

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *The Cradle and the Cross*



When Bethlehem's manger first cradled the King,  
And angels glad news to the shepherds did bring,  
The blackness of midnight became like the sun,  
As God gave to mankind His Wonderful One.

But when on the cross, for sinners Christ died,  
With nail-pierced hands and with spear-riven side,  
The brightness of noonday was turned into night,  
And men smote their breasts at the sorrowful sight.

Yet Bethlehem's cradle and Calvary's hill  
Were all in the plan of God's infinite will.  
The cross and the manger were made for this King,  
And heaven forever His praises will sing.

Today Christ, the Light of the world, will come in  
And cleanse any heart from its midnight of sin.  
His presence will banish the darkness of night,  
And brighten the soul with His heavenly light.

All hail then to Jesus, our Lord evermore,  
As men of all nations the Saviour adore.  
To Bethlehem's Infant, to Calvary's King,  
Our deepest devotion and homage we bring.  
—Selected.

### *The True Purpose of Life*



The Bible tells us that God created man and clearly implies that all the rest of the material creation of earth was for his benefit and for his use. But what purpose had God in creating man? Did God make him simply to gratify a desire to make something new? Is his existence the result of some mere whim? When God created him, did He expect to give him no further attention? The Bible tells us plainly that God had a distinct purpose, and that his creation was for God's own purpose, not simply that man might exist. Speaking of man, he says, "The work of my hands, that I may be glorified" (Isa. 60:21). Again, he says, "For I have created him for my glory." (Isa. 43:7)

That man was endowed with natural faculties that make it possible for him to know God and to communicate with him, to understand his will, and to obey him, and to find his highest pleasure in all these, shows that the purpose of man's life is something very exalted. It is possible for him to debase his powers, to put them to ignoble purposes, and to fail entirely of the true purpose of life. He may develop his physical being and bring it to a high state of perfection, so that he is an athlete. He may be in perfect health. He may conform to the laws of his physical being and be worthy of the admiration of his fellows. He may develop his mind until he reaches out into the starry heavens and reads the secrets of the planets. He may delve into philosophy and into science until his mental faculties are enriched and highly developed. He may grapple with the great problems of life and solve them. He may fill the chair of some great university. Man may marvel at his learning. He may be eloquent until he can sway the multitudes. He may rise to eminence in the political world and be famous. Men may admire and respect and honor him, but the perfect body and the highly developed mind, or these two united, do not make a perfect man.

Sooner or later disease will seize upon that body. Sooner or later that mind will lose its brilliance and its power. The end is but the grave. What then? Shall we say that a man who has lived only for his body and for his mind has truly lived, has truly fulfilled the purpose of his creation? Not so. He has omitted from his life that which is highest and best. He has failed to develop that spiritual element which is his real self, that element which will live on forever. He has starved and neglected it, and it has withered away, overshadowed by the other parts of his being. If a man forgets his soul, if he makes no preparation for the life that is life indeed, there is no symmetry in his life. It is unbalanced and incomplete. No matter what his success in other lines, his life is a failure. No matter how much wealth he may amass, how much he may win, nor how much of anything of earth may be his, it must end with the word "failure," for he has not lived for God. He

was created for God's glory, but how much has his life subserved that glory? Has he honored God? Has he served him? Has he fitted himself for His society in the world to come? The man who fails to develop his mind and then is brought into the society of men of learning feels at once and feels most keenly how he has neglected himself and how hampered he is in his associations with them, how unfit he is to enjoy their society, and how little such society can really mean to him. So the man who neglects his spiritual life, when he shall have come into the presence of God will find himself wholly unfit to mingle in the society of heaven. His soul-faculties will not be able to respond to the influences of that place. In fact, it would be torment to him to be there and constantly feel his unfitness.

There is but one true purpose in life. All other things are subsidiary to it. If we fill our life with trifles, with things that amount to nothing, shall we not reap the trifle's reward? God desires our services. He desires union with us. He desires to be honored and worshipped by us—not simply for some selfish interest; for when we give to him that which belongs to him, we do for ourselves that which is best and highest. And when we refuse to give him that which belongs to him and that which he has a right to expect of us, we are injuring ourselves and are placing barriers before our own souls. We are destroying our own selves.

Reader, what is the purpose of your life? What is your life amounting to? Are you spending it for God? Are you developing your soul, your spiritual faculties and powers? What will your life profit you if you are not? Shall you endure the things of this life, its cares, its sorrows, its heartaches, toil on till its end, only to have "Failure" written over it at the last? Be wise. God has given you intelligence. Use it for His glory. Neglect not your soul, that priceless treasure which must somewhere be in eternity, the eternity for which you are now preparing it.

—From "Winning a Crown"

## Trees of Righteousness

One of the most beautiful sights to behold is a tree that is loaded with fruit. The red apples or the oranges scattered among the green leaves make a beautiful sight. Another beautiful sight to behold is a large oak tree planted beside a river, towering high into the air and spreading its leafy boughs far out. I think that the prophet Jeremiah must have been looking at a large tree like that when he wrote, "Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." Jer. 17:7, 8.

John the Revelator tells us about the river that the tree (or man) is planted by. "And he shewed me

a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Isn't it wonderful to be connected up to the river of life that flows right down from under the throne of God and the Lamb?

Won't you let the Lord plant you beside that river of Life? He wants to deliver you "from the power of darkness," and translate you or plant you "into the kingdom of his dear Son." Col. 1:13. God wants to "give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified." Isa. 61:3. Praise the Lord for the glorious plan of salvation which God gave to this world, through the precious blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross so we might have everlasting life. It is up to us to choose to serve Him and let Him plant us beside the river of life.

The prophet tells us that this man who has been planted beside the river shall spread out his roots by the river. The roots of the tree draws up the water and moisture which goes up the center of the tree and out to every tiny leaf or twig on the tree. It causes the leaves to be green, the fruit to grow into maturity. How beautiful is that life that bears good fruit! It is a blessing in this world and a glorious sight for God to look upon. God's rich blessings are upon such a life.

We see that person tested and tried by the trying problems that life brings, but we see a joy which causes many people to wonder where it comes from. Only that man who is planted by the river of life and secretly draws strength, grace, comfort, peace, forgiveness, kindness, love, faith, long-suffering can exhibit joy and happiness in this life.

Some have said that other people just don't have as many troubles as they do. Did not the Lord tell us that we would be a tested and tried people? That person has been through the fire, as you have. Perhaps it is in a different way, but he has gone through it or is in it. Some people do not tell all their problems. One sister brought a message of comfort and encouragement to others when she was in one of the deepest troubles of her life. It was a trouble that would cause many to never want to see a soul. Only one person in the congregation knew about it. Afterward she came to the sister and said, "How could you have done it?" She continued by telling the sister that only God could have given such victory and grace. Later God in a wonderful way worked out that problem for that sister.

Dear ones, God has that victory for all of us. It takes a dying out to self, a committing of all things into God's hands and trusting His great wisdom to work out the problems in life that we face.

Many of life's problems are more a battle with self than anything else. Self feels that it should be treated better and that it deserves better things. Then Mrs. Imagination comes along and adds to Mrs. Self-Pity's feelings and she bursts into tears again. Mr. Doubt and Mr. Unbelief choke the roots of that tree

that is planted beside the water of life and no faith can get through and the tree begins to wither. Poor Mrs. Sad-Face loses her fruit of joy, faith, comfort, peace, forgiveness, kindness, love, long-suffering, and joy. How pitiful!

Dear ones, this does not need to be. Look up! We are serving a great God. He wants to give us grace and victory in this life. The Apostle John declares strongly and loudly, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: [flesh and the devil] and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our FAITH." Thank God, there is victory for each of us. Don't let anything choke those roots that are spread out drawing strength, grace, faith and victory from the river of life that flows down from under the throne of God into our lives. We will then be "called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified."

Watch the taproot of your life. When things touch your life, rush to your closet, shut the door and "pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt. 6:6. You can leave all of your burdens in that closet with the Lord. You can come forth with victory and God will openly cause you to bear the fruit of victory through that firm faith in God's wisdom to take care of every problem.

—Sister Marie Miles

### What Manner of Love!

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." 1 John 3:1.

