

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

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The First Resurrection

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live." (John 5:24, 25.)

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus is speaking of a spiritual resurrection. He says that the hour is coming, and has already come, when the dead in sin shall hear the gospel of Jesus Christ preached, and they that accept the truth and obey it shall live—that is, they shall have everlasting life. They shall be resurrected from spiritual death in sin to a spiritual life of righteousness. This rising from a spiritual death to a spiritual life is a spiritual resurrection. The Bible calls it "the first resurrection." "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection." (Rev. 20:6.)

Notice in the text above Jesus says we have passed from death unto life. This passing from death unto life is a resurrection. This first resurrection is going on now, today. We were all dead in sin until we repented. When we repent, our sins are forgiven, and we are raised from the dead in sin to a life of righteousness. When we repent, we rise from spiritual death to spiritual life. This is a spiritual resurrection. All people who are living a holy life, free from sin, have part in this first resurrection, and they are ready for the second resurrection which will take place at the great Judgment Day.

"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins." (Eph. 2:1.) The word "quickened" means "made alive." These Ephesian Christians were once dead in sin, but when they repented they were made alive again. They had been raised from the dead, and now they have part in the first resurrection.

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Eph. 5:14.) These people are dead, but when

they repent, they will be alive again. This is a spiritual resurrection.

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die," (Ezekiel 18:4.) The soul that sins dies a spiritual death. Such a soul is dead in sin. When this person repents, his sins are forgiven, and he is raised from the dead in sin to a life of righteousness. He has been raised from the dead. This is a spiritual resurrection. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection." (Rev. 20:6.)

"She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." (1 Tim. 5:6) How can she be dead while she is still living? How can she be dead and alive both at the same time? She is spiritually dead in sin, but she is alive physically. Her soul is dead in sin, but her body is alive. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezek. 18:4.) She needs to repent and be made alive spiritually; then she would be alive both physically and spiritually. She is dead now, but when she repents, she will rise from the dead and be made alive. This is a spiritual resurrection, and the Bible calls it "the first resurrection."

The second resurrection will be a literal resurrection of all people from Adam and Eve up to the last day, which will be the Judgment Day. All who have part in the first resurrection are ready for the second resurrection. Do you have part in the first resurrection?

—Joshua Peavy

God's Scales of Justice

Many people in the world today are very much interested in their physical weight. They watch it closely and live and eat in order to keep it correct. Not so many are interested in their spiritual weight, which is much more important. God weighs us by scales of justice. Our lives must weigh out even with the Word of God.

Job knew about God's scales of justice. He was greatly concerned about how he weighed. Job said, "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." (Job 31:6.) He wanted the balances of justice to weigh him so God could see his integrity, honesty, purity, soundness, and sin-

cerity. He did not want to come up short or long, but wanted to weigh out evenly.

Let us see how Job weighed out as recorded in the first and second chapters of Job. What did he say when he was told that the Sabeans had killed his servants and had taken his oxen and asses? How did he weigh out? Did he question God? How did he weigh out when he was told about the loss of his sheep, shepherds, camels and servants? This was a great loss and made him a poor man. Did he still love God? Praise God, we hear Job saying, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away! blessed be the name of the Lord." (verse 21) He loved God more than his possessions and that is how he weighed out in this trial. How would we weigh out in these same circumstances? Do we love God more than our possessions?

"A wind has destroyed your house and your children are all dead!" a servant cried. Job rent his clothes and fell upon the ground worshipping God, and said, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job weighed correctly in one of the supreme tests of his life. If Job could stand these tests with victory, then we can also. God's grace is sufficient for us. We should trust God's wisdom with all of our hearts and realize, with Job, that "naked came I into this world and naked will I go out." We can't take any of our possessions with us, regardless of what it may be. God wants us to keep cut loose from this world and set our affections on things above, realizing that God gave us all we have and be willing for Him to do with it as He pleases.

Job was weighed again in the balances of Justice. He was smitten with sore boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. His wife, who had also gone through the fire in the loss of all things, thought that this was too much. She was weighed and found wanting; she turned against God and questioned Job's integrity and sincerity. "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God and die," she declared. But Job weighed out well in this supreme test. His weight was pure gold. He said, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips." Job 2:10, 11. How would you weigh out? Have you surrendered all to God? Can you trust His wisdom in your life or can loved ones turn you away from God?

A neighbor's hogs got into the potato patch of a godly man. He drove them out and spoke kindly to his neighbor about it but the neighbor did nothing to correct the situation. One day the man of God came home and the hogs were in the potato patch again. The man said, "Those potatoes belong to God and those hogs belong to God. If God wants His hogs to eat His potatoes, that is His business." So he dropped the whole affair. Later the neighbor's daughter became very sick and he called the man of God to come and pray for her. The neighbor was won to

God. So you see this man weighed out right; he trusted God's wisdom in all that touched his life.

