusion that comparatively few have learned to use the keys to this great bulwark of the Lord. These are found in the 9th and 14th verses, "Because thou hast made the Lord . . . even the most High, thy habitation," "Because he hath set his love upon me, . . . because he hath known my name." The enemy has plenty of dwelling places for you to stop at on the way to this high and holy habitation. "For strait is the gate . . . and few there be that find it." It is so easy to take second best, to devise or to accept some earthly prop to prevent our leaping out on the fathomless ocean of God Himself. Few are they who reach the 91st Psalm and dwell in the secret place where the conscious presence of God envelopes them. Only those who will stand the fire shall know this joy. Only those who die to the end of self shall ever have the resurrection with its hundred fold.

When we comprehend these passages we shall have found the key to a realm where all things are ours. No more drinking from dribbling streams, but plunging into the ocean of His fullness. No more seeking for feelings and blessings, for here we have the Blessor over, around, and within. To desire is to have, and prayer is turned to praise. "God is love;" in these three words is the foundation of all our faith. This is the key which unlocks his richest treasure—the little mustard seed faith that will remove mountains. Oh, that I might express the joy, and light, and power, that I have found in these words. They are as a live wire run right down from the throne, by which God's life is transmitted to us. "Then shall ye know, if ye shall follow on to know the Lord." (Hos. 6:3). —Lottie L. Jarvis

Lift Up a Standard

Isaiah 58:1, "Cry aloud, spare not; lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." Isaiah 62:10, "Go through, go through the gates; prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people."

There seems to be a spirit of compromise at work in the world today, and it has been noticed to some extent even among the professing saints. The dictionary gives this definition of the word compromise: "Submission to objectionable acts or opinions; something which partakes of different characters or qualities: followed by between; as, it was a compromise between right and wrong." It is the giving up or lowering of the standard of truth as taught in the

Word of God. There are those who would set up standards to suit themselves, that meet their own ideas and opinions. Their idea seems to be, one standard for the preacher, another standard for the women, and still another for the men. God doesn't have, or recognize a multiplicity of standards, but A STANDARD. Paul tells us in Philippians 3:16, "Let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same things." There should be one rule of conduct, or one standard of modesty for the saints of God the world over.

I have become quite burdened and concerned about the standard of dress among the saints. After reading the writings of the pioneer ministers, and from personal contact with many of them, it is my impression that the saints in light have always held a high standard of dress. However, from observation, it seems to me we are facing a grave danger today along these lines, so much so that we need to cry aloud and spare not. Short skirts and dresses, shorter sleeves, tight fitting skirts and dresses are moving right in among the camp of the saints. The spirit of the world is moving in rapidly, and unless the saints of God awake out of sleep and stand against it, I can only predict another great falling away as the ultimate consequences. May God stir our souls and help us to watch and pray, lest we enter into temptation.

The Word says, "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord." If it is immodest for women and girls to wear short sleeves, (and they are getting shorter), then it would be immodest for the preacher to wear short sleeves. If it is immodest for the preacher to wear short sleeves, then it would be immodest for men and boys to wear short sleeves. If it is immodest for women and girls to wear shorts, it would be immodest for the preacher to wear them. If it is immodest for the preacher to wear them, then it would be immodest for men and boys to wear them. If it is immodest for women and girls to wear tight fitting clothes, it would be immodest for the preacher to wear them. If it is immodest for the preacher to wear them, then it would be immodest for the men and boys to wear them.

There are professing church of God people today who feel that it is perfectly all right to cut the little girls' hair, and dress them in sleeveless or short sleeve dresses; also to dress the little boys in short sleeves and short pants. The Bible says in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." We are responsible in training and instructing our children. There is not much use to rear them to dress immodest and then expect them to do differently when they become older. I am not pointing at any certain individual or locality. I am much concerned about conditions among the saints in general. May God help us to consider these thoughts, and if need be, do something about it.

Many people of the world wonder why the saints dress as they do. They think us odd. Sometimes they accuse us of being under bondage. They say that we dress and act as we do because our lives are governed by what a little handful of people tell us to do! Yet we see the world following the little handful who

create the fashions of the world. If it should become fashionable to wear long sleeves, longer dresses, long hair and no paint and frills, everyone of those same people would gladly go along with it. Why? Just because the crowd is going that way.

Now the true reason we saints dress and live as we do is because the Word of God teaches us to do so, and because we love the Lord and seek to do His will. May the Lord help us to stand on and by the old line of truth. Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Please take your Bible and read through the 19th verse. —T. H. Coffey

A Tribute To Father

"Honor thy father and thy mother." Eph. 6:2.

This was a commandment given by Moses, reinforced by Jesus in His teachings and repeated by the Apostle Paul which makes it an obligation for every person.

I am glad that I did not wait until my parents were both gone to the Glory World to honor them. It is a wonderful feeling today to know that I have no regrets. As a teen-ager, I tried to please and respect them. I didn't leave home until I was 22 years old, and then I left with their permission. I went with my father in the gospel work and helped in printing the gospel literature. I was glad that I was able to help take care of my precious mother the last two weeks or more of her life and was able to help my father in the gospel work by his side the last nine years of his life. Not all children have these privileges, but I am thankful that I did.

Children do not have instincts of obedience that naturally express themselves. They have to be taught obedience. I am glad that my parents did just that. They freely used the leather strap to make us mind. Prayer was included. We were clearly made to know that we not only disobeyed our parents, but also disobeyed the Lord at the same time. I am thankful for the strict teachings and care that I received while growing up, although at times I did not understand it all. I can look back now and see that it was good for me. I was taught what was right and what was wrong. It was a boundary line for me in life.

One time when I was a teenager with my father in the gospel work, many came to him with their problems and heartaches. Some parents came to him about their son who had taken his own life. I didn't understand at that time why so many had so many troubles. I asked my father about it, saying that I had not had troubles like that. He told me that I had parents that had protected me from troubles by not letting me become exposed to sin to the degree that others had. I understand more now what he was talking about. I appreciate their love and care. Some parents have even sent their children out to steal, and even some let their teenagers be in positions that they lost their virtue. Today I honor my parents and thank God for them for their love and protection.

On June 19 is the day that the nation is to honor its fathers. We thank God for godly fathers. We thank God for the discipline and instruction that they give their children while they are young, and then for the example, admonition and reproof that they give them when they grow older. We appreciate the time that they take to show love and interest in their family. They work long hours, but they still show their love and care. They sacrifice very much for their family. They seem to understand many problems and know how to correct, forgive, and forget.

My father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, was consistent in having daily family worship with all of us. His life of faith and devotion to God stands as a monument to me of real devotion to a real, living God. When I was a child and would get sick, I called for him to pray for me. God heard and answered prayer. God was real to me then and is today. My father did not leave me any inheritance in this world's goods, not even one dollar, but he left me the greatest inheritance that could be received and that was an example of faith in God that has caused me to have strong faith in God today. I miss him greatly today, but feel it is very selfish to want him to come back. Today he is basking in the sunshine of Glory and is resting from all of the burdens of this life. I expect to meet my parents some day over there.

—Mrs. A. Marie (Pruitt) Miles

Television, A New Approach to Sin

To every age Satan presents a "magnificent obsession," a new approach to sin, which becomes the darling idol, the sacred god of the masses. One apostle writes, "The sin which doth so easily beset us." In other words, the sin which is so much discussed, excused, and defended. The lusts which the flesh enjoys are the ones that are defended. A cigarette smoker will defend the cigarette, even when he knows it is killing him. The drunk will defend his drinks, even when he knows it is his ruin. The adulterer will defend adultery, even when he knows the Bible said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and no adulterer shall see the kingdom of God. Jesus said, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do." John 8:44. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." Titus 2:11, 12.

I never saw a person yet who calls himself a Christian, who is more spiritual because of his television set. "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes." Psalms 101:3. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the EYES, is not of the Father, but is of the world." 1 John 2:15, 16. "Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it, but thou shalt utterly detest

(Continued on Page Six)

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

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

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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 Write for prices on larger quantities.

Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way," a weekly six-page paper for children, edited by Mrs. Marie Miles and published quarterly. Suitable for use in primary and junior Sunday school classes.

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

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

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

Free-will offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

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

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

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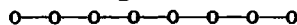
In its annual cycle, the wheel of time has brought us to the campmeeting season again—a time when special efforts are made to reach the unsaved with the glorious message of salvation through Christ, and a time of refreshing and holy fellowship for the people of God who constitute the Church, the spiritual Body of Christ. In these endeavors there is a place for every member to fill which involves much spiritual and physical effort in order for God's purposes to be accomplished. Prevailing prayer is the key to Holy Spirit-filled services in which the Spirit carries the truth to the hearts of the saved and the unsaved. May each of us pray fervently and be ready for service or sacrifice in the great cause of Christ—the salvation of eternity-bound souls.