I thank God and our Lord Jesus Christ that I have come to acknowledge Him in my heart as a personal Savior, One who saves from all sin. There is nothing but gratitude in my heart when I think of the wonderful love that prompted the Son of God to look down on my poor, deluded, sinful soul, overwhelmed with the waters of sin, fit for nothing but destruction, conceived in sin and born into a world where sin abounds, without hope in the world, but the dear Lord, in pity looked down into the depths of despair into which my soul had fallen and rescued me. All praise to His glorious and matchless name! "Praise him, ye heavens above, and the earth beneath, for his mighty love." Yea, a love that is stronger than death. "With an everlasting love have I loved thee."

Love is defined as an emotion or feeling which causes an out-going of the soul toward something that is regarded as excellent, beautiful or desirable, a yearning for; to delight in, or to crave possession of the object loved.

God so loved mankind that He sent His only Son into the world to suffer and die, that He might redeem us to Himself. God gave His best, His most priceless possession, for us. Then should we not give Him our all?

"Since Jesus gave his life for me,  
Should I not give him mine?  
I'm consecrated, Lord, to thee,  
I shall be wholly thine."

We cannot afford to withhold one thing from Him. Our time, our talents, our lives and our all should be given to the Lord, without reserve, for we who are saved are His. We have been bought with a price, the price of our Saviour's life blood.

When God looked down from heaven and saw man lost in the wilderness of sin, when He viewed him sinking down, down into the quagmire of shame and degradation, the great loving heart of the Father was touched. He yearned for men's souls.

It was then that God put into operation the plan whereby he might redeem men from the captivity into which they had fallen through the transgressions of their foreparents in Eden. God saw that Adam and Eve had sold themselves and their posterity into slavery to Satan and the hosts of evil through disobedience. They had alienated themselves from God, and aligned themselves with the forces of hell. By their actions they had brought upon themselves and all their offspring the sentence of death (separation from God) and the penalty must be exacted unless some method could be evolved to secure their redemption.

The matchless love of the Father would not permit man to remain in a hopeless condition. He determined to spare no effort in an endeavor to redeem humanity from the awful condition of sin. Accordingly, a search was instituted for a plan of redemption, an atonement that would satisfy the demands of justice without the necessity of depriving man of all hope. All heaven was searched for a substitute for guilty man. In Revelation the fifth chapter we read, "And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was found worthy to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not, for the Lion of the tribe of Judah hath prevailed to open the book and to loose the seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven eyes which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and the four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof, for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."

—A. R. Hightower

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**EDITORIALS**

Greetings in Christian love to all our readers, which includes about 4,600 new recipients made possible through gift subscriptions from their friends.

The Lord has brought us into a brand new year, and with the extension of time and our lives there lies before us golden opportunities as well as solemn obligations to be at our best in the service of the Master. The record book of our past life is closed, but the present time is at our disposal. What will we do with it? Shall we waste it in careless living for ourselves, or shall we dedicate our time and talents and all to the glory of God?

"Only one life—'twill soon be past;

Only what's done for Christ will last."

The chief aim of our living in this world should be to glorify God. The Apostle Paul exhorts us in these solemn words, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31. Let us move forward in the will of God. Though we know not what the future holds, yet we do know who holds the future, and we can safely follow Him.



For the encouragement of those readers who so faithfully co-operated in mailing us the special three-months' subscriptions we are very pleased to report to you that a sizeable number of the new readers have already written to us expressing their appreciation for their first copy, and desiring to kindly thank the one who had it sent. Several have subscribed for a full year, stating that they do not want to miss an issue. Remember that your labor is not in vain in the Lord, and He is not unrighteous to forget your work of faith and labor of love.



In December we mailed 5,000 new Efik language tracts, just translated and printed, to the mission in Nigeria for distribution, along with 1,000 English tracts of assorted titles. Each month hundreds of "Faith and Victory" papers are also mailed free of charge to Nigeria, India and other foreign countries. We pray that the Holy Spirit will accompany the gospel seed that is sown "beside all waters." This free literature is made possible by your offerings to the Free Literature Fund. May God bless each one who is co-operating in this literature evangelism. Much more literature needs to go forth, so let us lift up our eyes and pray God to give us a world-wide vision of the million of souls in heathen darkness. Doors are closing and opportunities are passing. What we intend to do for never-dying souls must be done quickly. Shall we come before the Lord with precious sheaves or only dry and withered leaves?



Sister Ruby Marken, our new co-worker and former missionary to Mexico, is doing very well in the subscription and mailing department. Her zeal, burden, and concern to get out the printed gospel messages is much appreciated, and we pray the Lord

to continue to bless her abundantly for her sacrificial labors.

Sister Marken's parents, the A. W. Markens, came from Twin Falls, Idaho and attended the Guthrie assembly meeting. They remained with us after the meeting, and have been so very kindly assisting in different ways with the office work. We appreciate them very much.

Arranging our mailing list to comply with the new postoffice zip code regulation has been quite a task, but we feel now that the problems connected with this new mailing and routing process are smoothing out. At least, we hope so.

On January 15 the postage rates on fourth class printed matter increased about 30 per cent. Expense for postage has always been a major item, and now it has risen again. Under the new rates it costs 70c to send two pounds of tracts to California or an equal distance. Yet we can say also with one of old: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and we confidently expect the One whom we serve to continue to take care of His publishing work as He has always done for the past 44 years. Our God is not limited by circumstances but is abundantly able to meet and overcome every situation or obstacle.

In response to many requests, preparations are moving forward to reprint the out-of-print book, "The Cleansing of the Sanctuary" by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. The reproduction of this large book of 541 pages in a cloth cover will involve much time, labor, and expense. With the Lord's continued blessings we expect to have it available in 90 days or less.

Many other books of Bible truth need to be reprinted and made available to the reading public. This we intend to do as time permits and as the Lord opens the way.

Those who have the definite dates for the coming campmeetings, please mail them to this office at once, so we can publish them in the March issue. Thank you.

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven He gave His disciples this commission: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Note the wording, "the gospel," which indicates only one, and there is not another. The English word "gospel" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word which meant "good tidings through the God-story." In the New Testament the gospel is the Christ-message, the good news of salvation through Christ. The prime objective in this commission is for the Church to preach the Christ-centered message to all the world.

The term "gospel" is often used very broadly, many thinking that every sermon preached from the Bible is the gospel. Though the Scriptures are related to the gospel, yet a minister may preach many sermons, and preach the truth, too, and yet not preach the gospel. Strictly speaking, the gospel is the Christ-centered message. An ancient writer expressed this sentiment: "Were the highest heavens

my pulpit, and the whole hosts of the redeemed my audience, and eternity my day, Jesus alone would be my text." Believing the gospel of Christ will work a transformation in one's life. The Apostle Paul testified: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16. My dear reader, if you do not know that you are saved, we entreat you to repent and believe the gospel. Jesus is willing and able to save you to the uttermost.

The ecumenical (union) movement, spearheaded by the World Council of Churches, appeals to many people who think it is answering Jesus' prayer for the unity of believers. On the contrary, the confederation of all these false religions is merely increasing the size and strength of the gigantic apostate religious system—MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT—in opposition to the true Church of God, the "woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars." In the book of Revelation is portrayed in symbolical language the conflict between the true and false church, and the final destruction of the false in flaming fire at the end of the world when Jesus Christ comes again to receive His victorious church to Himself forever.

The message for this age is: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." To God's people the call comes from heaven: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." There is no fellowship between light and darkness, between truth and error, and every honest soul should heed the warning, flee from every false way lest he be a partaker of her sins and receive of her plagues. We are not opposing people as such, but only want to expose the false systems and foul spirits, so that honest souls can escape and find fellowship in the true fold of God.

Sad to say, professed Church of God groups have departed from those precious truths which brought forth the true "evening light" restoration movement. Among them are many seemingly honest and sincere people, but the pathetic condition is that many do not know the teachings of the saints prior to the "landslide compromise" of 1910-14. That was long before their time, and then so many have become accustomed to and satisfied with the innovations that were brought in over the years. When those who have never known the old-time truth begin seeking and walking in the light, the saints will show them much forbearance, but fellowship is severed automatically when one who knows the real truth begins to depart from it and to walk in darkness. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another." 1 John 1:7. There can be no basis for unity on a platform of compromise, yet one with little light and one with much light can walk hand in hand if both are walking in all the truth they know and have hearts open for more truth. The unity

of the Spirit exists while they are coming to the unity of the faith. The break comes when one walks away from or rejects truth. When honest souls return to the "old paths" they will find sweet fellowship and oneness with God's holy remnant. —L. D. P.

### Threescore Years and Ten

By Ulysses Phillips

(For his birthday—February 6, 1957)

The Lord is good, and over me  
His loving hand has been;  
And He has blessed me here to stay  
For threescore years and ten.