We are on one side of God's scales of justice and God's Word is on the other side. We should check daily to see that our lives measure up to the Word. Those who check their weight daily can correct any difference easily before it gets too large. It is important that we live a life dedicated to God's cause and reject any selfish desires or ways, thus proving that we love Him with all our hearts. We are only in this world a short time and we shall be weighed in the Judgment Day for the last time. On that day it will be a final weighing. There will not be any opportunity to correct any difference. Now is the time to watch our weight.

One day Jesus weighed a man who came running, then knelt before him and asked, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17-22) "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother." He was being weighed by the Word of God. How did he weigh out thus far? The man felt good because he had kept all of these commandments from his youth. Jesus looked on him and loved him. God and His people appreciate those who live clean, upright lives, but it takes more than that to balance out correctly in God's scales. We must be "born again," and also surrender ourselves, possessions and our all into God's hands. We just become stewards of our life, possessions and time. We do not belong to ourselves because we have been bought with a price. We belong to God. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20)

Jesus continued to weigh the man. He told him to sell all that he had and give to the poor, take up his cross and follow the Son of God. The poor rich man was grieved. He was weighed and found wanting that time. He had opportunity to change his weight, but he refused and went away sorrowful. He lacked enough weight to balance out correctly with God's Word. Dear ones, it would have been better for him to have weighed out like Job. When God saw that Job weighed out correctly, He blessed him. He gave him more sons and daughters and twice as much in possessions as he had lost. His latter end was better than the beginning. (Job 42)

God has prepared a beautiful home in heaven for those who are faithful and endure to the end. This world is not our home. We are on our way to those treasures in heaven. We want to weigh correctly on God's scales of justice in this life so when we get on them for the last time in the Judgment Day we shall balance out correctly and be ready to enter God's heaven. (Mrs.) Marie Miles

CORRECTION — Bro. Ostis Wilson will start the meeting in Okla. City on Sunday, April 2, and not on March 27 as stated in the editorial on Page 5. — Editor.

Youth at the Crossroads

There comes a time, perhaps, in the life of every young person, when he reaches the crossroads. In other words, he comes to a place when and where he must choose which way he will take through life, whether the right way or the wrong way; the way hellward or the way heavenward. This is indeed a very critical place. His choice means more than words can ever express.

At the crossroads every youth should pause. He should think soberly, very sincerely. To act unwisely here may mean his undoing in his future career; his undoing in health or in education; his undoing in mentality; his undoing morally, and certainly spiritually.

In a sense, life hangs in a balance at the crossroads. The compass may point in different directions—certainly the devil's compass. It may point to bad and ruinous habits.

To some, it may point to money-making, even at the sacrifice of honesty.

At the crossroads the devil's compass may point many young people toward the way of popularity.

At the crossroads the devil's compass points many of our youth to social drinking and smoking. They start with the thought that they will find pleasure in it; that they will never become liquor addicts or cigarette fiends; that they will go along with the crowd and be one of them, without realizing that they may end up as physical, mental, social, moral and spiritual wrecks.

Again, at the crossroads the devil's compass points multitudes of our youth to fornication. This is one of the greatest and most demoralizing evils of the world. It is God's will and plan that our youth should marry and that they love each other purely and sincerely, and are led by the Spirit of God, and will be true and faithful to each other until death; but to give place to lust and depravity leads to wreck and ruin.

Now let's think and look at another compass on the crossroads of life. This is God's compass. It is there. Don't fail to get your eyes upon it and fix them there. God's compass is the sacred Holy Bible, which is the Book of all books. It points to Mount Calvary and the blessed, glorious Saviour and Redeemer of all mankind, all who will humble themselves, repent, seek mercy and forgiveness, and yield entirely to His unerring will. God's compass points to Him who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," (John 14:6). Indeed, God's compass points to Him whose name, Isaiah said "shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:8)

God's compass points to salvation, holiness, and heaven. It points to noble manhood, noble womanhood, beautiful and priceless character, honesty, sincerity, truthfulness, and all that it takes to make life happy, joyous, peaceful and worthwhile on earth, and to all that it takes to make one's existence forever glorious.

Whose compass are you following, or whose compass are you going to follow, dear youth? It is up to you, even the children, to make the choice. No one can drive you either way—downward or upward. The devil cannot compel you to go his way, neither does God compel you to go His way. However, you are going one way or the other. There is no neutral way. But NO ONE, regardless of who you are, whether rich or poor, high or low, educated or uneducated, black or white, red or yellow, or whatever may be your circumstances in life—no one can afford to turn from God's compass that always points in the right direction. Youth, or child who knows good from evil, behold God's compass at the crossroads of life, and follow it until your earthly journey comes to a close. Then you will gain everlasting life, victory, and glory. Amen.