The Word and "ministry of reconciliation" has been committed unto the church—the channel through which God has designed to reach the world with the good news of salvation by the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. "Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." 2 Cor. 5:20, 21.

Again the Apostle Paul writes: "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men ..." "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God." The Lord is not only a God of mercy and goodness, but He is also a God of terror and severity toward those who transgress His laws. Jesus is not only the "Lamb of God" but also the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" who has the power to execute judgment upon the wicked. Many people presume upon the mercies of God and are often cut off suddenly in their sins. May souls awake to their responsibility 'ere the wrath of the Lamb-Lion falls upon them!



Back numbers of March, May, and June papers are on hand for prompt mailing at about the cost of the postage—2c per copy. Order a roll to pass out to your friends and neighbors.



The many orders for the reprint edition of the book, "Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner," will be filled just as soon as the books are ready in June. It contains 496 pages, including many pictures, in a nice gold-lettered cloth cover. The price is \$4.00 per copy, postpaid to you. Order your copy of this limited edition NOW, and it will be mailed to you as soon as it is ready.



Over 300 different titles of gospel tracts are in stock at this office, and we want to get them in the hands of readers. Send for a FREE sample of these tracts to read and pass on. Lists of our tracts and books will be included.



Recently about 7,000 copies of the English tract, "Art Thou Prepared for Eternity?" was printed in

a dialect of South Africa and mailed to the country of Pretoria for free distribution. Pray that the gospel seed sown will germinate and produce a bountiful harvest of souls.

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"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God." Psal. 14:1. The Psalmist David again repeats this statement in chapter 53:1. Evidently David had come in contact in his day with the skeptics and atheists whom he classed as fools when by their actions they said in their hearts, "There is no God." Over the centuries even nominal Christian professors have continually denied God by their works, but now they vocally advocate the "God is dead" heresy and are getting a hearing from the multitudes who have never been resurrected from the dead state of sin to walk in newness of life with Christ. It is so sad to see the crowds following the blind leaders, and as Jesus said, "both shall fall into the ditch."

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With the feeling of "sheep without a shepherd," we report that due to continued ill health, Bro. Ira Stover resigned as pastor of the Guthrie congregation on Sunday, May 8. It came rather unexpected, as we had prayed and hoped that the Lord would restore his health for this pastoral work. (The Lord can still restore and reinstate him.) However, for the present, Bro. and Sister Stover are away for a needed rest.

Over the years since March 19, 1959 we have appreciated the pastoral labors of Bro. and Sister Stover in the Guthrie congregation. They carried a real concern for the spiritual and physical need of each member. Their instructions have been Biblically sound and profitable. Speaking personally, and I believe for the entire congregation, his resignation was accepted very reluctantly, though we knew that he was not physically able to carry on. Our prayers continue unto the Lord for his complete recovery and that he will have many more years in the Lord's service. Their faith and trust are fully in the living God and they would appreciate the prayers of all the saints.

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On a recent business trip to Texas, my wife and I went on to Louisiana and visited our son and his family, and the saints in the Hammond area for a very few days. We were glad to be with them again and enjoyed the holy fellowship.

Bro. and Sister Ray Key were visited, and we found Sister Key much improved physically. She was assured that the saints were still praying for all her needs.

In that area, Sister T. H. Coffey, Bros. Wayne Miller, Oscar Williamson and Dallas Flynn stand in need of your earnest prayers for physical healing. We are glad to know that by Jesus' stripes we are healed and He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

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Almost all that is shown on the television are the works of the devil, and the Scripture tells us in

1 John 3:8 that "the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil." Surely we would not want to favor that which Christ came to destroy. If preachers persist in using or favor the use of the "accursed thing," they should not be allowed liberty in the pulpits of the saints, lest they also be contaminated by the worldly spirit. In the Revelation Jesus held a few things against the pastor of the church at Thyatira because he suffered a false prophetess "to teach and to seduce his servants." May God help the ministry today to "discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."

—L. D. P.

Campmeeting Dates for 1966

Following are some of the Church of God campmeeting dates for the coming summer. Dates for others have not been received. Complete notices will appear in later issues:

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 3 to 12.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 3 to 12.

O'Neal Pratt, R. 1, Box 38, Holly Hill, S. C.

Hoffman, Okla.—June 17 to 26.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 24 to July 3.

Sister Bea Spaur, Pastor, Box 254, Jefferson, Ore.
Phone AC 503—327-2855.

General Southern—Hammond, La.—June 24 to July 3.

California State—Pacoima, Calif.—July 8 to 17.

Missouri State—Myrtle, Mo.—July 8 to 17.

Akron, Ohio—July 8 to 17.

National Campmeeting—Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.
July 22 to 31.

Oklahoma State—Guthrie, Okla.—August 5 to 14.

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 5 to 14.

Dover, Oklahoma—September 2 to 11.

Campmeeting Notices

TULSA, OKLA. CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting in Tulsa, Okla. at Pine Place and Norfolk will be held June 3 through 12, 1966. Everyone is welcome.

For further information contact Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor, 1536 Piatt St., Wichita, Kansas. Phone AMherst 4-8481.

—By Maple Littlejohn
2021 N. St. Louis, Tulsa, Okla. Ph. LU 2-0449

HOFFMAN, OKLA. CAMPMEETING

The Church of God campmeeting at Hoffman, Okla. will convene June 17 to 26, Lord willing. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His own choosing. All are welcome to come. For further information, contact Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 North Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, or Sister Earnestine Myles, Box 63, Hoffman, Okla. 74439, or Bro. W. W. Crawley, Okemah, Okla.

Pray for the meeting and for us. Sister Lorene Payne

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God will convene Friday, June 24 on the General Southern camp

grounds at Hammond, La. and will continue through Sunday, July 3.

We are looking forward to another precious sitting together in the Lord. We are looking to the Lord to send in ministers of His choosing.

As in the past, meals and lodging will be provided on the free-will offering plan. We are urging everyone who possibly can to be here for this meeting. Come, be a blessing and receive a blessing.

For further information, write or call T. H. Coffey, P. O. Box 1177, Hammond, La. 70401, telephone area code 504-345-2412.

NOTICES

There will not be any all-day meetings in Dayton, Ohio during the months of June, July, and August because different ones will be planning to attend the various campmeetings during the summer.

In Christian love, —Wm. A. and Verga McCoy

There will be work days on the Myrtle, Mo. campground on the 2nd and 4th of July in preparation for the campmeeting to be held July 8 to 17. If anyone wishes to come at any other time to work, there will be work to do, and you will be welcomed and your work appreciated.

—Murphy Allen

The Church at Sapulpa, Okla. welcomes you to their all-day services on Sunday, May 29. Also we announce that our prayer-meeting has been changed from Thursday night to Wednesday night each week.

—Richard Madden, Pastor

The Shreveport, La. Church of God will have all-day services on the second Sunday in June (June 12). There will be gospel singing in the afternoon along with a message or testimonies as the Lord leads. —C. C. Carver

Special work days on the National campground at Monark Springs, Mo. will be on July 2 and 4. Much work needs to be done. Remember the dates and plan to come. This is your meeting, and the Lord will bless your efforts.

—Bro. Ralph Beisly, 407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kan.

Opening all-day services were held on May 22 at the new chapel on Cooper Drive at Shawnee, Okla. where Bro. Chas. Smith is pastor. Bro. Curtis Williams preached in the morning service, and he will continue there for a week or two in a revival meeting. Pray for its success.

EASTER MEETING AT JEFFERSON, ORE.

Dear Saints and readers abroad, greetings in Jesus' dear name: We want you to know we are encouraged in the Lord to press on for Him.

Another ten-day Easter meeting has come and gone here at Jefferson, Oregon. We can say, as we heard many say, that this was one of the best "little meetings" we ever had. Different ones spoke of the sweet unity and love manifested from the first day till the last. Yes, the Holy Spirit was with His saints, not only in the services, but also the dear ones who labored in the kitchen felt the sweetness of the Spirit.

Much interest was manifested all through the meeting. Some were at the altar for salvation, sanctification, and healing. Saints came from Washington and Calif. It is always so precious for God's family to come together in meeting. We only had one out-of-state minister,

Bro. A. E. Harmon. The dear Lord also used some of the home ministers. All worked together in love and unity. Thank God, we met to work and pray in sweet fellowship. As I write this, the song, "The Old Campground" is ringing in my heart. Yes, praise the Lord for the bond of love. We are still rejoicing over the precious Word and the feast of rich spiritual food from Father's table.