Down in my heart I praise His name,  
And I wonder now and then,  
For what and why He kept me here  
For threescore years and ten.

So many friends that I have known,  
Some younger, too, than I;  
Have long since closed their eyes in death  
And left us here to sigh.

But this I know, that God is just,  
And all His deeds are right—  
And the death of His saints, we read,  
Is precious in His sight.

Through Jesus' blood I now am His,  
He washed me from my sin,  
And in His service I am found  
At threescore years and ten.

'Tis through no merits of my own,  
No honor do I claim;  
But homage and allegiance give  
To His most holy name.

My life is truly in His hand,  
He gives me peace within;  
I'm living now at His command  
At threescore years and ten.

Brother Ulysses Phillips, long time minister in the Church of God, wrote the above poem ten years ago expressing his heavenly Father's care in bringing him to the allotted span of life—"threescore years and ten." In a few days, if the Lord extends his life, he will have reached his 80th milestone.

After having lived most of their years at Dover, Okla. the location of an annual campmeeting, Bro. and Sister Phillips are now in their declining years residing at San Bernardino, Calif. near their daughter, Sister Olive Davenport, and her family. Some years older than he, Sister Phillips has stood faithfully by his side firm for the truth. The Lord has blessed them with reasonable health at their age.

Over the years Bro. Phillips has contributed many poems and articles to this paper, and we pray God to bless them both abundantly for their labors in the gospel work.

On this occasion of his reaching fourscore years, special greetings are in order from the saints to cheer them on life's pathway. May God's grace and courage

be theirs until the last battle is fought and the crown is won. May they ever remember that the toils of the road will seem nothing when they get to the end of the way.

Give them some sunshine. A card or letter from you would be much appreciated. Address it to Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips, 1240 Orange St., San Bernardino, California 92405.

—Editor

### OBITUARY

Ada Lula Runnels was born to Mr. and Mrs. Granvill Runnels in Little Rock, Arkansas on December 25, 1876. She departed this life on December 11, 1966.

She met and married Mr. Walter Jordan. To this union seven boys and six girls were born. Her husband and ten children preceded her in death.

In 1932 she met the saints in Oklahoma City and accepted the truth under the teaching of Bro. Manley Spears.

Sister Jordan is survived by her two daughters, Mrs. Luverta Conner and Mrs. Zelma Mason of Oklahoma City; one son, Elmer Ray Jordan, Oklahoma City, 16 grand children, 17 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Services were conducted by Bro. Herman Kelley, assisted by Bro. E. Sanders and Sister Katherine Williams. Texts: Psalms 39:5, James 4:14, 2 Cor. 5:9.

### Meeting Reports

#### LOS ANGELES AUTUMN MEETING REPORT

The autumn meeting in Los Angeles, Calif. was held November 25 through December 4, 1966. God's power was demonstrated throughout the meetings. We certainly thank the Lord and rejoice in the saving of four precious souls. The saints were edified during this glorious meeting and many unsaved ones received some light that awakened them by hearing the Word of God. All who attended the meeting witnessed and appreciated the unity that prevailed. Numerous good messages were delivered during the day and night services and the Lord wonderfully anointed in the preaching of His Word.

The attendance was very satisfactory, considering the rainy season that hindered some saints and friends from being present at all of the services. However, the Holy Spirit was present to convict and to bless.

On the last Saturday one soul followed the Lord in baptism, and the ordinances were carried out and administered to many saints.

We thank the Lord and are grateful for the help from the visiting ministers who labored in the meeting and pray God's blessings on all. We were blessed to have Sister Katherine Williams from Oklahoma City and the local ministers whom the Lord used so richly.

Pray for us and our congregation.

—By Sister Minnie Ola Jones  
Bro. I. C. Chandler, Pastor

#### OKLAHOMA CITY AUTUMN MEETING REPORT

Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' dear name. We know it is a little late to send in our Autumn meeting report, but since some have asked about it we thought it would be in order to publish it.

We had a wonderful meeting. The Word of God went forth under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Some were saved, some healed and the saints received spiritual help.



It was encouraging to us to see the saints and ministers come in from different congregations. The attendance was good all through the meeting.

We would like to add that God has been real to us since He sent us here. We could tell many instances how God has worked. We have seen devils cast out, T. B., asthma, and many other serious cases healed, for which we give God the glory. We have had many battles but God gives us the victory.

We do want to thank the saints and ministers who have stood by us with their prayers and labors since we have been here. May God richly bless you all is our prayer. We do ask each of you to continue to pray for us.

—Bro. and Sister Herman Kelley,  
Pastors at 3rd and Phillips, Oklahoma City

### OKLAHOMA ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The 60th annual 10-day Oklahoma State Assembly meeting was in session at Guthrie, Okla. during the Christmas holidays and closed with victory on January 1. It was very well attended in spite of the snow and ice storm which blew in the day before the meeting started. At least fifteen states were represented and about 30 ministers were in attendance at various times. The chapel was filled to capacity and certainly indicated the need to enlarge it for future meetings. It was wonderful to see the "family" coming in to enjoy the rich feast and fellowship around Father's table.

The precious Word of God was preached with power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The spirit of conviction rested on the hearers. Many responded and found peace with God at the altar of prayer. On the day of fasting and prayer a number received definite physical healing. The saints rejoiced in the truth which was preached without fear or favor, and without compromise or fanaticism. Many were enlightened and strengthened in the Bible doctrines.

The congregation here at Guthrie always welcomes everyone to these state meetings, and they do whatever they can to make those visiting here desire to come back again. The campmeeting dates are Aug. 4 to 13, 1967.

It is hoped that the government's project of building detention dams on the Cottonwood Creek watershed is now far enough along that floods in this area will be prevented.

—Lawrence Pruitt

### FAITH!

God is able to do all things, this we truly know;  
For faith has no limitations, except we make it so.  
We limit God by our unbelief, by lack of faith and trust;  
Let us remember through faith, God formed us from dust.

By faith we believe the worlds were framed, the stars set in space;

'Tis by faith, in Jesus' name, we partake of God's grace.  
Faith can remove all mountains and dispel all grief.  
Yea! faith knows no limitations except doubt and unbelief.

Now faith is believing when the conditions have all been met,

Even though the promise hasn't been received as yet.  
God in His wisdom knows when to give, when to withhold;  
Sometimes the answer is a trial more precious than gold.

Faith is believing that God knows what is best;  
And by faith He giveth grace sufficient for the test.  
Faith will bring the victory, 'twill old Satan rout;  
Yea, faith knows no limitations except unbelief and doubt.

—Byron R. Wittenborn

### ALL-DAY SERVICES AT GREEN PASTURES, OKLA.

There will be all-day services at the Church of God chapel in Green Pastures, Okla. every fifth Sunday, beginning January 29, 1967, with dinner provided.

You are cordially invited to attend these worship services.

For further information, contact Bro. E. W. Sanders or Sister Bernice Carter, Rt. 2, Box 529, Spencer, Oklahoma.

### Prayer Requests

Okla.—Cold is better but I continue to cough.—Lizzie Randles.

Ind.—Suffering with limb.—Mrs. S. Whitson

Ore.—Left side of body paralyzed.—Sister Adelia Davis

Tenn.—Daughter has afflicted eyes.—Sue Shell

La.—Pray for bodily afflictions and for my nephew who is on a mission to South Pole.—Sister M. Lea

N. Car.—Arthritis—Mrs. C. A. Jones

Okla.—Dennis Beisley has cancer.

Calif.—Sister O'Malley has cancer.

N. Car.—A mother writes for prayer for her son and daughter. Both their homes are broken up and they are at her home with their babies. The mother needs strength.

Mo.—Sister Sell desires prayer for an affliction.

S. Dak.—Sister McFarling has had a cold on her lungs and is not well.

Mich.—Remember unsaved relatives, also son in Vietnam.—Dolly Williams.

Ill.—Bro. McClain needs complete healing.

Mich.—A soul desires to be saved.

Mo.—Sister Bessie Sorrell is some better, but needs complete healing.

N. Car.—Bro. Oneal Pratt had a stroke.

La.—Bro. Oscar Williamson and Bro. Dallas Flynn need healing.

Ala.—We desire to build a chapel in our community. Please pray the Lord to make His will known to us.

Okla.—Sister Ruby Stover needs prayer for afflictions in her body.

Wash.—Bro. Thomas for soul, body and mind.

Ohio.—Crippled with arthritis—Ella Clark.

La.—Has much suffering in body.—Beulah Carter.