—Walter E. Isenhour

Our Faith in the Power of God

We feel an urge to write on this subject. In II Cor. 4:5 we read, "For we preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves, your servants for Jesus' sake." We are not to preach our personality or our wisdom. We are only servants of God and of the saints. Many times the saints get carried away with personalities or influential speakers, but Paul said in I Cor. 2:4, "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of men's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God." What we need in the ministry and in the church is more power with God, and that our faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, realizing that ministers are just servants and have no power or jurisdiction, except that which comes from God. Ministers should be respected as servants of God, but nowhere in the Scriptures are we told to give praise to man, but to God only. In I Thess. 2:4-6 we read, "But as we are allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloak of covetousness; God is witness: Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others." So we see Paul didn't preach himself, neither sought the glory of men. The gospel which he preached was not after man, neither was he taught it of man, but by God. Gal. 1:11, 12.

In I Peter 5:2 we read, "Feed the Church of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind, neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." We, as the ministers of God, need to realize that we are nothing within ourselves; the power we have is not of ourselves but is of God. The saints need to recognize God in His ministers, but not to recognize men preaching themselves. Spirituality and personality are two different things. I am praying that we may have more power with God.

Yours in the One true way, —Murphy Allen

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

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P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Office Phone BUTler 2-1479 Home Phone BU 2-2262

EDITORIALS

Holy Christian greetings to all our readers: A special welcome is extended to the many new readers who became regular subscribers by returning the blue subscription remittance envelope attached to the wrapper of those copies which expired with the March issue. A number of letters expressed how glad they were to get the three trial issues, and now they do not want to be without it. May the Holy Spirit continue to illuminate the truth to your heart as you read the forth-coming issues.



A short time before His crucifixion, Jesus informed His disciples, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2b, 3. His atoning death upon the cross and His miraculous resurrection on the third day opened the way and prepared the eternal dwelling place for every believer. Just as surely as He went away, He will come again to receive us unto Himself. This promise is the basis for the firm faith and "lively hope" of the righteous—"which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." Heb. 6:19. We are "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13.

To His disciples Jesus made this pledge: "... because I live, ye shall live also." John 14:19b. He is the firstfruits of the resurrection, as expressed by the Apostle Paul: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." 1 Cor. 15:20, 22, 23. The fact of Christ's resurrection is proof that we also shall be resurrected at the last day when the trump of God shall sound. From heaven we look for our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, "who shall change our vile [decaying] body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body..." Phil. 3:21. This glorious promise should carry us onward and upward until our faith is lost in sight.



Sister Ruby Marken's parents, the A. W. Markens, who had been here since December helping us in various phases of the office and shop work, returned recently to their home in Twin Falls, Idaho. We appreciated them and their voluntary service in the gospel work. May the Lord reward them abundantly.

Sister Ruby is continuing her faithful service in the mailing department, doing it as unto the Lord from whom she will receive a reward. May the Lord bless her, as well as all the other co-workers who are so freely giving their time and talent to get the printed gospel messages out to this lost and dying world. Their treasures are being laid up in heaven, and precious sheaves are brought to the Master. The

Lord is not unrighteous to forget their work of faith and labor of love.

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The postoffice box number for this office has been changed from 713 to 518. The local postoffice building was completely remodeled inside and equipped with new boxes, and we secured a larger box with this new number—518.

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Bro. Mart Samons, evangelist of Fairborn, Ohio, just closed a meeting at Shawnee, Okla. where Bro. Charles Smith is the pastor. He is now holding a meeting at Enid, Okla. and expects to be with us here at Guthrie a few days prior to and over Easter Sunday. May the Holy Spirit accompany the preaching of the Word.

Sister Marilyn Lyons, missionary to the Sioux Indians near Mission, S. Dak., writes that Bro. Mart Samons and family plan, Lord willing, to be at their campmeeting there which has been announced for June 9 to 18. She solicits the prayers of all the saints for the meeting in this new field. A complete announcement of this campmeeting, as well as others, will appear in later issues.

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Bro. Ostis Wilson, Pacoima, Calif., is scheduled to hold a meeting at Hammond, La. where Bro. T. H. Coffey is pastor, beginning March 19. The saints in that area are praying for and expecting a very profitable time in the Lord.

On Monday, March 27, Bro. Wilson will start a meeting at the 50th Street chapel of the Church of God in Oklahoma City where Bro. Archie Souder is pastor.

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Bro. and Sister Ira Stover left Guthrie on March 13 and drove through to Pacoima, California, where they will help with the pastoral work while Bro. Ostis Wilson is away in meetings. They may remain there until after the California campmeeting in July.