Now we are looking forward to our campmeeting here, and all others, that many souls will be saved. We are finding a few here and there that are intersted in their souls. So, dear ones, pray with us that they will come all the way with the Lord. We do appreciate more and more what the dear Lord is doing for us, giving us the needed strength from day to day. We have a burden for souls, and desire to do all we can to rescue the perishing. Yes, we need to pray and work. Let us pray God to stir our hearts; and especially the ministers that they will be true to souls, and cry out and warn the people. Also pray that the church will be on fire for God in these last days.

May God bless each one. We exhort all to keep in much prayer that many will be saved in our coming campmeeting this summer. In Christ, —Beatrice Spaur

TELEVISION, A NEW APPROACH TO SIN

(Continued from Page Three)

it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing." Deut. 7:26. This is God's Word, and to disobey God will damn even a preacher. The television is presenting to your children SIN in all its deceitful beauty. Some may try to sort the good from the bad, but it is like sorting through a garbage can for food—pretty mixed up. Missing the pleasures of television is a wonderful miss—like missing cancer. There is nothing on TV to help one to heaven, and just a very little of educational value. The main purpose of TV is entertainment—a home being entertained by the lowest colony of people, presenting deceitfulness in all of its fury with obscene things that were never permitted in the movies, influencing wives to think that adultery is modish. How can a person watch sex scenes, murders, lying, stealing, and breaking of all the other commandments, finding pleasure in them and those that commit such things, ever expect to get to heaven? They are drinking of the cesspools of hell. If sins were taken from the movies and TV show scripts, there wouldn't be enough left to run for a week out of a year, and no one would watch them. Hoover, of the FBI, has said that TV is doing multiplied more damage than the theater ever did.

People say that TV is here to stay. So is liquor, adultery, murder. These things will get worse and worse, just like a canker. TV stills the lips of preachers and Christians about sins they once loudly condemned. They can't say much about sin if they are doing the same, or they might hear, "Physician, heal thyself." "Abstain from all appearance of evil." 1 Thess. 5:22. "For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law." James 2:11. "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." 1 Pet. 2:11. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

—Earl B. Bliss

OBITUARIES



Evelyn Delores Francisco, daughter of Felix and Lucille Francisco, was born Oct. 9, 1948 in Bakersfield, Calif. The family moved to Fontana, Calif. two years ago. She passed away on April 14, 1966 at home in Fontana, Calif. at the age of 17 years, six months, and five days.

Evelyn was saved at an early age, and in 1965 she renewed her consecration with the Lord and served Him faithfully. In the home she was devoted and trustworthy, loving and obedient. She humbly and faithfully took the advice and counsel of her parents. During her short illness, she trusted in God and gave the testimony that all was clear between her and the Lord.

Survivors include her parents, Bro. and Sister Felix Francisco; two brothers, Felix O., and Kenneth; three sisters, Elaine, Laverne, and Melva of the home; grandparents, Bro. and Sister Z. E. Francisco of San Diego, Calif., and many other relatives.

Services were conducted in Bakersfield, Calif. by Bro. Charles Smith, Bro. I. C. Chandler, and others.

"Our Evelyn"

Our darling Evelyn is gone,
A jewel so bright and rare;
God has claimed her for His own,
She rests in His loving care.

Oh, yes, we'll surely miss her,
That one we loved so dear;
But she's been spared the burdens,
The cross she would have had to bear.

The road ahead of toil and sorrow
May have bruised her tender feet.
Temptation with its mighty power
May have proved too great or too sweet.

Our Evelyn was a jewel,
Of quiet and treasured beauty;
Obedient, conscientious and cheerful,
As she performed her every duty.

Exalted to royal honor,
She adorns the crown of her King;
Shining bright, like a star of the morning,
Up there, where God's praises eternal shall ring.

So let us all take courage,
Behind the dark cloud it is bright;
And though we can't clearly understand,
God's way is always right.

A few more tests and trials,
A few more aches and pain,
A few more self-denials,
And we shall meet again.

—Rosa Pierro Tompkins

Bro. Earnest Blanton of Veedersburg, Ind. was born June 25, 1896 in Estel County, Kentucky and departed this life on March 12, 1966 at the age of 69 years, 8 months and 15 days. He was the son of Greenup and Harriet Bennett Blanton.

He was married January 25, 1915 to Margaret Eastwood, who survives.

He was saved and accepted the truth of the Church of God and remained true until his Home-going. Death came after a short illness. Bro. Blanton was a godly man whose greatest determination was to obey the Lord. He was very regular in attendance at the church services and was al-

ways ready to cooperate and do his share and even more financially and otherwise.

He also carried a great burden for his unsaved children and left that request with the saints. He will be greatly missed by the saints here in Phoenix, but we have a hope of meeting him again.

Other survivors include six daughters, Mrs. Eva Thomas of Terre Haute, Ind., Mrs. Mary La Master of Attica, Ind., Mrs. Margaret Smith, Mrs. Nora Chapen, Mrs. Juanita Hayes and Mrs. Martha Smalley, all of Phoenix, Arizona; four sons, Raymond of Crete, Ill., Leon of Veedersburg, Ind., George L. of Phoenix and Jack of Durango, Colo.; two brothers, a sister, 26 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Stephen High.

—Written by Sister Annie Peete

Bro. Sam Stewart was born Mar. 22, 1886 in Salt Lake City, Utah, and passed away March 20, 1966 at Grants Pass, Oregon. Bro. Sam's wife passed away about twelve years ago and in recent years he resided at the Parkview Nursing Home.

Brother Sam and his sister, Fannie Weaver, who preceeded him in death, were both saved and sanctified many years ago and were zealous for the truth.

Bro. Sam's last trip of any distance was to visit the Jefferson, Oregon congregation. Bro. Vearl Kliever was his pastor since 1944. Bro. Kliever was away on a trip when Bro. Sam passed away and a local pastor and a friend of both, had charge of the service.

—Bro. Vearl Kliever

Sister Alice Maness was born in Newton County near Neosho, Mo. on July 17, 1878. She departed this life March 28, 1966, at the age of 87 years, eight months and 10 days.

Sister Alice was a semi-invalid from childhood. She gave her heart to God while a young girl, and remained faithful all her life. She suffered much in body through her lifetime, but was patient and never complained. She found the Lord her source of comfort and strength. Those who visited her received encouragement from her patient life. No matter how much she suffered, she always had a ready smile. Her devoted life was truly an example to all who knew her.

She always enjoyed attending meetings with the saints, also the campmeetings, so long as her health would permit. But the last few years she was not able to attend.

Surviving are a sister, Mrs. Stella Parr, with whom she made her home; and a brother, Ozro Maness, Neosho, Missouri.

She suffered a heart attack on Saturday afternoon and passed away on Monday evening. Funeral services were held at Clark's Memorial Chapel of Memories. Burial was made in the IOOF Cemetery.

Catherine M. Carter was born October 24, 1880 near Decatur, Tennessee.

On February 3, 1901, she was married to Charles W. Carter. To this marriage came the blessing of three children: a son, Maynard, and two daughters, Waneta and Wenonah.

In 1912 the family came to Jefferson, Oregon and settled on a farm. Catherine had spent her life in the Salem area for the past 45 years and was a member of the Jefferson congregation of the Church of God.

On February 4, 1951, Bro. and Sister Carter celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Her husband preceded her in death.

Sister Carter is survived by a brother, two sisters, a daughter, Mrs. Wenonah Martin, Salem, Oregon, four grandchildren and five great grandchildren, besides a host of relatives and friends.

Catherine Carter, a child of God, was called to her heavenly Home on May 6, 1966 at the age of 85 years.

Funeral services were conducted in Salem, Oregon by Bro. A. E. Harmon and Sister Beatrice Spaur.

Mother Has Fallen Asleep

Mother was tired and weary,
Weary with toil and pain;
Put by her glasses and rocker,
She will not need them again.
Into Heaven's mansions she's entered
Never to sigh or to weep;
After long years with life's struggles,
Mother has fallen asleep.

Beautiful rest for the weary,
Well deserved rest for the true;
When our life's journey is ended
We shall again be with you.
This helps to quiet our weeping—
Hark! Angel music so sweet!
He giveth to His beloved,
Beautiful, beautiful sleep.

Prayer Requests

Oregon—Our dear Sister Marie and workers: I praise God for full and free salvation through the precious blood of Jesus our Saviour. I promised the Lord I would testify of His great mercies to me.

I passed through a very severe trial of accusation from Satan. I asked Bro. Harmon and Sister Spaur for earnest prayer. I received much help, yet I was still troubled. A few days later, God spoke to me, giving me a Scripture, "The battle is not yours, but mine." Oh, what a blessing to my soul! Such a quietness came over me, a blessing I don't think I ever received before. My life and all I own is consecrated to God to do as He sees fit.