La.—Breaking out on body. Trusting God to heal.—Arnett Carver.

Mo.—"Very sick."—Sister Ed Whipple.

Mo.—Suffers with head.—Sister Becky Barnes.

Ky.—"Pray God to rebuke and heal completely the cancerous condition that keeps coming back on my nose."

Okla.—Pray for Jessie Taylor's complete healing. Her faith and trust is firm and steadfast.

A very special request concerning a precious soul.

It is a precious privilege to calmly rest in the Lord. One time when I was real sick and in severe pain I fought the good fight of faith by just thinking in my mind that the Lord was going to take the pain away just any time. I just rested on that faith and confidence that I had in the Lord. It was a couple of hours before God took it away but He did take it away. Praise the Lord! It is God's business as to what He wants to do with us. At the time I did not understand why He let me suffer so long, but later I understood and it was all for good. Our part is to just keep our faith in God and trust Him with confidence.

—Sister Marie Miles

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—three years for \$1.00.

### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

India (Dec. 23)—My dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints in Jesus Christ: Again it is our privilege to send our New Year's greetings to the fellow believers and saints in America in the precious name of Jesus.

The year of 1966 ends with the opening of our new chapel at Karikam and we held a convention in conjunction with it from Dec. 16 to 18, Sunday. Our hearts were overflowing with gladness and gratitude. Our heavenly Father inspired the hearts of the saints in America to donate for the chapel building. We have called it Bethel chapel. The chapel was fully packed. The crowd was so overflowing that we let the women and children in while the men stood outside. We hired a public address system so that all could distinctly and clearly hear at a distance. Praise the Lord!

We had open air meetings, singing, and intervals of shouting, Bible verses, Bible classes, and at night public meetings. Oh! indeed it was a season of refreshing from on high. All were rejoicing to see how lively and thrilling the messages were. Some precious souls were won to the Lord's side. There were good living testimonies. Praise the Lord!

We have planned such conventions in different places. We shall, Lord willing, step into 1967 to continue the gospel meetings up to the far off north. One brother has invited us to come to him in the hill areas of the western ghats. We hope the year 1967 will be a great blessing to us and to you all.

We are doing our utmost in holding high the banner of the Reformation in our own humble way despite drawbacks and shortcomings. The Word of God clearly teaches separation from the evil of Babylon, apostasy, and not to give heed to Jewish fables (Titus 1:14) and to be clear of all modernism.

We strongly oppose the ecumenical movement and we withstand the compromise of ecumenical evangelism.

We remember all our benefactors and in the opening service several prayed for the saints in America who helped us with the fund for building such a nice and useful chapel. If we had received no encouraging letters, no help and no prayers and fellowship, alas! what would have been our condition! God is great. Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

We step into 1967 with strong faith and great hopes. We launch into it with a determination to send out plenty of printed pages. We believe "the printed page is the greatest pulpit that God has given to man." It shouts to souls in silence, or whispers in a crowd.

Bro. Pruitt and fellow believers, we request you to pray for us that we may attempt great things for the Lord. Pray that we may be adequately equipped for issuing plenty of printed pages of tracts and periodicals.

I am thankful to you for your encouraging letter dated Dec. 7 with the enclosed draft which reached me on time. I can discern how you are guided by the Spirit to help us. At the same time I am endeavoring to restrain myself and practice to trust in the Lord alone and operate mostly on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. I make it a point to admonish my fellow workers not to look to monthly salaries, but that they will be helped as the Lord provides. At the same time I wish to bring home to you that the workers are much strained and straitened as these days are times of severe famine. If America withholds the food grains, we in India will be in great hot waters. Hence pray for us please. Our prayers are for you.

I rejoice to hear that Bro. Carver is planning to come to us once again. May the Lord open the way for our beloved brother to come into our midst. We pray

for his coming. Now we have the winter, and, after a month or two, summer will be in full swing.

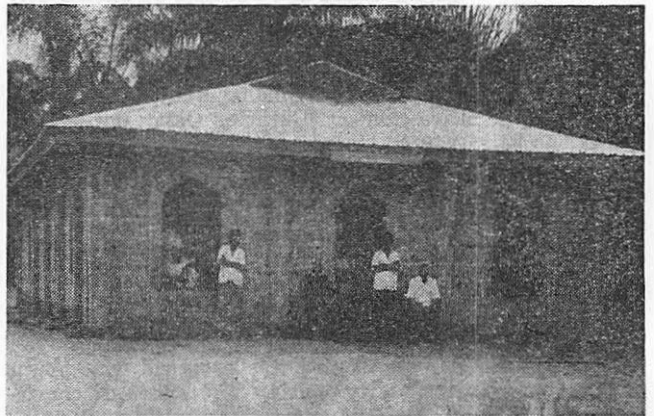
Kindly pray for the needy and poor believers whom we cannot but assist in sickness and poverty. May God help us to march on and push on in spite of all oppositions and reach the utmost part of India and preach the pure gospel messages.

We are praying for the 60th annual assembly meeting at Guthrie. May He revive His people all over the world to work for the salvation of the unsaved.

God help you and keep you.

—C. M. Verghese

### NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT



**THE PERMANENT CHAPEL** recently completed at Minya Ntak, Nigeria on the very site of the thatched mud chapel where in 1964 Sister Opal Wilson preached her last sermon, and it has been named the Opal Wilson Chapel in her memory. Sitting in front are Pastor Stephen U. Akpan and Elder Thompson Akpan.

Bro. B. U. Etuk, native minister of the Church of God mission in Nigeria, W. Africa, wrote a letter dated Dec. 6 and enclosed the report of the mission activities for the month of November written by the secretary, Bro. Nse Umanah.

During the month special services were held each week-end at various stations. These were very well attended. On Nov. 20 special ordinance services were held at Nduo Eduo for the stations in the Creek area. The participants numbered 335, with total attendance of 378.

At a special service at Asana, the headquarters' station, 82 converts followed the Lord in baptism.

The reports dated Dec. 20 and 22 were highlighted by a short summary of their 3-day campmeeting held on Dec. 16, 17, and 18. The word was preached with anointing and the meeting was very profitable all the way through. About 26 were converted and baptized, and the attendance was over 1,475. They requested prayer that the Word that was preached would penetrate the hearts of the hearers and yield much good fruit. All the stations were represented, including two brethren from the congregation at Benin City. They reported also that the maimed were healed through fervent prayers. They appreciated the prayers of the Church in America for the meeting.

The news of Bro. Carver's proposed coming to Nigeria was hailed with glad anticipation. Bro. Etuk wrote: "We all rejoice and welcome the idea and plan of Bro. Cecil C. Carver to come to us once again. We suggest that he should come in February, 1967. We are now in the heart of the dry season."



Bro. and Sister Cecil Carver were here at the Guthrie, Okla. Assembly meeting during the holidays, at which time a liberal offering was taken to aid in their proposed missionary trip to Nigeria and India. Sister Carver plans to accompany Bro. Carver on this entire journey provided the Lord heals her and makes her physically able to go. Pray that the Lord will bless them in a special way and keep His everlasting arms underneath them as they make this sacrificial effort to advance the cause of Christ and reach precious souls with the gospel.

They have made application for their visas, but up to this date (Jan. 18) no word has come that the visas have been received. Until then, they cannot make definite plans for the time of their departure. However, they will be leaving by air as soon as all arrangements can be made.

Since their missionary trip is being financed primarily through the Missionary Fund at this office, you may send your free-will offerings to this fund for that purpose. Let us lift up our eyes and pray for the spiritual needs of the world-wide mission fields.

—Lawrence Pruitt

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



S. Carolina—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I am sending in my testimony for Jesus and I wish that the whole world could read it. I am a child of God. I love Him and I am serving Him with all my heart. Praise His holy name! I truly thank the Lord for His saving grace which keeps me free from sin and in the center of His will.

I am so happy when I kneel beside my bed at night. I look back over my life and see how I have lived that day and I can't find anything that I have done to displease my Lord. I desire His approval on my life from day to day.

I am asking the saints to agree in prayer with me concerning some unspoken requests. Remember my husband and children in prayer, too. I am trusting in the Lord for both soul and body.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sister Edna Crummie

Kentucky—Dear Bro. Lawrence, co-workers and saints scattered abroad: We greet you in Jesus' name. May the grace and peace of God be multiplied unto you.