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Bro. Curtis Williams, evangelist of Clearfield, Ky., reports that he is healed by the power of God but still needs to regain more strength in his lungs to be out in active service. Continue to pray for him. By faith we see him out on the field again.

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Bro. and Sister Darius Gibson are at home now from a recent mission trip for the Lord through Colorado, Texas, and Louisiana. They both need complete healing to their bodies in order to meet the many urgent calls in the gospel work. Pray earnestly for them.

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Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott of Somerset, Ky. are planning to go to Holly Hill, S. Carolina for a meeting. As they both need special physical help from the Lord, they would appreciate your prayers.

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The reprint edition of the 541-page book, "The Cleansing of the Sanctuary" by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle, is expected to be available in a nice cloth

cover by May 1st. This very limited edition is being offered at \$4.50 per copy, postpaid, delivery to be made as soon as the books are ready in May. Place your order NOW for your copy of this excellent volume which may never be reprinted again. —L.D.P.

OBITUARY



James Abraham Williams was born November 22, 1884 to Edward and Alice Williams in Shuqualak, Mississippi and departed this life February 15, 1967 in Hennessey, Oklahoma at the age of 82.

At an early age he moved to Oklahoma where he met Willa Jane Nicholson and they were united in marriage December 31, 1908 in Hennessey, Oklahoma where they lived all of their 58 years together. To this union two children were born.

When a young man, James was converted, becoming a member of the Evening Light Church of God, in which he remained faithful unto death. He remained steadfast during his last few weeks of suffering, and knowing his end was near, he looked forward to his eternal Home of rest from his labors.

His survivors include his wife, Willa Jane; his son, Everett, of Los Angeles, California; his daughter, Mrs. Velma Tutt, of Wichita, Kansas; two brothers, Oscar of California, and Lee of Salome, Arizona; 11 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren. He will be missed by them as well as other relatives, saints, and friends, but our loss is Heaven's gain.

For 82 years he lived on this earth

And while young learned to please the Lord;

Now he has gone to his Home that's beyond

To collect his eternal reward.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bro. A. J. Bowman and Bro. Herman Kelley. Texts: 1 Peter 4:18; Heb. 2:3. Interment was in the Morrison Cemetery at Hennessey, Oklahoma.

Meeting Notices

BOLEY, OKLA. SPRING MEETING

The annual Church of God spring meeting at Boley, Okla. will be held April 14 through 23, 1967, Lord willing. All are welcome to come. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His own choosing. Saints, pray earnestly for the meeting. Katherine Williams, Pastor 1453 N. E. 9th St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

MEETING SCHEDULED AT ALICEVILLE, ALA.

Bro. Lewis Williams and a company of gospel workers, including Bro. Isaac Chandler, are planning to hold a meeting at Aliceville, Alabama beginning April 30th. The chapel is located one mile north of Aliceville on the Pickinville highway. The earnest prayers of the saints are requested that the meeting in this new field will redound to the glory of God.

For further information, contact Bro. Lewis Williams, 1536 Piatt, Wichita, Kansas, or Bro. Lindsey Shelton, 23 Hightown, Northport, Ala.

OKLAHOMA CITY SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the Spring meeting of the Church of God will be held May 5 through May 14, 1967 at the

chapel at 800 N. E. 3rd St., Okla. City, Okla. All are welcomed and urged to attend this meeting. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of his choosing. Pray much for this meeting.

—Bro. Herman Kelley (Pastor)
2304 Everest St., Okla. City, Okla.

Campmeeting Dates for 1967

Following are the campmeeting dates for the coming summer. More complete notices of each will appear in later issues.

Mission, S. Dak.—June 9 to 18.
Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 9 to 18.
Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 9 to 18.
Zion Hill, Benton, Ark.—June 18 to 25.
Hoffman, Okla.—June 23 to July 2.
Jefferson, Oregon—June 23 to July 2.
General Southern—Hammond, La.—June 30 to July 9.
Akron, Ohio—July 7 to 16.
Green Pastures, Okla.—July 7 to 16.
California State—Pacoima, Calif.—July 7 to 16.
Myrtle, Mo.—July 7 to 16.
National Campmeeting—Neosho, Mo.
(Monark Springs)—July 21 to 30.
Oklahoma State—Guthrie, Okla.—Aug. 4 to 13.
Bakersfield, Calif.—Aug. 4 to 13.

WORK DAYS ON NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

With spring weather in the near future we feel it will be good to establish certain days to accomplish the work that needs to be done on the National campground at Monark Springs, Neosho, Mo.

The first work days will be the third Saturday and the following Monday, April 18 and 20. Then the first Saturday and Monday and the third Saturday and Monday of each following month until all the work has been accomplished.