I beg the earnest prayers of the saints for healing of a very bad back and hip trouble that pains me continually.

May God bless all is my prayer, —Sister M. M. A.

Ill.—Bro. A. McClain had a stroke.

Mich.—Sister Floyd Hines fell and broke her hip.

Okla.—Sister Willa Williams' husband has stomach trouble.

S. Dak.—Pearl Y. Earrings — broken leg and other troubles.

Mo.—Sister R. E. Sell, affliction.

Ohio—Katie Patrick, heart condition.

Mo.—Sister R. J. Cook, eyes, numbness in hand.

Va.—Sister Carr and son, unspoken requests.

Calif.—Sister B. Wittenborn still very frail, needed on mission field.

Wash.—Bro. O. V. Koehler, eyes.

Calif.—Sister O'Malley, some heavy burdens, an affliction.

Pa.—Mrs. Wm. Luzier, kidney infection, sugar diabetes.

Canada—Albert Powell, right eye.

Okla.—Sister Love fell and broke her leg.

Mich.—Mrs. H. Hofstra, pains in body, wisdom needed in problems.

Ohio—Bro. Hassinger is not well.

Mo.—Bro. Louie Marler, growth growing rapidly on head.

Ohio—Ella Clark, ulcers, rheumatism.

Ohio—Elnora Ayers, breaking out on body, suffering.

Tex.—Sister Anecia Dutton much better, yet still very weak.

La.—Skin cancer on face. J. S.

Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson are still needing prayer. They are encouraged in the furnace of affliction. They are still clinging to the Lord and trusting Him with no other thought in mind or heart.

La.—Bro. Arnett Carver for severe infection of skin rash and poison ivy. His wife, Genevieve, for a dry skin and scalp condition.

A number of requests have come in for those who have spiritual needs. So many are out of the ark of safety. All of us have loved ones we want to see make heaven their home. We should always remember lost souls in every prayer. The soul is more important than the body. We will lay these bodies down, but the soul will live on forever.

—Sister A. Marie Miles

PREPARING FOR MORE MISSION WORK IN MEXICO

Calif.—Dear Saints, we greet you because of the grace and love of our Saviour. We have great joy in our heart as we find it is sweet to obey the Lord in all that we do. The Saviour is joyful in His great heart when we obey His commandments. The commandment that is most essential to the growth and well-being of every Christian and the church is the "GO YE" commandment: In Matt. 11:7, "As you go, preach." In Luke 9:60, "But go thou and preach." In Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world." In Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." We must obey God. Christ commanded it. It is a clear command. It was His last words. How can we escape these facts? If we stop with the obeying of, "Ye must be born again," and do not go on to obey the "Go ye," we have failed. The time is short and we must obey the Lord while we have time.

We are thankful and humbled in the fact that the Lord is preparing us for His service again in Mexico. Thank the Lord, I have completed the course in Missionary Dentistry at the International Dental Institute in Tijuana. Many doors for the gospel are opened through this training. We have letters from the Mexican government that will help us in getting permits and protection in setting up mission stations and clinics.

We are ready to go anywhere that the Lord would have us. The children will finish their school year here in El Cajon the middle of June. The whole family is anxious to go to the mission field again. Pray that our burden for souls will increase as the opportunities increase. Pray that we train our five children right. Pray for a trip I am to make to southern Mexico the last of May to visit Bro. Esteban who was saved in Rosarito. Pray that the dental equipment will be provided. This will be a great expense, so we invite correspondence with anyone on this matter.

Pray for Bro. Ernesto in La Mision, as he is building a little chapel out of scrap lumber. He has not had any help from the outside, so we surely believe this is of the Lord. He needs a pickup to gather up his little congregation who live at different little ranches in the valley.

Pray for the congregation at Rosarito. We have been going there every Sunday. It is hard to keep the interest up when having services only on Sunday. The Lord has given the faithful ones in this place many victories.

Yours in the service of the Savior, —James Huskey
2054a E. Madison, El Cajon, Calif.

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM INDIA

Bro. Verghese, the native minister in India with whom Bro. Cecil Carver labored while he was there last year, wrote on April 21 that they were very busy these days in the construction of the chapel at Karikam. Also he was engaged in holding meetings at various places. He reported that the convention at Niranam was very successful. Many souls were awakened and encouraged.

Bro. Verghese had estimated that the chapel, for which he had allotted land, would cost \$1,000.00. The last payment on this total amount was forwarded to him on April 28 from the Missionary Fund. He is much alarmed over the sudden rise in the prices of material and labor, and is praying to the "Great Builder" for help in this matter.

This is the first chapel in India in many years to be financed by the Church in America, and we pray that it is the beginning of a vastly expanded mission work in that great sub-continent with its teeming millions of never-dying souls. Even though poverty, famine, and starvation stalk the land, their greatest need is the living Bread—the pure gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Verghese writes: "May God bless you and all the precious saints there who are contributing freely for the work of God."
—Lawrence Pruitt

MISSIONARY REPORT FROM NIGERIA

A cover letter dated May 7 and signed by Bro. B. U. Etuk, the native minister in Nigeria, accompanied the five-page typewritten report of the Church of God Mission activities for the month of April. This report was produced by Bro. Nse Umanah, the secretary, and is summarized as follows:

On each Sunday in April a special service was held at different stations attended by Bros. Etuk and Umanah and other gospel workers. Interesting notes on the various sermons were written.

A 3-day campmeeting was held at Ikot Ebak on April 29, 30, and May 1. Bro. Paul M. Umoh is the minister at this station. A chartered lorry was busy all day Friday bringing the members from all the stations near and far. Bro. W. G. Udoffia opened the first service at 8 p. m. with the singing of hymns and prayer. Pastor Udoka read Isa. 55:1 and gave an exhortation, followed by Bro. B. U. Etuk's address to the meeting. Over 24 afflicted ones came forward for divine healing, and 96 requests for prayer came by letters.

Bro. Sunday Udo Udo conducted an early morning service on Saturday and Pastor Stephen Akpan preached on "Unity and Oneness." Open air services were held at four separate places during the day, with the following ministers participating: Bros. Brownson Inyang, Brownson U. Ekpene, John J. Udo, Frank U. Uffort, Okon, Edet, Udoffia and Stephen Akpan. At one open air service 61 souls came for salvation.

Bro. Umanah, the secretary, gave a brief history of the Church of God Mission in Nigeria. It was disclosed that the congregations numbered 51 which were cared for by 62 native gospel workers. About 25 of these workers are regularly supported by the Church in the United States and "the rest are looking to the Lord to be supported whenever it pleases Him." The secretary spoke further of the first missionary, the late Bro. David Madden, who loved and gave his life for the mission work. Next was mentioned the sacrifices of Bro. and Sister O. B. Wilson, and how Sister Opal Wilson sacrificed her life for the cause of Christ, too. Thereafter, two of the native

ministers, Bro. Friday F. Ekpo and Pastor Tom W. U. Ekpene, were called Home from that field of labor. The coming of Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver was reported, and they were so thankful to the Lord who brought them over and took them back home in good condition. Bro. Umanah closed with this exhortation: "Let us recognize those who help us know the truth and never let them be disappointed."

In the evening prayer meeting Pastor Udoka conducted a divine healing service. Bro. Brownson Inyang preached. "Over 261 came out to receive the needs known to the inquirer and God."

On Sunday morning, May 1, the last day of the campmeeting, they marched to the river with 57 souls to be baptized, followed by a service conducted by Bro. Okon B. Akpan. Then Pastor Macauley preached on the subject, "Much land to be possessed." Pastor Stephen Akpan and several others administered the memorial of the Lord's Supper to the attendants numbering over 600. The total attendance at the close of this campmeeting was 723.

Bro. Etuk writes in his cover letter: "Let us constantly ask God to send a qualified foreign missionary or missionaries into this field. And before that, let Him provide funds for us to build a house which they will live in." They are also desiring assistance for the 37 additional workers who are laboring with the mission.

In a letter dated May 4 Bro. B. U. Udeme acknowledged receipt of a total of \$350 from the Missionary Fund to build the House of Prayer at Ukpom. The foundation was laid on May 2 and the elders of the village were invited to witness what the church in America had done for the Church in Nigeria. They all appreciated it and wished to give more land for the Church project. Bro. Udeme expected the building to be completed in three weeks.

Bro. Brownson Inyang wrote on May 3 that the congregation at Ukpom (pictured in the May issue) was preparing to build a permanent chapel at that place which "I hope will contain the people" as the one now is too small.

Let us continue to pray for and support the mission work in Nigeria and elsewhere.