We are much encouraged in the Lord and don't have anything to be discouraged about because we are living in a good and fruitful land which is flowing with milk and honey. Praise God! We are drinking from the fountain that never runs dry. No wonder David said, "Oh taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the man that trusteth in him." We are glad to report that we, too, have tasted and found that the Lord is good, and we are blest because our trust is fully in the Lord for all things, and all things belong to us according to 1 Cor. 3:21. Paul said, "All things are yours." Let us read what the Apostle Peter said about all things belonging to us, in 2 Peter 3:3, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness

charity." Notice what Peter said in the 8th verse, "For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren, nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

May God help us to get these things added up and stored up in our hearts that we may be fruitful in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Again in verse ten Peter said, "For if ye do these things, ye shall never fall."

We feel the Lord has changed the course of my affliction. I am steadily improving for which we give thanks and praise to God for His love and mercy to us-ward. Surely our hearts have been made warm by the many cards and letters of encouragement we have received. May God richly bless each of you for your love and kindness to us.

The Lord has done wonders for my father, but he still needs much prayer.

We still desire your prayers for complete healing. Christian love, —Curtis and Burnice Williams

(Editor's note: Bro. Williams and family had planned to attend the Guthrie Assembly meeting during the Christmas holidays, but Sister William's father took sick and passed away during the meeting and they were unable to come. May God comfort their hearts in this time of sorrow.)

January 11—To the dear people of God scattered throughout the land, we greet you in Jesus' name:

For over twenty years Wife and I have been going from our home in California to Oregon to be in meetings there. For the past few years we have had a special burden for that part of the country, and have been attending the meetings at Easter, campmeeting and assembly meetings. In company with Sister Spaur, Wife and I have visited Washington to minister to a few saints at Tacoma. Our last trip to Washington was to take care of the funeral of Sister Spaur's brother. She had called Sister Landgraff at Tacoma of our intention to stop there on our way back to Jefferson, Oregon. When we arrived I was very much surprised to find a number there waiting for us. I was also embarrassed somewhat as I was wearing work clothes. As we got seated someone said, "We are all here to hear what you have to say." I was reminded of Peter at Cornelius' house, and the thought came to me, open your mouth and I will fill it—which I did and the Lord surely blessed. Sister Landgraff had been healed of breast cancer not long ago.

I have put in considerable time building a dining hall and cabins for the meetings at Jefferson, Ore. The Lord has blessed my wife in taking over much of the work in the kitchen. We made two trips from Jefferson to San Bernardino, Calif. to be at the bedside of Bro. Gus Poulos, going by jet the first time and by train the next time, then back up to Oregon to get our car.

After this last Assembly meeting at Jefferson, we hurried home to Calif., having a desire to be in the Hammond, La. meeting and also to see our son and his family. We drove pretty steady, including one night. I was weary on arriving, but was much encouraged by the good meeting. We met a good many ministers, also our old friends, but missed some who had gone on to be with Jesus.

On Monday after the meeting I came down with the flu and was confined most of the time for four weeks, mostly with bad throat trouble. But we decided to go to the Guthrie, Okla. meeting. We found a packed house all the way through, and the very spirit of unity. We remained a few days after meeting to visit.

On Thursday we went to the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla. and spent the night there. We had short

services, visited some old friends, and had a good visit with Sister Poulos. Next morning we had another service, and a profitable visit with Bro. Charles Smith. From there we went to Bro. Carver's home in Shreveport but found him gone to Jena, La. We called his son in Shreveport who came after us and we had a real good fellowship visit with him. He called Bro. Carver at Jena and made an appointment to meet me at Bro. Merrill Williamson's home. After a profitable visit with him, we came on to our son's place at Loranger, La. on Saturday night.

Our plans for the future, after we are somewhat filled here, are to go from here home to Calif., then back to the Easter meeting at Jefferson, Ore., Lord permitting. I am working in harmony with Sister Beatrice Spaur who is the pastor there. I am standing for the whole truth as it was in the beginning.

We wish to spend the rest of our time working for the Lord as He gives us health. We must stay on the "old paths." We will need to be on guard, watch and pray, as we are not blind concerning Satan's devices. These are perilous times. We are supporting those who are publishing the true gospel.

Yours in Him,

—A. E. Harmon

Illinois—Greetings to the most precious people on earth—the true saints of God:

There is here on earth a place we call home with a family altar and a shelter from the storms. But we have a better home awaiting us in Glory.

I was married a second time while my first husband was still living. God convicted me and I fled from that sin and asked God's forgiveness. I am now divorced from the second husband and rearing my son Tim, by my first husband, alone. God has wonderfully blessed Tim and me with a home and many countless blessings.

Some here on earth may be like an empty house. They have neglected God and the fire has gone out. The house is overgrown with weeds. The well-kept house represents a good spiritual condition. In 1 Peter 1:4, 5 we read that there is a reserved place in heaven for all who are saved and kept by the power of God. People buy tickets for worldly entertainments with reserved seats, giving no thought of reserving a place in heaven for their souls. People who are interested in going to heaven must have a reservation. Jesus purchased this "reserved place" for us by shedding His blood on the cross. The blood will cover all our sins. We who are saved are pilgrims passing through this life on to our "reserved place" in heaven. We must be careful as one sin will bar us from heaven.

The Bible says "My grace is sufficient." We will have trials and tests in this life but the Lord will help us through them. Time will reveal who is on the Lord's side. Separations are taking place at this very hour. I thank God for helping me along life's way. May God give us courage to stand up for Him and boldness to testify to the world.

I am thankful for the truth of God's Word and to have found God's saints here on earth. Praise His name! The Lord touched my body and healed me of high blood pressure. Pray for me.

—Oma Jean Hugo

Colo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints: We have been thinking of you folks at Guthrie and praying for the Assembly meeting. We were thinking of coming until it got so stormy and cold.

We thank and praise the Lord for His goodness to us through the past year. This time last year I was suffering untold agony with my eye but this year I am

doing real well. I do thank the Lord for how He has undertaken for me in so many ways. I don't see very well yet, but am still asking the Lord to give me back my eye sight for my good and His glory and so the people around can still know that the Lord hears and answers prayer. We know His promises are to us now as they were when He walked the shores of Galilee.

I have a special request for prayer. I guess I have arthritis in my left shoulder and my arm tingles sometimes to my finger tips. I know God is able to take care of it for me. It is hard sometimes to put my coat on, but I have my trust in Jesus. He has been my physician all these years and I'm not afraid to leave it all in His hands.

We went to Pueblo and had my eyes tested for new glasses. The optometrist said that I had a good left eye, but there were some small cataracts in the back. He said that it would be ten years before they would bother and may never bother me. He looked at the right eye and said there had been a tumor but it was gone and there was scar tissue over it. It is so much better in lots of ways. I believe it is in answer to prayer. I can do a lot of our work now.

My husband had his glasses changed and the man told him he was getting his second eye sight. We just thank the Lord for His goodness to us. I just want more faith and to be more what He wants us to be. We feel our need of being in some good services again. We are so glad we found the "Evening Light" saints. We have enjoyed everyone who has come our way.

Bro. and Sister Ed Tombleson are here with their brother and sister, and they come to our place for Sunday School. Bro. Tombleson gave a good talk last Sunday about the Baby Jesus. He could bring it out so well for the children and we all enjoyed it.

We ask you all to remember us in prayer, and pray for our unsaved children.—Bro. and Sister E. R. McEndree

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints everywhere: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. The Lord has been so good and merciful to me, and has healed me so many times that I can't thank Him enough.

A few weeks ago on Sunday night I fell and hurt my shoulder and arm. I couldn't raise my arm up. My daughter was here. She said that I had better go to the doctor as I may have broken my arm, but I wanted to trust the Lord. I prayed and promised the Lord if He would heal my arm that I would send my testimony for the paper. The next morning it was much better. It wasn't nearly so sore. Praise the Lord! Now I can use it all right. I am so thankful that we have a wonderful Savior to look to in times of need. He does hear and helps us. Praise His dear name! He is all and in all to me. I just want to draw closer to Him and stay in this straight and narrow way that leads to heaven. Pray for me and for my loved ones who are in sin.

—Myrtie Niswonger

La.—My dear Brothers and Sisters, greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus: First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who were so kind to remember me this Christmas with cards and gifts of money. My heart is grateful and I can't thank you enough. May God bless you. I'd also like to say that many of you who sent a gift of money asked that it be used for my personal needs here at the prison. Well, as some of you know, I have a little son who will be six years old this coming February. This past fall he started his first year of school. As he lives in Minnesota it remains that the only time he is free to come and visit

me is during the summer months of vacation. And to help pay his fare down here I try each year to save what money I get so that I can bear a part of this responsibility. This year you were kind enough to bless me with \$79.00, and this will be enough to pay half the fare. So for what this means to me, the opportunity to see my son this coming summer, I shall never be able to thank you enough. And again I say, may God bless you.