The first thing to be done will be a general clean-up of the grounds. Those of us who cannot come on Saturday will endeavor to work on Monday. All help will be greatly appreciated. Please bring yard rakes. For additional information, write to Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas. 67337.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO OKLAHOMA CHURCH

At the Oklahoma State winter Assembly Meeting held here at Guthrie, plans were reviewed and re-affirmed to enlarge the chapel here for the Oklahoma State meetings. The work had been delayed because the Federal Housing Authority had a 15-block area, including the campground, under survey with the aim to purchase the land and establish a housing project. Since it was under federal survey the city would not issue a building permit. Just this week the Housing Authority deferred action indefinitely on the housing project because there was not enough evidence of sufficient flood control in the area. By special action a building permit was granted to proceed to enlarge the chapel. Preliminary work has already started, and today (March 17) the trenches were excavated for the footings.

The present chapel is sufficient for the Guthrie congregation, but needs much more seating capacity to accommodate the State assembly and camp meetings each year. The proposed plan is to increase the size of the

building 75 per cent and install central heat and air-conditioning. This will require several thousand dollars and much volunteer labor from over the state, but this can be done if each will sacrifice and have a "mind to work." Oklahoma saints, this is your meeting. Ask the Lord what He would have you to do about it. Obey Him and He will bless you and the need will be supplied. We suggest that the pastors of Oklahoma congregations start a special fund in their congregations for this purpose, and send it to the state treasurer, Bro. M. A. Davis, Rt. 4, Guthrie, Okla. Please keep in touch with him as to the special work days on the building. Phone BU 2-3442.

—Lawrence Pruitt

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Rosarita, Mexico (March 11)—Our dear laborers together for the Lord: Greetings of much love to you in Jesus' lovely name—the greatest of all names!

I am thankful to our God who helps me with my burden to visit and pray with the people alone. New families have been contacted, for whom we are laboring to bring them to the truth. We are encouraged for the good number attending services both on Sundays and in mid-week meetings. I am grateful that I can help Sister Cristina with the Sunday School class on Sunday for the children. One evening our Sister Ramona came to us for urgent prayer. She was very ill with fever and had infection in her throat. She was unable to eat. We looked to the Lord in prayer, called the saints in Pomona to agree with us, and though her relatives made it hard on her, she refused to take medicine. She was given complete healing and victory over-night. She desires to work for her Healer.

One night here in Rosarito we had a cloud burst. The wind had blown a strip off the roof and we swept water until after midnight when we heard a knock on our door. One of the Mexican brothers who lives on the beach was asking help to get his family out of the water. So we took the truck and went through the high water. The motor stalled but God sent help. The water ran through the houses on the beach and boxes of their belongings floated away in the tide. We made beds for eleven refugees. One family stayed a week with us, during which time we lived on beans and tortillas. During this time we contacted new people.

I received a most wonderful blessing recently from the Lord. Being heavily burdened, I spent most of the night in prevailing prayer, knowing the loving Father's blessings from heaven must come. In the early morning hours the Lord came down! Oh, the joy and happiness of that hour alone with God! There are no words or expressions to tell of His rich blessings to us.

We are looking earnestly to the Lord and expecting more souls to receive the good word of life. Please remember to keep us on your prayer list that souls may be won to God.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Carrie Sheppard

Rosarito, Mexico—Greetings to one and all in Christ: This leaves us pressing our way every day in the way of truth and trying to win other souls to Christ that they, too, may enjoy the precious blessings of this life and those of the world to come. The Lord has answered prayer and we are having Sunday School for the adults and children simultaneously. Recently we were much encouraged by the testimony of the sister who accepted Christ just last October. We have been watching her grow in the Lord since she was first saved and we are truly grateful that the Word of the Lord has meant

so much to her. Her testimony was that she had a burden for all of her loved ones. She also expressed a desire to gain other souls for Christ. She and her husband have four precious children.

The Lord has been blessing us to get out material for all the mission stations for distribution among friends and acquaintances of each congregation. He has also been providing lessons to print for the children at each mission station, for which we are very grateful. Please pray that this work may continue to be a blessing and a means to contact new people who have never heard the truth of the Word. The Lord made it possible right after Christmas for us to purchase this new typewriter, which included all the Spanish markings that are not used in English, for the writing of any article in Spanish. We thank and praise the Lord and want to thank each one who had a part in making it possible. May the Lord bless you richly.

After the cloudburst aforementioned, we were blessed with a new roof. We had saved for it as the Lord supplied, and though we didn't have the amount needed, the roof is on, and an excellent one it is, which should last a long while. How we do thank the Lord and all those who helped in any manner! As the Lord makes it possible, we plan to make other improvements that the mission station in Rosarito will be as inviting to people as we feel our lives need to be. We desire that the gospel being preached and that lived at the mission station will read just alike.