Can it be that there is no one who can hear the Macedonian call, "Come over and help us?"

—Lawrence Pruitt

Testimony of Mrs. H. E. Young

Sapulpa, Okla.—Memorable day, 1962. On Tuesday night, August 14, God miraculously spoke to me. I had been praying for faith to trust God fully for spirit, soul, and body, but I hadn't ceased struggling. I was still fearful that I couldn't make it, and indeed I couldn't, either. God had to show me that Jesus wanted to come in and take over my life completely with my hands completely off. I am a failure, I am weak, I am fearful, but Christ is all-powerful and there is no failure in Him. He said to me, "Relax, quit trying, quit struggling; leave it to Me!" And oh, when I saw what He meant, what a revelation it was to me! I didn't have to fight my own battles with Satan any more. There was One greater than he had taken up His abode in my heart and He would do it all! Oh, what a relief! I realized I wasn't big enough or strong enough to stand against the enemy. I was weary and tired of fighting. Then, Oh! How willingly I gave everything in my life over to the Holy Spirit—just to do as He will with me! Now I have no will of my own, no desires of my own. I don't have to work out any more problems. Bless His dear Name! He has taken over the reins of my heart. He is at the helm to guide this old bark through the troubled waters. I don't have to

worry any more, because there is no failure in Him. Nothing but sin can separate me from the love of God now. It is so peaceful just to rest in Him and cast all my cares on Him. It is the first real rest and peace I've had in months. He cannot fail. My will is His will and I trust Him completely. Oh yes, I've heard all these words spoken before, more eloquently, but never truer, for today I understand them because they are Spirit and Life unto me.

"I have yielded myself to thy service, and Thy Spirit my bosom doth fill. Oh, my Saviour, I haste to obey Thee, and my heart says amen to Thy will."

I realize it won't always be this quiet and peaceful, because this is a warfare and we have to go out to meet the enemy. But now I don't mind, for I'm not going alone, the Holy Spirit will guide me and I am assured of victory. Of course, I may suffer, and why not? Didn't Jesus suffer? Didn't the followers of Jesus suffer? Am I any better than they?

"And when they had called the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name's sake. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." Acts 5:40-42.

"Faith is the victory that overcomes." The battle is not ours, but God's. Therefore, why fight? True faith will cease from struggling and rest upon His might. Each conflict into which you should come was won on Calvary. 'Tis ours to claim what Christ has done, and hold the victory and shout.

Thursday, 16—I went to prayer meeting last night and testified to what God had done for me and to the infilling of the Holy Ghost. I then told how, when I got up Wednesday morning I started toward the medicine chest, then I halted and said, "Lord, what would you have me to do?" The Holy Spirit immediately brought that Scripture to my mind, "Which is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee, or take up thy bed and walk?" That settled it for me then and there. I thought how inconsistent that we can trust God to forgive our sins, but we can't trust Him with these bodies that He has made. We are all in His hands anyhow, and human doctors can only go so far and then they finally have to shake their heads and say, "We have done all we can, now it's up to God." How pitiful that we can't let God take care of us all the way and then give Him all the glory for our healings! How grieved God must be when He sees the "little faith," or should I say, "unbelief" portrayed in the lives of His so-called sanctified church today. "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

We are truly living in the last days, and God is sick of a luke-warm church. He wishes us to be hot or cold. If not, He will spew us out of His mouth. In other words, lukewarmness makes Him sick at His stomach. He wants us to turn our backs on the world and completely surrender our spirit, soul and body to Him. He wants us to be careful for nothing, but to cast all our cares on Him, for He cares for us.

On the first of September I was anointed and prayed for for complete healing. (This was at Shawnee, Okla. at the saints' chapel.) I had been taking insulin or Arinaise for sugar diabetes for nine years, and also had heart trouble for the past few months. I had suffered several heart attacks and had high blood pressure. I was taking heart tablets and pills for high blood pressure. After being prayed for I took it by faith that I was healed, but God let me be tested severely that night, as I had another heart attack. The enemy suggested to me, "Now

what about your healing?" But I held on to God and rebuked Satan as best I could. (I had already quit taking all my medicine since August 14.) So Satan tried to tempt me to start taking my heart pills again. But praise God, He helped me to be true to Him. Then the following week I came down with a severe case of virus and was in bed for five days. My sister, Emory, came over and stayed with me and did the work and cooking. She was a great help and encouragement to me in my affliction. This virus settled in my kidneys and I had chills when I would pass water. I had promised my niece that as soon as I was able I would have a blood sugar test made as she was worried about me. I felt sure God had healed me and that the test would be all right. So I took a specimen and had a blood sugar test made, also. My blood pressure was down to 145, the lowest it had been in months and I was real happy. But in the afternoon when the doctor came to report on the blood sugar, his first words were, "Mrs. Young, you are having some kidney trouble, aren't you?" I had to say, Yes. Then he told me my kidneys were full of poison and infection and wanted to send out some medicine, which he did but I did not take any of it. Then he said this poison had caused my blood sugar to come up and it was 252, which was the highest it had ever been.

Then Satan said, "Aha! Now, what are you going to do?" I'll admit that for a few minutes I was afraid and listened to the enemy's arguments. He said, You still have some arinaise tablets (insulin) in the house and you could take them and help run the blood sugar down, and when they are gone, you could trust God and not take any more. It seemed reasonable as I knew they would help, and Satan reminded me of what could happen if the blood sugar remained that high. But thanks be unto God, He is a present help in time of need. So again I resisted the devil and all his suggestions and told him that I had started out to trust God solely and completely for my healing, and live or die, I was in God's hands and He would take care of me, for I belong to Him.

I am writing this the first of October, and praise the Lord, He has healed me completely and I give Him all the glory. I can now do all my house work and my heart doesn't bother me at all. Also my kidneys have cleared up and I am sure the sugar must be all right as I have no bad symptoms. I have not taken any medicine since August 14 and I feel like a new person. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, praise His name! I am not afraid to die, because I have a building in the heavens not made with hands, waiting for me. My determination is to be true to God regardless of circumstances and to know that all things are possible with Him. I hope I can work in His vineyard and help others to see the peace and confidence that the Holy Spirit can bring into their lives when they surrender completely to Him. Lord, give me a burden for souls and help me to see some that I'm praying for, saved soon.

August, 1963—It has been over a year now since I quit taking either heart or diabetes medicine and I have never felt better in my life. Praise God who is the same yesterday, today and forever. The doctor had told me I was a chronic diabetic and would be on arinaise (insulin) the rest of my life. But he wasn't acquainted with my Physician. God can heal today the same as when He walked the shores of Galilee, if we only trust Him fully and put Him first in our lives.

August, 1964—It has been two years now since God healed me of sugar diabetes and heart trouble. I have not taken any medicine for either, nor been to a doctor. I feel fine and can work and do anything I need to do.

Praise the dear Lord! He is so good to me, and I am so unworthy of all His goodness.

I had a bleeding from one of my breasts, occurring off and on for about four months. Then after we returned from a trip out west, on the 20th of July my breast started swelling and hurting and became red and inflamed. There was a knot on it and the devil tempted me to think it might be cancer. I did some hard praying. God took all fear out of my heart and I told Him, live or die, I had decided to trust Him alone. (My sister, Emory McCleary) came over and had prayer with me the next day and she rebuked this thing in Jesus' name, and we agreed that God would see fit to heal me. Praise His Name! I believe He heard our prayer that very hour as the soreness began to leave and the swelling and fever also began to subside. The next night being Wednesday night, I went to prayer meeting and requested prayer for my affliction. I didn't specifically tell them what the trouble was, but they prayed for me. God miraculously answered prayer and the next morning the hurting and swelling was all gone. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Praise His Holy Name! I didn't tell my children about this, as they would have insisted on me going to a doctor.

August 14, 1965—It has been three years now since the Lord healed me of sugar diabetes and heart trouble. I have not been to a doctor since nor taken any medicine for either. I do all my work and am able to help others, also. Praise His dear name forever! I'll never be able to thank Him enough for His wonderful goodness and mercy to one so unworthy as I. I am determined to be true to Him to the end, by His grace. I realize I am so dependent on Him for everything and without Him I can do nothing. I am a complete failure unless He has His way in my life. God grant that I may keep filled with the Holy Spirit and keep victory through the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony.

Mother went to be with Jesus on November 12, 1965. She trusted God to the end and went to heaven with real shouting victory against all the devil could do.

—Orie Young

TESTIMONIES

Ky.—Dear Sister Marie, consecrated workers at the Lord's Print Shop, and saints scattered abroad, we send greetings of love to each of you in the sweetest Name that the angels sing: It is in that Name we have salvation, and it is by His stripes we are healed. Praise God for His Son!