In a few days I shall have completed my first year here—a year of many trials, temptations, burdens, and disappointments. But by the grace of our Lord and Saviour I can say that it has been a year that has made me spiritually stronger and more determined to press on all the way for Christ. Sometimes our greatest blessings come forth from the fires of adversity, and though at the time everything seems to press in upon us we find that in the end we can rejoice over the lesson and victory He gave us in going through the fire. And for these lessons and victories that I have been granted this year, I truly do thank Him.

After arriving here, I went through an initial 30-day period of classification. During this time the missionary pastor here at the prison, Brother Murl Platt, put in the request that I be assigned to his office to work with him and Chaplain Joseph Cox at the Reception Center. When I met the classification board they granted this request and I have since been working as their clerk. Our principal duties consist of interviewing the new men who come to the prison to gain some understanding of their past social and religious life. As you can see, it gives us a great chance to witness for the Lord with these men as individuals. And though some are hardened and bitter, there are others who become receptive to the Word of God and find Christ. I am sorry to say that the latter group is much the minority, so please remember these men when you pray.

Brother Lawrence Pruitt has been kind enough to give us all the printed matter that we have asked for, which is a great amount, and from this we fix little packets of tracts that we give to each man that we interview. Also copies of the "Faith and Victory," as well as published books are made available from Brother Pruitt that we give to the men as we see their need. We write letters to the families of each man who comes through our office to try and encourage them in their moment of trial, and into each letter goes a tract of encouragement to point them to the way of peace. This letter ministry has become the most productive here at the prison, and many have written of their turning to God and accepting Christ because of the encouragement it brought. Also we write letters for the inmates when they have extreme personal problems—most often when a family begins to show unconcern for the boy and quits writing and visiting him.

Then on Friday night we hold our weekly religious service for the Reception Center, and my main duties are to lead in the singing and to give a short testimony of what Christ has done for me. We have our sermons from both chaplains, and from visiting ministers who come on the average of half the time. One evening we had the quartet consisting of Brothers Bob Forbes, Randall Flynn, Dale Doolittle, and Melvin Doolittle to come and sing for us, and Brother Forbes brought the message to the men. This was a real treat and blessing to us and we are hoping to have them back with us again very soon.

So all in all, you can see that we do have a tremendous work here at Angola, and though at times it seems to be depressing when more don't concern themselves with the call of Christ, we still find it a rewarding work with God's blessings upon us. And for this we are ever thank-

ful and grateful. Please remember that we deeply covet your prayers in our behalf—first of all, that more would be saved, and second, that we will carry the banner higher for Christ.

I am sorry that I am not able to correspond with more of you as I was able to while at Amite. But prison rules and regulations allow just a very few on my list, as well as only allowing me to write two letters a week. So with these two rules, I have no opportunity to write to anyone other than my family and a few close friends. The only exception to this rule is at Christmas time when I am permitted to send and receive cards from those not on my list. And though I wasn't able to send as many as I would have liked this year, I shall do better in the year to come, Lord willing. Again let me say thank you to all who took the time to write and send cards to me this year. I enjoyed them so much.

My family is doing well and I have hopes that the fall of 1967 will see my mother once again down here for a visit. It is too early for any definite plans, but I am praying toward this end. As mentioned before, my son started his first year of school and I understand that he likes it. He's still growing pretty fast. My prayer is that he will be big for Christ first. Anyway, please remember him and the rest of the family in your prayers. I am so deeply thankful for the good home he has. Truly this has been a blessing to me.

In closing I would like to say once again that I appreciate each and every one of you. Your prayers, your love and concern for me have meant so much to my heart that words can never describe what I feel. I simply pray that one day the Lord will allow me to visit and worship with you in person. Until then I shall press on in the comforting knowledge that I belong to Christ and that His way is the best for me. My eyes and my heart are on Him and I am determined to go with Him wherever He leads. So till I again write you like this, I bid you goodbye.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Wayne Turner



Ark.—Dear Saints of God everywhere, greetings in Jesus' great and wonderful name: I have felt for some time that I would like to send in a testimony of some of the great blessings God has given me. Nearly two years ago I was taken with severe pains and swelling in my right knee. Then the pains spread to different parts of my body. After some time I became bedfast and had to be turned in bed on a sheet. The suffering at times was awful, but I knew in whom I had put my whole trust, soul and body. It was a trying experience for all of us, but thank God for the victory God has for His trusting children. In answer to prayer and waiting on the Lord, He healed me once more. All glory and praise be to His name forever!

Then last August 9th my dear husband took sick. He got up in the night to go into the living room to sit up awhile. He couldn't sleep, and he called me. When I got to where he was, he was so sick, cold and wet with perspiration. I tried to get him to go back to his bed, and just then he staggered and fell in the floor. I rushed to the phone to call for help. By the time I got back to him he was up and back to bed. He kept saying he was all right and not to worry, but he was so weak. For some time he could go to the table to eat, but continued sick. Oh, so many times we would pray for him and the Lord always gave relief. He would say that he wished he could go on. Bro. Charles Smith came once and prayed for him, and he never suffered such intense pain any more. Dear Bro. and Sister Albert Eck stayed with us most of the time, day and night. It was so blessed to realize

the Lord's nearness in it all, but God, who always knows and does all things well, sent for dear Husband the 9th of November, just two months ago today. His room, bed and chair are all vacant now, but his works do follow on. I am so thankful I could keep him here in our home, care for him, and now God's love and Holy Spirit comfort me. Oh, praise the Lord forever!

I had a severe test with my back. At times I could not raise up or get up alone, but God is just the same in power and love, and He healed me again. For 53 years the Lord has healed me, and I mean to trust in Him clear on to the end. He is blessing me now with health and strength to do my house work and to sew some. I want to help others while I am here. I still love and trust in God and want to always do His precious will.

I desire an interest in the prayers of God's dear people, and I will pray for you.

Your Sister in the Lord, —Mrs. N. E. Adams

Missouri—Dear Saints at Guthrie and all places: We send greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. We feel led of the Lord to send in our testimony at this time, acknowledging God's goodness to us. We thank and praise Him for His loving Church that He has so graciously adorned with His own divine love and service to mankind.

We surely thank God for the ones who so willingly and faithfully labored in the kitchen, on the grounds and around to make this past Assembly meeting at Guthrie, Okla, possible and so precious to our souls. May God bless and keep each of you saved and shining for Him.

We also thank God for the precious ministers everywhere, and for those whom the Lord used in bringing the rich Word to our souls.

To those of you who are called to suffer affliction for the Lord's sake there at Guthrie and elsewhere, may God bless and keep you in His loving care. Your suffering with the Lord is not in vain. Without suffering, the glorious Church of God could not bring forth. If more of us would be consecrated to suffer, the blessed Lord would be better pleased with us.

I do thank God for His beautiful Church, which is His body. I desire that I may be faithful to God, to His little flock, and that I occupy the place where He has set me.

May God help us, as ministers whom He has set in the Body, to feed the Church of God, and to be used in guiding His little flock into the rich pastures where He would have them feed. We are charged with a very great responsibility. Surely God will require at our hands the blood of those who are lost if we are not all, in word and deed, that God commands us to be in His Word. We are bound by the Word of God to be so consecrated that we do not consider ourselves, nor prefer ourselves before the dear children of God whom we are to feed and care for. We are never to withhold from them any good thing that God has blessed us with. We are not called to preach the Word of God in our own strength, but only as the Spirit of God directs us in all things. In so preaching, souls will be saved and encouraged, bodies be healed, God's name be glorified, and our strength will be renewed for the storms ahead. The pathway of the just shall shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. May God help us each one to occupy our place until He comes.

Yours in Christ,

—H. A. McMillian

Ohio—Dear Saints scattered abroad, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: It is with a grateful heart that we write these few lines. The Lord blessed us with

a precious little boy December 22. The Lord helped through it all and I was able to have him at home.

On his fourth day he seemed lifeless and had been that way all night. He wouldn't eat, and had a yellow condition with yellow spots in his mouth and throat, and his cry was very weak. This burdened us so that we prayed and cried to the Lord for help.