Pray that the four new souls who really seem interested, and with whom we have come in contact of late, may be fruitful for God. We earnestly need your prayers for every phase of the work in Mexico. Recently we were stranded in our truck. We called the saints in San Diego and they graciously came to our rescue and took us home. Isn't that just the way of the Lord? We truly praise His precious and holy Name!

I needed to come home to Oklahoma on business, and will return according to the will of the Lord.

Your Sister in Christ, —Opal Kelly
P. O. Box 2262, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India—(Feb. 23)—My dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt, joyful greeting in Jesus' name to all the saints of the Church of God in America: Thank you very much for your very good letter dated Feb. 4, 1967. I am thankful for the kind help you are giving in His name. God bless you and all the dear saints and duly reward them in my prayer.

I was very glad to note that Sister Marie Miles has kindly sent a package of "Beautiful Way" papers which I hope will reach me subsequently.

I see a tendency in many Christians to write to America and look to America and establish contact. But God save us from all tricks and strategy of man.

Thank you for ordering those books. Yes, the doctrine of a literal millennial reign is very dangerous and many souls are confused and misled. I believe those books will be of much help.

A Roman Catholic Jesuit priest has some time ago renounced Roman Catholicism. He got married. He is now excommunicated and his relatives have driven him out of his home. He is seeking after truth. He came and stayed with me. I gave him a few tracts. He is very much interested in our teaching of the church, etc. He is now homeless and he very badly needs a shelter for his wife and only child. I haven't made any promise, nor can I do it. He is now reading the book, "The King-

dom of God and the One Thousand Years' Reign." I have loaned him that book. I believe the Lord will find some means if he proves loyal and faithful to Him. I am giving him spiritual help by teaching and giving books to read. His family needs food and shelter. I am praying for him. Please pray for this family. He desires to work for the Lord.

Regarding Bro. Carver's visit—I also received a letter from him that he is waiting for visas from Delhi, India. I am afraid his arrival in India, if too late, may be right in the middle of the monsoon rains. I am praying for their safe and early journey.

I am writing this soon after I arrived home from my long trip to the Northern area. God blessed my journey. I had very blessed meetings. God gave me very inspired messages. Thank God, in every place, souls were encouraged.

Please pray for us. You have our prayers.

Yours for winning souls, C. M. Verghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bro. B. U. Etuk, native minister in Nigeria, writes an interesting letter dated March 2 and encloses the detailed typewritten reports of the mission activities for the month of February written by the mission secretary, Bro. Nse Umanah. Space will not permit them to be reproduced here, but the minute accounts disclose that very inspiring services with good attendance were held at various mission stations on each Sunday of the month. The gospel work is advancing, believers are being added to their number and the sick are being healed in answer to the prayer of faith.

Bro. Etuk continues to report that the banks in Nigeria are 30 to 60 days behind in cashing the drafts sent from the Missionary Fund. Let us persevere in prayer that God will clear away this hindrance to His work in Africa.

Prayer has been answered in regard to obtaining repair parts for the English Ford which has been out of service for several months. Owned by the mission, this Ford was their chief means of transportation and they expect to have it in operation shortly and for the use of Bro. and Sister Cecil Carver when they arrive there in the near future, Lord willing.

With joyful anticipation, the Church in Nigeria is making plans for the reception of the Carvers and for their physical comfort during their stay among them.

A phone call to Bro. Carver today (March 16) disclosed that they were packing their car and leaving Shreveport, La. today enroute (via Louin, Miss., for services on Sunday) to the home of their son, Vernon, at Stone Mountain, Ga. They will schedule their airline flight from Atlanta, Ga. The visas to India, for which they had been waiting, are expected to be forwarded to them about March 20, and they will leave as soon as they are received. They expect, Lord willing, to be with the Church in Nigeria on Easter Sunday. Pray for them every day all the way.

—Lawrence Pruitt

59th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations and best wishes to Bro. and Sister Sam Barton, 2262 N. Columbia Place, Tulsa, Okla. 74110, who will observe their 59th wedding anniversary on March 26, 1967. Having spent many years in the gospel work, they are now afflicted and not able to get out much. Your fervent prayers continually, and your card or letter to them at this time would certainly be appreciated.—L.D.P.

Prayer Requests

Do pray for dear Sister Ersa Carrick who is suffering greatly. Her knees are swollen and she is not able to straighten out her legs. Swollen places are on her wrist, back and other places. She has rheumatoid arthritis.

Calif.—"Please pray for a growth on my nose and other afflictions." —Sister Georgia Zinn.

Ill.—"Husband had what seemed to be a heart attack. He needs prayer." —Sister Edward Boling.