I feel indebted to all who prayed for me while I was ill, prior to Easter. I deeply appreciate your prayers and concern in my welfare. Thank the Lord for all of you. We know the enemy does all he can to hinder us from working for the Lord. He knows his time is short. My affliction was difficult breathing, nervousness, and weakness in body. We both felt burdened to attend the Spring revival meeting at Dayton, Ohio from the time we heard of it, but it seemed the enemy was determined we shouldn't go. We looked to the power of God instead of the affliction. God has healed my body over the past thirty years and we felt He would again. I requested the prayers of the saints, resisted the devil as the Word says, and we went to the meeting in the name of the Lord. God so blessed and strengthened my body that I never missed a service. The meeting was precious and blessed of the Lord. We felt, and others did, too, that it was a meeting for the Church. Several of the saints testified they had

received much good from the meetings. Praise God, I did, too, and when we came home, I was feeling very well in soul and body. Pray for us. —Sister S. E. Abbott

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

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Pruitt, the Staff, and the Saints of God everywhere, greetings in the name of our loving Lord. I am happy to be able to report victory over sin and the devil. I am lifting up the bloodstained banner for Jesus.

I presume that I am nearing my heavenly Home. I realize I must walk this strait and narrow way. I must keep my eyes on Jesus. Praise His name! It's a great pleasure to live for Jesus. I tell you we haven't time to stop and pick flowers by the wayside. We must put on the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. He is tricky and cunning. The Word tells me, If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? 1 Pet. 4:18.

I am so sorry to see and hear of people taking chances with their souls when the Word tells us that those who are living for the Lord will scarcely be saved, just barely make it in. So we haven't any time to play around. I'm so glad I have made up my mind to live for the Lord. I want to be ready to go back with the Lord when He comes for me. Keep praying for me as I do for you. I thank God for the true saints of God.

I am doing nicely in my body. Thank God and thank all of you who sent a prayer up to the Lord for my healing. I'm grateful to the Lord that I can trust Him for my healing and not look to the arm of flesh. Yes, I am a true living witness for the Lord that He is a Healer! Thank God!

Enclosed is a small offering. May God bless everyone is my prayer. —Sister P. R. Bowers

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Kentucky—Dear Saints, greetings: I was saved July 12, 1964 at the National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, Mo. After a while I began to get slack, doing things I ought not to have done. As time went by, it became easier not to read my Bible, not to pray, and in short, I just about lost interest in anything worthwhile. So it went on until April 11, 1966 when the Lord showed me what I was doing. I was ready to go to school when my nose started bleeding severely. Anything Mother did to try to stop it was to no avail. I started to pray, and when I prayed through and the good Lord forgave me, the flow of blood instantly stopped. I promised the Lord I would be a better boy, and since that time I have tried, and with the Lord's help, I shall succeed.

I am sixteen years old. Pray for me that I will always remain true. Yours in Christ, —Dale Baldridge

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

Oklahoma—Dear Saints over the world, greetings of love in Jesus' precious name, the sweetest name ever known: I've felt for some time that the Lord would have me write my testimony.

I thank the dear Lord for all His love and many blessings upon me. Some time ago I had an affliction upon my body. My food would not stay down. I could drink a little buttermilk. Prayer was requested here and other places for me. I was not able to work, but the dear Lord supplied me with a place to stay. The dear saints here were looking after me and our heavenly Father was caring for me. I was made as comfortable as possible. At that time I felt I should write my mother and let her know of my illness. She came to Guthrie one evening and wanted me to go home with her until I could get better. Before I left Guthrie to go with my mother, the dear Lord touched my body so I could retain some soft foods, for which I give Him all the praise and glory.

While I was with my mother, I began to gain my strength back. In a few days, I noticed that I was losing my hearing. In about three days' time I could not even hear my own voice. I had an awful ringing in my head. I was praying and asking the dear Lord what He would have me do. The Lord spoke to me and told me to go back to Guthrie. When God wants us to do something, we had better do as He tells us. So my niece brought me home. When we got to the Printshop, my niece told Sister Marie that I could not hear. I could not even hear the machinery running in the shop.

Often we never stop to thank the dear Lord for our blessings until we lose them. We take the Lord too much for granted sometimes. We need to thank Him often for our hearing, seeing, and all that He blesses us with.

I stayed that night with Sister Meek and went to Bible Study. There I was anointed as the Word tells us to do in James 5:14, 15. I could not hear the prayer, but our heavenly Father did. I did not have to hear them pray, for I had confidence in them and our blessed Lord to give the answer, which He did. Praise His precious name!

Just the thought that I might never hear the songs of Zion, or the preached Word, or a prayer given again, brought sadness to my heart. But He knows, dear ones, and He cares. He has healed my afflictions many times, for there is healing in Jesus, there's a balm for each pain. I know our God is real. Praise His holy name!

The next morning Sister Meek was saying something to me in a loud voice and all at once I realized I was hearing her! Praise the Lord! In just a little while I could hear as well as I ever did. "To God be the glory for all He hath done; For life and salvation, the gift of His Son!" All of that song is so precious to me.

Now I can eat very well. I can't do a lot of hard work, but I thank the dear Lord for the strength He daily gives me. He is so sweet and precious to my soul.

I feel very unworthy and the least of all the saints. I'm thankful to be saved and trying my best to live uprightly before our Lord and the world. I am so thankful for the prayers of God's people for me. I know someone had prayed for me or I would not be among the people of God. My heart's desire is to live and be more like Him. Pray for me.

—Joy Mannon

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

III.—Greetings of Christian love to all the saints in the precious name of Jesus: I am glad He was willing to lift me up out of sin and place me in His family and call me His child. I am thankful for the way He takes care of this body of flesh He has provided for me to live in.

In regard to this body of flesh, I would like to tell one thing He has done for me. I have had a trouble in my head most of my life that is known as sinus trouble. It got so bad last fall and early winter that I could hardly breathe through my nose late in the evening and early part of the night. There was very little pain, but it was uncomfortable and embarrassing at times. I began to pray about it and put it before the Lord, and requested prayer where a little handful of saints were gathered together for Bible study. A short time later I discovered I was much better, and now for quite some time I have been so free from this trouble that it doesn't seem possible that I ever had it. I do thank and praise God for this blessing of healing! He is so good to us. How can we ever repay Him!

I think of the Scripture in the latter part of Revelation where John saw a pure river of water of life proceeding out from the throne of God, and on either side of the river was the tree of life which bore twelve manner of fruit and the leaves were for the healing of nations. I don't think God will hold anything back that we need.

If we humble ourselves before Him in faith, and trust Him He will take care of us. He has it provided for us already if we will live by His Word and receive it.

With Christian love, —Albert Green

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

Virginia—Dear Saints: I want to thank all of you for praying for me. I was so sick when I wrote to Faith Publishing House for God's people to pray for me. My nerves were so bad. Thank God, they are all right now. I have arthritis and colon trouble. It is better. I know God can heal me. Keep on praying for me. I want to get well and go out and work for God.

My husband has arthritis and gland trouble. Pray that God will heal him and save him. May God bless all of you.

Your friend in Christ, —Sister Mary Poceus

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

Arkansas—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings in the lovely name of Jesus: I thank Him for His wonderful love that brought me out of bondage and placed me with the free. I am so happy that God ever laid it on Bro. and Sister Albert Eck to come to Grubbs, Ark. and for all the saints who were so concerned about me. I have been trusting God for soul and body since the day I came out and God has heard and answered prayer. I had some growths which I thought might be cancer, but praise the Lord, they are gone and I do thank God.

Also, I want to thank God that David, my son, has been permitted to come home. But he needs God to save his soul. I am so burdened for him.

Please remember me and my children in prayer, also my husband. May God keep us all in His sweet will until He comes.

Your sister in Christ, —Mrs. Johnnie West

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

La.—Dear Saints and readers everywhere: I take this means to write to you, and tell you that I am still saved, sanctified, and satisfied with Jesus. He is all I want and all I need. Praise His dear name!

We sing a song entitled, "I Am Satisfied With Jesus," but if our life doesn't prove we are satisfied with Jesus, then we need to do something about it.

I wish to call to your attention one Scripture that many are failing to obey, and because of this, there is much grief and sadness in the hearts of those who want to go all the way with Jesus and see the work of God prosper. This Scripture is Romans 12:1, 2. The Word and Spirit of God have revealed to us that anything that will change our appearance from that of a meek and lowly person, is conforming to the ways of the world. Many things have come in style in my 80 years of life, and those who have a desire in their hearts to keep up with such things, not only make trouble for themselves, but also bring undue grief to the ministers of the Church of God. They know what the end of such things will bring, because the Word tells us that if we keep the whole law and yet offend in one point, we are guilty of all. Dear ones, how clearly God has made it that we should forsake the ways of the world and be the peculiar people that He said His people would be.