I called my mother and father to come down to see him. We called the doctor and he said to take him to the hospital. Dear ones, see how the enemy works. We were weak in body, under a strain and the enemy knew just what to bring at us full force. He said, "Now look, you have waited five years for this baby and now the Lord is going to take him." Oh, how dark the picture looked to us. It wasn't that we thought the doctors could do anything, but it was the fear of what man would do if God took him. Later, when we fully realized we hadn't obeyed God's Word and had him anointed first, we felt remorse. We asked God to forgive us and believe that He understands and has forgiven us. The enemy is ready and waiting to take advantage at our weakest moment. May the Lord help us.

We had Sister McCoy to call Guthrie for prayer as the Assembly meeting was in progress and that gave us comfort to know they would take it to God, and our congregation was praying, too. We did have to leave the baby. They made test after test and found his sugar count was low. We called the doctor on Thursday morning and he said he was doing fine but he wanted to keep him three more days. We had been out to see him the night before and he looked wonderful, for which we thanked the Lord. The yellow condition and the yellow spots in his mouth were gone. The doctor said he couldn't come home until Tuesday because they don't dismiss on Sundays or holidays. We got to thinking about bringing him home Saturday evening so on Friday Husband called the doctor from the hospital. We told him if he thought it wasn't best we would be willing to wait. He told Husband he would release him but there were more tests he wanted to make on him and wanted to keep him until Wednesday. The doctor said he would leave it up to us to make the decision. Husband said the Lord told him, "Take him home." The doctor said we might as well take him right then since we were already at the hospital. We didn't have enough blankets with which to bring him home, so Husband had to go home and get some. I waited at the hospital, holding our precious little boy. I placed him on the altar and asked God to help me keep him there.

Dear ones, the enemy magnified every move the baby made, but I just kept praying to God and telling Him, "Lord, we feel we are in your will now, so help us to resist the enemy." We got our baby home and decided the first thing we would do would be to have him anointed. We called our pastor, Bro. McCoy, as soon as we came home and asked him to come. Praise the Lord for His saints! He came and anointed the baby and prayed for him.

We have the baby completely in God's hands. We know the enemy won't be gone long, so we desire your prayers that we will keep him on the altar and that we will be completely submissive to God's will.

We want to thank each one for their prayers and concern for us. Also we thank the Lord for blessing us physically. Surely we could never begin to thank Him enough for His goodness to us.

Pray that we will always be overcomers.

Love and prayers, —Johnny and Della Gutwein

(Jan. 16—"Our baby is doing wonderfully. Praise our God!")

Okla.—Dear fellow workers in Christ, greetings to all at the print shop: We trust God has enriched your lives with His divine graces so that through the coming years you will continue to be a great blessing to all mankind everywhere.

The wickedness of this present world is very great. Except we are fully equipped for battle against the enemy of our souls, we, too, may be caught in the clutches and tide of a world that is lost without God. So many new-fangled ideas have come up. The spirit of isms is at work. The old dragon is on the prowl and is sweeping many souls down to eternity, unprepared to meet God. People are looking for something, they know not what, and many would rather believe a lie and be damned.

My prayer is that God will grant us wisdom to cope with the situations that prevail. Oh, may God help souls today who are alive in Christ Jesus to remain true and faithful and lift high the royal banner. Perishing souls are at stake.

May this be a year of Jubilee, a year of souls being gleaned out of darkness into the marvelous light of Christ. May we unite together in one heart, one mind, one spirit and soul for the upbuilding of the kingdom of God.

—Sister Erma Johnson

N. Carolina—Dear Saints: I want to let you know that I am still with the Lord who has been so good to me and my family. I know He will come to our rescue when we need Him if we put our trust in Him. He has done many things for me.

My son Fred had a bad sore on his head. My neighbors advised me what to do for it, but I had decided to trust the Lord fully. He did touch and heal his head, and I surely thank the Lord for it.

When my daughter Lucille was coming home from school a neighbor girl hit her in the stomach with a brick. She was screaming with pain and could not stand up straight. I ran down the street and brought her to the house. I prayed for her, then told Sister Lennon and she prayed. It wasn't long until Sister Nelson came, and Lucille was still screaming. We laid her on the bed, and Sister Nelson and I agreed in prayer that the Lord would come to our rescue. He certainly did answer prayer and put Lucille to sleep. About two and a half hours later while I was preparing supper I heard some one coming to the kitchen. It was Lucille, and she said she was feeling fine. I asked her who had healed her. She said the Lord touched her stomach. I really do thank the Lord for what He has done, and I can't thank Him enough. It draws me closer to the Lord and I promised that I would do more for Him this year.

I thank all the saints for their prayers for me and my family.

—Sister Annie Mae Orange

Dear Readers: Just a few words of testimony and encouragement. Keep on praying and keep on believing.

Recently our young son wandered off and was gone far into the night before he was located. Many friends and neighbors were faithfully praying for his safety. He had gone through fields and down by a railroad track, but the dear Lord kept him unscratched and unharmed. Through the many hours he was gone the Lord gave us comfort, and as I was praying the Lord assured me he was all right. How great and wonderful our God is! I do not know how I could have endured those hours without my Lord to lean on.

Pray that we will draw closer to the Lord and that our unsaved loved ones will be saved.

We enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper very much and have learned much from its pages. May the Lord

bless each one who makes it possible to print such good reading.

A Kansas Reader

Kansas—Dear Sister Marie, co-workers and saints abroad, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: I am praising God for His wonderful gift of salvation. I thank Him for the people of God and workers in every field of work. It stirs my heart to do more for God.

I enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper. It serves to stir up my pure mind by way of remembrance of God's dealings with his people. Also I love to read the testimonies of healing of both soul and body. Truly, God is all we need. I learn more about Him every day. I thank God I have learned to trust Him for both soul and body, and for my little girl who is now 14 months old.

God is a specialist in solving problems, large or small. The Lord has healed me of toothache, headache, heart trouble, and a broken collar bone received in an accident. God also brought me through a difficult delivery when my child was born. I thank God for being saved and sanctified, for God has saved me from a life of sin and is keeping me saved.

Sometimes the enemy takes things that are rightfully ours. But God has grace for us to give them up without a fight. For the battle is not ours, but the Lord's. 2 Chronicles 20:15, "Thus saith the Lord unto you, be not afraid, nor dismayed by reason of this multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." Moses, in Exodus 14:13, 14, said: "Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord which he will shew to you today, for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see no more. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." These wonderful promises stand good for us today if we will obey and believe them.

Isaiah 54:17, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment, thou shalt condemn." Dear ones, that doesn't mean we are having word for word. But I believe our lives will prove something here. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

I love the Lord and mankind, even my enemies. When David went out to meet the giant, (1 Sam. 17:44) this is what the giant said to David, "Come to me and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and the beasts of the field." (The devil means to destroy our souls.) Verse 46, "David said, this day will the Lord deliver thee in mine hand, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel." Verse 47, "And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword or spear: for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hands." When our last battle has been fought, we shall receive the crown of eternal life in heaven.

Pray with me for souls whom I desire God to deliver from sin. I need your prayers, also.

Love in Christ,

—Sister Juanita Watson

## VICTORY

"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." 2 Cor. 2:14.

When you are forgotten or neglected or purposely set at naught, and you smile inwardly at the insult or oversight, because thereby counted worthy to suffer with Christ—that is victory. When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your taste offended, your advice disregarded, your

opinions ridiculed, and you take it all in patient loving silence—that is victory.

When you are content with any food, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude, any interruption by the will of God—that is victory.

When you can lovingly and patiently deal with any disorder, any irregularity, any unpunctuality or any annoyance—that is victory.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation or to record your own good works or to seek after commendation; when you can truly love to be unknown—that is victory.

When you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility, and endure it as Jesus endured it—that is victory.

When like Paul, you can throw all your suffering on Jesus, thus converting it into a means of knowing His overcoming grace, and can say with a surrendered heart, "most gladly therefore do I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake"—that is victory. (2 Cor. 12:7-10).

To love equally as well the grace that comes through being "instructed how to be hungry" and to suffer, as you love the faith required to know how to be "full" and to abound in health—that is victory. (Phil. 4:12).

When death and life are both alike to you through Christ, and to do His perfect will; you delight not more in one than the other—that is victory; for through Him you may be able to say, "Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or death." (Phil. 1:20; 1 Cor. 12:54)

The perfect victory is to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ" and thus to triumph over self. (Rom. 13:14). In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. (Rom. 8:37) —Sel.

## Beginning Family Worship

I enjoyed the radio very much before I was saved. I would sit up late at night and listen to it. I didn't want to miss any of the stories that were on through the day. It was a part of my very life.