Wis.—"I am so grieved over the death of my beloved husband. Pray that the Lord will relieve me of the pains of an aching heart. I have no one to discuss the Word of God and pray with as we did." —Sis. Arthur Klatt

Pa.—"Our son suffered his third nervous break since 1960. He has a wife and two children. My husband has a cataract in his eye. My nerves are bad and I have such severe headaches. The Lord is able to change things." —Sister H. W. Lydic

India—"I need wisdom to win souls." C. M. Daniel

Kansas—"Mother (Sis. Bessie Sorrell) is much better in some ways, and we are thankful, but she still needs prayer for complete healing. She has gained enough strength to care for herself. I was deeply impressed when I visited her by all the cards, letters, and phone calls they received from the saints. Their labors of love for the cause of God have not been in vain. It makes me know that steadfastness in the furnace surely yields a great reward." —Dora Lela Beisly

Ky.—"Those growths are almost even with the end of my swollen nose." —Sister Sam Abbott

Ill.—"Need healing of body and employment for my son and me." —Mrs. Wm. Murphy

La.—"My little boy got burned real badly." —Sister H. Payne

Okl.—Sister Earnestine Jordan has a growth that has grown over her spine. Pray for this dear mother of nine children.

Indiana—"Serious affliction." —Iva Brenner.

Sister Jessie Taylor of Guthrie still needs prayer. She was able to lie down all night (Mar. 15) for the first time in 28 nights. We thank God for all He has done. Still remember her in prayer.

Sister Stover still needs prayer, although she has improved some.

La.—"Wife doesn't seem to improve as she should." Bro. W. Carter

Remember Sister Coffey of Hammond, La. as she has been in the furnace of affliction.

Jesus said, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." (Mark 9:23) Another time he said, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague." (Mark 5:34) Dear ones, faith is the key that brings healing to our bodies. Look up and believe. —Sister Marie Miles.

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Mo.—Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May God bless all the dear saints everywhere.

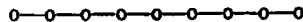
The Lord willing, I will have my 89th birthday on March 30, 1967. I have been saved more than 55 years. The nearer I come to the end of life's way, the more precious He is to my soul. My service now as I sit in the armchair is to pray for souls and for the sick. I am not able to do anything. The dear saints take care of me. I am still able to be taken to meeting. I praise God

for all of His blessings. I love Him with all my heart. I'm holding fast to the word, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Pray that I keep low at His feet.

I know that I shall soon be going,
To the land of endless day.

May the seed that I am sowing
Help some dear souls along life's way.

—Sister Minnie Noakes
322 S. Hall, Webb City, Mo.



La.—Dear Saints and readers of "Faith and Victory," greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus: The Lord has been so good in extending His love and mercy to us. I surely thank and praise the Lord for salvation and that sweet settled peace that flows like a river in my soul. Praise the Lord! I have left all the world to follow Jesus, and I find that the way grows brighter and sweeter each day. He is my all and in all for both soul and body. As one of old said, "He is my doctor, medicine, drug store, and all." He has healed me many times.

I surely thank the Lord for the way He so wonderfully blessed me when I fell over two years ago and hurt my hand. My fingers are somewhat stiff yet, but I use my hand to do all my work. Arthritis set up in it after my fall, but I'm expecting the Lord to completely heal my hand. Many times we can't understand why things have to come our way, but we know that God's Word is true where He says that all things work together for good to them that love God. He permits these things many times to draw us closer to Him.

Pray for me that I may be strong in the Lord and endure to the end.

In Christian love, Audrey Baumgartner



Kansas—Greetings in the name of the Lord: Our hearts are filled with praises for the blessings He bestows on us. We're encouraged to press the battle on.

On January 16 our two-year-old boy woke up with fever, and we thought he was probably cutting more teeth. The next day he was worse and we held him most of the time. When laid down he would cough a great deal. For about five days he didn't eat, but did drink plenty of liquids. We sat up day and night from January 17 until the 24th. During this time I told the Lord if He would heal our baby I would testify about it. On the evening of January 23 we anointed him and about 1:30 in the morning the fever completely broke and he relaxed. We think he had pneumonia, but the Lord spared him. We do praise the Lord for healing him. Many times since he was healed, the scripture in Psalms 116:14 has come to my mind: "I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." Through the "Faith and Victory" paper is a good way to testify of what the Lord does for us.

There are so many blessings the Lord bestows upon us that we cannot tell them all, but we do praise Him for them.

We desire to be true and faithful to the end.

Christian love, —Donald and Lois Sharp and family



Okl.—Dear Sister Marie Miles: Greetings in the name of Jesus. I am saved and happy in the Lord. He has been so good to me. He heals my body when I am sick; and when I am burdened down, He comes and helps me out. He said that He would never leave me nor forsake me. My soul is anchored to the Rock, Christ Jesus.