The body should be well covered and have no appearance that we want to look like the sinful world. We should dress plainly and shew forth a meek and quiet spirit which is of great price in God's sight. This will do away with spike heels, short sleeves, short tight skirts, bare legs, and anything else that would cause one's appearance to be unbecoming to a profession of holiness. There are also stylish haircuts for men and boys which show conformity to the world.

I write these things in love and with all due respect to all, hoping and praying that something can be said or done to help precious souls to realize that we are all going to have to come to God's terms of holy living if we expect to see the inside of God's heaven.

I desire the prayers of all of God's children that my everyday life will have God's approval upon it.

Sincerely for God and His glory, —John S. Green

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

South Carolina—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' name: I am happy that I believe in the Lord and that He heals all my children. Our daughter, Linda Kay, was real sick, and I walked the floor night and day with her. All the saints came to my house and prayed for her, and I thank the Lord for what He has done for her.

My husband and I have eight children and we are living for the Lord every day. I am so grateful that I found the true church. We have meeting every Sunday and prayer meeting every Tuesday night.

May God bless you. —Sister Annie Mae Orange

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

S. Carolina—Dear people of God: I am encouraged to trust God. Of late I told Him if He would heal my throat, which was in a bad shape, that I would testify about it. He did heal me and I will always praise and thank Him. There are many more things I could tell of His goodness to me.

Please pray for me. I mean to hold on to God.

Yours for the whole truth, —E. J. Lee

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

Oregon—Dear Sister Miles and all saints, greetings of love in Jesus' precious name: I'm saved tonight and more encouraged than ever to live for the Lord. He's my all and in all. What would I do if it weren't for the Lord? Praise His dear name! He's my Saviour and I love Him dearly.

I had some wonderful experiences while I was in Mexico. I'm glad that my parents and grandfather taught me how to trust God for myself. I have needed God many times, and He came to my rescue.

Dear young people, be encouraged to follow the Lord. You won't ever be sorry you did. I am young myself and I'm not the least bit sorry I took Jesus as my Saviour. He is a Friend in every time of need, a friend who will never leave us nor forsake us. Many times our earthly friends will leave us when trouble comes along, but not God. Oh, praise His dear name! Tonight my soul is satisfied. The Bible says, "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth." So many young people give up because they think this road is hard and long. But this is such a small price to pay when Jesus died on the cross to atone for our sins. Heaven will be worth it all.

My heart is burdened for the young people. What are we going to do when more of the work of the Lord falls into our hands? Are we going to let the world creep in or are we going to keep ourselves clean, without spot or wrinkle? It saddens my heart to see young people today who have the world in one hand and try to hold to Christ with the other. Dear young people, this isn't going to work. The Bible says that we can't serve two masters; for either we will hate the one, and love the other; or else we will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Please take this and meditate over it. It is found in Matt. 6:24. Let us get our eyes fixed on heaven.

The style of dress is so immodest nowadays. Girls wear their dresses so tight that the form is shown and so short the knees show. The knees are one of the most unattractive parts of the body. In 1 Tim. 2:9, it tells women to dress modestly, with shamefacedness. That

not only goes for women, but the men also. Some boys dress in pants so tight that it looks as if they are likely to burst out of them.

I love the Lord tonight, and I mean to serve Him all the days of my life. Pray for me as I pray for you.

Your sister in Christ, —Violet Cable

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

Oklahoma—Dear Sister Marie and the saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name: This leaves me still saved and encouraged to live on for the dear Lord. He is so good to us. He is precious to my soul. He is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. He said He would not leave us, nor forsake us. Praise His holy name!

I do thank God for how He has stood by me in my sickness, how He eases the aches and pains when I am suffering. What a wonderful Saviour! I realize He can heal a cancer as well as a headache if it is His will. I mean to live in the center of His will, ready to go, ready to stay, ready my place to fill, ready for service, lowly or great, ready to do His will. I am trusting in God for soul and body. The Lord said, Blessed is the man who trusteth in the Lord. So I have it settled to go all the way with the Lord, for He is our Rock, our hiding place.

Dear saints, pray for me that God will richly bless me with strength and courage.

Your sister in Christ, —Josephine Taylor

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

Missouri—Dear Saints at the Lord's Printshop and all the readers: greetings of holy love in the name of our Lord Jesus. We are so glad for all the Lord is doing for us in keeping us encouraged to press the battle on for Jesus. He suffered for us and we are to arm ourselves likewise to suffer for Him. We are surely living in perilous times when the devil is working harder than ever before to do away with God's church. Even the dear ministers are having some hard battles to fight, but Jesus has promised to never leave nor forsake us. He promised to go all the way, even unto the end. Praise His name!

The dear Lord has answered prayer for us and keeps us able to go and be in meeting. We attended all the revival last week which Bro. Samons held at Webb City, Mo.

I want to tell how the Lord answered prayer and healed Husband back in the winter. He took cold when we went to Sister Dorothy Barton's funeral. He felt real bad in his lungs. He began to think an old affliction that the Lord healed some years ago was coming back on him. He was pretty bad for about a week or ten days. My granddaughter came and saw how bad he was. She went home and called the saints for prayer. That night the Lord touched his body. The next day he felt so well that it didn't seem as if he had ever been sick. He seems to be completely healed of that, but he has other afflictions now. Our trust is in our Jesus who is just the same now as He was when He walked the shores of Galilee. I am so glad I ever found Him precious to my soul. He can do anything.

It is truly wonderful to be a child of God. God's people love one another so much that when one suffers, all suffer and when one rejoices, all rejoice. All are one in the love of God. We have to be born of God's Spirit to have God's love in our heart. If we lose that love we lose salvation and need to repent again—do our first work over. Do pray for us.

—Asa and Katie Gibson

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The Life and Works of Flavius Josephus—a learned and respected Jewish historian, written about A. D. 98. 1055 pages, clothbound. Price—\$7.50 each, postpaid. The Deacon of Dobbinville, 62 pages. Postpaid for 45c.

What Illness Has Taught Me

Following is an excerpt from the experiences of Mrs. Martha Nicholson:

Looking back over nearly a lifetime of illness, I am thanking God for these pain-filled years. When I stood at the beginning and strained my eyes to see down the dim path ahead, I was sure it would be strewn with roses. When pain and sorrow came I could not understand, but now as I look back the long road which lies so clearly behind me I see that His hand was upon me all the way.

Never strong as a child, I broke down very early in young womanhood. I spent the ensuing seven years in bed most of the time with T. B., then up, off and on, one sick spell after another. It seems that almost every disease has had a try at me. For the last twenty years I have been on the shelf, able to attend church only once during that time.

They have brought me gifts—those weary years. I do not enjoy sickness or suffering, or the nervous agony and exhaustion that are harder to bear than physical pain. And an invalid must bury so many dear dreams which have death struggles and refuse to die decently and quietly. But God has a way of taking away our toys, and after we have cried for a while like disappointed children, He fills our hands with jewels, which cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire.

It seems odd that I can thank Him for sleeplessness. I have suffered so from it, and yet, looking back, I can see that some of the greatest blessings have come during the long nights. At about two in the morning, when all the world is quiet, God comes very close. Sometimes when I have been wakeful for hours with fever or pain, or have tossed about, restlessly trying to solve the problems, financial and domestic, that come when someone in the home is ill, at last the thought has come, "How foolish of me. I don't have to attend to this; He will do it for me." And I have whispered over and over to myself some of His precious promises, and they were indeed a lamp unto my feet in the night.

Of course, one of the hardest things about being sick is a feeling of uselessness. We want to work for God. Can it be that we have an idea that God is needy, that our services are necessary to Him? Oh, it is indeed good to work for God, but it is better just to do His will, and it may be that it is not His will that all should work. Some day He will tell us about that.

But there is one great ministry in which even we sick ones may share, and I thank God for that—the ministry of prayer. It is a marvellous, a breathtaking thought that I, lying here on my bed in my small room, may help set in operation the vast machinery of God, may even change the destiny of a life, a world, may hasten the day of His appearing! Why don't we pray more?

I recall that after I had been sick for several years, I thought, in my foolishness, that I had learned the lessons which God wanted to teach me, and that He would let me go out into the world and work for Him. As though one could ever learn all that God has to teach! No, I am still sick. I do not understand why I must still be an invalid. I no longer expect to understand. If I did, there would be no need of faith. Enough that He knows why and some day He will tell me all about it—why it was best for me and best for His cause.