But God dealt with my soul and I got saved. Oh, the joy that filled my heart, and I loved my Lord. He had done so much for me. The greatest desire of my heart was to please Him. He became part of my life. He wanted first place and I wanted Him to have it because I loved Him so much.

I didn't turn the radio on through the day, but when school was out, the boys would turn it on. When my husband was home, they would have it on until late at night. It grieved me because I now knew what effect it was having on them. I knew that listening to murder stories and all the worldly, foolish things was not good for them. I prayed and asked God to take it out of our home or control it some way. Since my husband was the head of the house I could not do anything about it myself. One time I talked to a saint of God about the condition. He told me to make it a matter of earnest prayer and say nothing

about it. With renewed faith, I earnestly prayed about it. I would ask the Lord to put it out of operation. Many times when they would have it going, I would pray about it.

One day the boys came home from school and turned the radio on. It gave forth a loud, roaring noise instead of what they expected. They thought surely that their daddy could fix it, but he couldn't. That evening they just sat around with nothing to do. They seemed lost as this had been such a habit for them. I began to ask the Lord to show me what to do now. It came to me to get some song books and we could sing. We sang some, and then I read some from the Bible. The next evening it was the same way. I again got the song books and we sang and then I read out of the Bible. I then told them that I thought we should have prayer. This was something all new in our home. We had never had family worship before. I got down on my knees, but my husband and two boys just sat there and didn't move. They were surprised. This was hard for me, but I just prayed anyway. The next night I again got the songbooks and we sang, I read out of the Bible, and then I said, let's have prayer. They knelt with me then. We had family worship every night after that. Later my husband and boys got saved.

The radio was never fixed. About two years later my older son got one. I told him he had better use it right or the Lord would put it out of operation, that he should be careful to listen to the right kind of music, etc. He got lean in his soul and I prayed about it. I saw that he wasn't listening to the right things. His radio stopped working. Later, the younger boy got a car with a radio in it. My older boy told him that he had better use it right or Mother would pray about it and it wouldn't work.

The Lord will surely hear our prayers and bless our efforts for His cause when we are willing to move as He directs.

—Lillian Meek

## BIBLE STUDY

Primary Picture Roll for 3 months, \$1.95; Lesson Cards, 15c per pupil for three months.

February 5, 1967

### THE DANGER OF HYPOCRISY

Printed Portion ..... Luke 11:37-44; 12:29-34

Luke 11:37 And as he spake, a certain Pharisee besought him to dine with him: and he went in, and sat down to meat.

38 And when the Pharisee saw it, he marvelled that he had not first washed before dinner.

39 And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness.

40 Ye fools, did not he, that made that which is without, make that which is within also?

41 But rather give alms of such things as ye have; and, behold, all things are clean unto you.

42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of God: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.



43 Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.

44 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are as graves which appear not, and the men that walk over them are not aware of them.

Luke 12:29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; neither be ye of doubtful mind.

30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Memory Verse: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Luke 12:34.

Central Thought: One dear saint used to say, "Be what you are and not what you ain't."

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A hypocrite is one "who pretends to be better than he really is, or pious, virtuous, etc. without really being so." (Webster dictionary.) A hypocrite may cover up as to what he really is before many people but God knows all about that person and sees into his heart. He is not getting by with God. In the days when Jesus was here He could look into the hearts of those around him.

The Pharisees had a ritual of vigorously washing their hands before eating because they might have touched a sinful person and even would take a bath when they came from the market places. (Mark 7:3, 4; Luke 11:28). They criticized Jesus because he did not keep this ritual but He told them they were foolish because they keep such a ritual. The heart or inside of the cup was the most important. If a person gets the heart right then the outward man will naturally become in accordance with the heart. Pride is the taproot of all sins. When a person is delivered from pride, then selfishness, greed, extortion, evil speaking, lying, immodesty, self-promotion, will not be found in that person's life.

We are to get our heart right with God and keep it right by seeking after the things of God and not the things of the world. We should lay up treasures in heaven. Jesus has told us that "as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40. We are to do all that we do as unto the Lord, thereby laying up treasures in heaven.

February 12, 1967

#### THE CALL TO REPENTANCE

Printed Portion ..... Luke 13:1-9, 24, 35

Luke 13:1 There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things?

3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

4 Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower of Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?

5 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

6 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none; cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

35 Behold your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Memory Verse: Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? Romans 2:4.

Central Thought: Jesus will gather us unto himself if we will let Him.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first part of our lesson is about some who thought that the 18 on whom the tower of Siloam fell and those who were killed by Pilate while worshipping in the Temple were very wicked because these things came to pass. Jesus said, "I tell you nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (v. 3). Just because they died in that manner doesn't prove anything. All people are headed for hell and eternal death unless they repent. We have no promise of our life for the next moment.

Jesus spoke a parable which plainly shows His mercy. The man who planted the fig tree in his vineyard represents God. That fig tree represents man. The dresser of the vineyard represents Jesus. God looked for fruit from that man's life. He wanted the fruit of obedience, love, kindness, honesty, modesty, joy, faith, longsuffering, forgiveness meekness and etc. For three years God looked for these fruits but He found none. See His great mercy! God told the dresser, Jesus, to cut it down. God was almost convinced that the man was not going to serve Him with all of his heart and bear fruit. He was going to withdraw His Spirit from him. Now Jesus begged for him. He said, "Let me dig about him. Let me send some hard things that will bring him to his knees or let me show him some special mercy so he will praise me or draw close to me. Then if he doesn't bear fruit, you can cut him off." God gives space for people to repent. Jesus wept over the people of Jerusalem. He longed for their love. He worked miracles before them but they rejected him and he said, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

February 19, 1967

#### GOD YEARNS FOR THE LOST

Printed Portion ..... Luke 15:11-24

Luke 15:11 And he said, A certain man had two sons:

February 26, 1967

## FAITHFUL IN LITTLE OR MUCH

Printed Portion ..... Luke 16:10-15; 17:7-10

Luke 16:10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

11 If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?

12 And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?

13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

14 And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him.

15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Luke 17:7 But which of you, having a servant ploughing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat?

8 And will not rather say unto him, Make ready where-with I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

9 Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

10 So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Memory Verse: He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. Luke 16:10.

Central Thought: Heavenly treasures are more important than earthly treasures.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Little things are important whether we may count them so or not. A person who is unjust in small things is on his way down. It might be a gradual descent toward being unjust in big things but unless he is arrested by the Holy Spirit and gives heed he will end up in destruction. A person would never become a drunkard if he had not taken the first drink. A person would not commit a major burglary unless he had been taking small things. Jesus is showing the general principle of human nature. On the other hand if a person is faithful in small things he will be faithful in larger things. He is in a condition to receive "true riches."

"Mammon" is an Aramaic word for worldly riches. Jesus plainly tells us that we cannot serve the desire for worldly pleasures, treasures and selfish interests and serve God. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt. 6:24) Now those Pharisees who were covetous, and those today who are the same, would not accept this plain truth. They love self and try to justify themselves before men but our lesson tells us plainly that God knows the hearts of men. Living after fleshly desires is "abomination in the sight of God." That is what the world does and allows in the lives of others.

(Mrs.) Marie Miles

12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.

13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

17 And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,

19 And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

22 But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet;

23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry;

24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry.

Memory Verse: For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10.

Central Thought: Those who waste their "substance" in riotous living are wasting their lives.

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The love of God and His yearning for the souls of men is the principal thought of this parable. Those who are not saved are like the prodigal son who had gone astray. They are wasting their lives, their time and talents. Their souls are starving for communion with their Maker. Many of them do not know this fact. They are just wandering around in this world, going from one place to another trying to satisfy their souls but they still have not found peace and contentment. They need to wake up and come to themselves and arise and make a decision as the prodigal did. They need to come to God, their Father, and say, "I have sinned against heaven." They need to repent and accept the blood of Jesus as a propitiation for their sins. They need to clear up their lives and live righteously before God and man. They can then find salvation, peace, and joy in their souls and be ready to live and ready to die. Oh, what a wonderful life that is! There is no other way to live in this life that will bring soul satisfaction but to live for God.

God is waiting and longing for people to come to Him. He wants to take all to heaven who will go there. Eternal banishment from God awaits all who don't choose God as their Master.

The husks in our lesson are the fruit of the carob tree. They are pods, shaped like a horn and are dark brown, glossy, and filled with seeds that have a sweetish taste. (Smith's Dictionary.)