But the best part of all is the blessed hope of His soon coming. How I ever lived before I grasped that wonderful truth, I do not know. How anyone lives without it

in these trying days, I cannot imagine. Each morning I think, with a leap of the heart, "He may come today!" and each evening, "When I awake, I may be in glory!" Each day must be lived as though it were to be my last.

I am on tiptoe with expectancy. There are no more gray days, for they are all touched with color—no more dark days, for the radiance in His coming is on the horizon—no more dull days, with glory just around the corner—and no more lonely days, with His footsteps coming ever nearer, and the thought that soon, soon I shall see His blessed face, and be forever through with pain and tears!

—Selected by Melvin Flynn

BIBLE STUDY

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

June 5, 1966

REFORMATION UNDER HEZEKIAH

Printed Portion 2 Chron. 29:1-11, 35b, 36; Isa. 30:15

2 Chron. 29:1 Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.

2 And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done.

3 He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the Lord, and repaired them.

4 And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street,

5 And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the Lord God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.

6 For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the Lord our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the Lord, and turned their backs.

7 Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel.

8 Wherefore the wrath of the Lord was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.

9 For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this.

10 Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.

11 My sons, be not now negligent: for the Lord hath chosen you to stand before him, to serve him, and that ye should minister unto him, and burn incense.

35b So the service of the house of the Lord was set in order.

36 And Hezekiah rejoiced, and all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.

Isa. 30:15 For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

Memory Verse: For if ye turn again unto the Lord, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before

them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the Lord your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him. 2 Chron. 30:9.

Practical Truth: We should be strong in God and stand firmly against wrong.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In last week's lesson the people faced sorrow, heart-ache and doom for not doing the will of God. In our lesson today, they are being blessed because they are doing God's will. Hezekiah was a wonderful king. He took his problems to the Lord when they arose. When he received a letter from the king of Assyria telling of how his gods had helped him to destroy other nations and they would help him destroy Judah, he spread it before the Lord and prayed. God helped him. He sent the angel of the Lord into the camp of the Assyrians and smote thousands of them. God gave them a wonderful victory. (2 Kings 20.)

Our lesson tells about Hezekiah restoring the worship of God in the temple. The lights had been put out and the doors shut. No incense had been burned before the Lord. The Apostle Paul tells us that our bodies are the temple of God. (1 Cor. 6:19.) Many today are going about with the door of their heart closed against God, their influence or light is ineffective and no praises or incense is burned before God. They need to open their hearts and have the filthiness of sin taken out. Then they could send forth the praises of God and the light of heaven would shine out of their lives.

God blessed Hezekiah when he was sick and added 15 years to his life after he prayed to him. He felt the nation needed him to help them serve God. 2 Kings 20:1-6.

June 12, 1966

MANASSEH LEADS JUDAH INTO SIN

Printed Portion 2 Kings 21:1-4, 9-15; 2 Chron. 33:12, 13

2 Kings 21:1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he began to reign, and reigned fifty and five years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hephzibah.

2 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, after the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord cast out before the children of Israel.

3 For he built up again the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he reared up altars for Baal, and made a grove, as did Ahab king of Israel; and worshipped all the host of heaven, and served them.

4 And he built altars in the house of the Lord, of which the Lord said, In Jerusalem will I put my name.

9 But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the Lord destroyed before the children of Israel.

10 And the Lord spake by his servants the prophets, saying,

11 Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, and hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which were before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols:

12 Therefore thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Behold, I am bringing such evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle.

13 And I will stretch over Jerusalem the line of Samaria, and the plummet of the house of Ahab: and I will wipe Jerusalem as a man wipeth a dish, wiping it, and turning it upside down.

14 And I will forsake the remnant of mine inheritance, and deliver them into the hand of their enemies: and they shall become a prey and a spoil to all their enemies;

15 Because they have done that which was evil in my sight, and have provoked me to anger, since the day their fathers came forth out of Egypt, even unto this day.

2 Chron. 33:12 And when he was in affliction, he besought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers,

13 And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord he was God.

Memory Verse: Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. James 4:17.

Practical Truth: Mercy awaits all who will repent, regardless of how deep in sin they have gone.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We do not understand why one of the best kings ever to rule Judah should have a son who became one of the most wicked kings to rule. Manasseh was very young when his father, Hezekiah, died. He got some teachings because we read that in the end he prayed and repented. (2 Chron. 33:13, 14.)

In 2nd Chronicles 33 we read a parallel account of Manasseh. His wickedness is clearly told. He rebuilt the altars of Baal, which his father had torn down. He caused his children to pass through fire and dealt with witchcraft. He set a carved image or idol which he had made in the house of God. He did wickedly above all the heathen nation called the Amorites. God was displeased and punished him. He not only did wickedly, but he caused Jerusalem to do wickedly. God spoke to him and the people about their wickedness but they did not hear him. God punished them. He brought the Assyrian army against them and they took Manasseh, bound him and took him to Babylon. Our lesson tells us "when he was afflicted, he sought the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his father, and prayed." Oh, the mercy of God in sending the trouble! After his great wickedness, God showed mercy to him and brought him out of captivity. Manasseh took the idol out of the house of God and broke down the idols he had built. He repaired the altar of God and sacrificed to God. But the Bible says, "Nevertheless the people did sacrifice still" to idols. A person can never repair all the damage done in leading others away from God.

June 19, 1966

A COVENANT RENEWED

Printed Portion 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3

2 Kings 22:8 And Hilkiah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the Lord. And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

9 And Shaphan the scribe came to the king, and brought the king word again, and said, Thy servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of them that do the work, that have the oversight of the house of the Lord.

10 And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king.

11 And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the book of the law, that he rent his clothes.

12 And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikan the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's saying,

13 Go ye, enquire of the Lord for me, and for the people, and for all Judah concerning the words of this book that is found: for great is the wrath of the Lord that is kindled against us, because our fathers have not hearkened unto the words of this book, to do according unto all that which is written concerning us.

23:1 And the king sent, and they gathered unto him all the elders of Judah and of Jerusalem.

2 And the king went up into the house of the Lord, and all the men of Judah and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem with him, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the people, both small and great: and he read in their ears all the words of the book of the covenant which was found in the house of the Lord.

3 And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

Memory Verse: Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. Psalm 119:9.

Practical Truth: We should read the Bible and believe that is it God speaking to us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

How far a nation can get from God is shown in our lesson. The king did not know what was written in the book of the law, yet he was the leader of the people.

The high priest, Hilkiah (Hil-ky-uh) was happy when he found the book of God among the rubbish of the temple. He gave it to the scribe Shaphan (Shay-fan) and he read it. They were happy to find the Word of God. He took it to the king. When the king heard it read he rent his clothes. He knew that he and his people had disobeyed God and that punishment was their doom. How glad we would be if people today would become concerned and stirred when they read the Bible and see their doom because of their sins. They seem to pass it by as an idle tale. The wrath of God is against those who disobey unless they repent.

The king not only repented, but he also did something for God. God has a work for all of us. He called everyone together and had the word read to them. He then began to obey the Word. He repaired the temple and commanded all to obey God's Word.

Today we have the words of God in abundance. People are disregarding the love of Jesus who died on the cross for them. They are ignoring the warnings of God's ministers and the plain teachings of the Word of God as to their fate if they disobey. They are wresting the Scriptures to their own destruction.

June 26, 1966

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

Printed Portion 2 Chron. 36:11-21

2 Chron. 36:11 Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.

12 And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah

the prophet speaking from the mouth of the Lord.

13 And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the Lord God of Israel.

14 Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.

15 And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

18 And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21 To fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years.

Memory Verse: For the Lord will not cast off forever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. Lam. 3:31, 32.

Practical Truth: Disobedience always brings punishment.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The temple that Solomon had built for the Lord to dwell in was a beautiful place. God's presence had dwelt among his people and the temple had stood for 350 years as a testimony for God. God had promised to bless all who would look that way and pray. But God had told the people if they forsook him and his commandments that he would pluck them up and cast them out of his sight. And those who passed by would be astonished. (2 Chron. 7:16, 22). The prophet Jeremiah prophesied during this time. He said, with tears, "Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings" but they would not obey His voice and return.

Our lesson tells how Nebuchadnezzar came and took them as captives. The temple of God was torn down. Fires burned for days in the city. Many people were killed and many were taken as slaves. King Zedekiah's sons were killed before his eyes and then his eyes were put out and he was taken, bound, back to the city of Babylon. How sad! It does not pay to disregard God's laws nor the warnings given by His ministers. Rebellion will bring trouble and disaster. Jesus is standing today with outstretched hands, asking for all to come. Mercy is extended. When Jesus bursts through the clouds of glory, He will then be our judge. It will be too late then to pray. Souls need to be awakened today and get ready to meet their God. (Mrs.) Marie Miles