I will be 88 years old on the 20th of March. Love to all the saints far and near. —Sister Nancy Jones

Kansas—Dear Workers at the Office, and saints and friends abroad: It is with a heart full of love and deep concern for the work of the Lord that I am writing to you. In the language of the song writer, I can truly say "I am a stranger here within a foreign land; My home is far away upon a golden strand: Ambassador to be of realms beyond the sea, I'm here on business for my King."

My burden is for campmeeting days—a season very close at hand. And how are we thinking? How are we praying? Does our courage rise, our consecration deepen, and our faith mount up as we think of the list of local, state, and the national meetings to convene within the next few months?

Are there among us (in the congregations) those who lean to the world, and in a measure, take sides with those who sit in the seat of the scornful, and look with disdain upon the sacred efforts of God's true people? Or there is another class who sympathizes with the slothful man, the man of excuses who says, "There is a lion in the way" or "It is too cold to plow!"

But harken to the words of the Lord of the harvest as He speaks to His faithful ones, "Pray in season and out of season," "Sow beside all waters," "Gather the wheat into the garner."

Our God himself will take care of the chaff; likewise the ungodly man, the scorner, and the slothful man.

May I conclude with the words of St. Paul in 1 Cor. 15:58, "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

—Sister Ethel K. Miles

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

Okla.—Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. This leaves me happy, pressing on to Glory.

I wanted to tell you about a place on the side of my face. The dear Lord helped me to know He would dry it up and make it fall off. Thank God, He did! I woke up about three o'clock one morning, put my hand where it was and it rolled out into my hand. Oh, I can never thank God enough! I have two more places which are drying up somewhat, though different from the one that dropped off.

I thank God for the Golden Rule Home. We have family worship, prayer meetings on Wednesdays at the Home, prayer meeting on Friday nights at the chapel, Sunday morning Sunday School, then services after Sunday School, and Sunday night services. All are busy as there is much to do for those who are able to work. Some are not able to wait on themselves. I comb the hair for two sisters some of the time. I have a nice room. I help to keep it clean.

I love Jesus. All the saints are precious to me. Pray for us. I want to live so that when God is through with me here He will say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," and take me home to Glory.

Christian love, —Sister Mary Whitmore

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

Missouri—Dear Sister Marie and Readers of the "Faith and Victory": I truly praise God for His mercy and kindness unto me. I have tried and proved Him to be a God who cannot lie, who will hear us in the day of trouble. How mightily I called on Him! I cried loudly for I was surely in trouble. I had infected athlete's foot—a mass of sores from my heel to the ball of my foot. At times I could hardly bear the pain and burning. Although we prayed and the saints prayed, I seemed to get no better, only worse. I could still be thankful, however, for I could walk on my tiptoe. Oh, how I needed to be able to walk, as I have two small children. I learned to

put my knees on a chair to do my kitchen work and I could do some of my other work on my knees, but when it was necessary I could walk even though I bore much pain with each step. When a sore broke out on my other foot I walked entirely on my tiptoes and learned to balance so well I could carry my baby. My sweet companion helped me when he could. He prepared many meals and hung out most of the wash.

For weeks I hardly went anywhere except to meeting which is only a few steps from our parsonage. But I wanted to go to the Guthrie, Okla. Assembly meeting. I felt God's people could unite in prayer and I would be healed. I had my most severe test the night before we left—Christmas night. Though the snow lay deep on the ground, we got ready to go, although in much pain. Don't you know Leslie and I had much sorrow! But we were becoming acquainted with grief. The postman comes each day. We speak. We would recognize him if we saw him in town, but we are not acquainted with him. We know nothing of his family or his life. It means more than we might think to be acquainted with something or somebody. Why had grief come our way and what was its purpose? When we began to search it out, we began to benefit by its presence. Our experiences got deeper and we became partakers of pain so that we might more easily bear that of others. It drew me close to the sisters in our congregation. It drew us all to our knees in prayer more often. Our little four-year-old Jonathan often asked if we could kneel and pray for Mama! He would lead out and plead for God to heal me just like an adult. Oh, it was so sweet! I knew God heard all those prayers.

At Guthrie I had another test of severe suffering in the night. The Lord gave Leslie the 20th Psalm, especially these words, "We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners." Don't you know when God speaks to you, you can shout the victory? Praise the Lord! It was the time to believe in Him, that He had heard our prayers. We set up our banners.

One more month went by before it was dry enough for me to wear a shoe. Then we were put to the test again. It seemed it was going to start all over again. We made a trip to Arkansas to be in meeting where Bro. and Sister Albert Eck are pastoring. They also believed it was a trick of the devil, so we all took a stand against him. I began wearing my shoe before we left and have been wearing it ever since. Thank the Lord!

I know I am His for He careth for me. I know that in His own time He will heal the fungus entirely and deliver me from this affliction I have had for several years. I am so thankful that neither of the children have taken it. I was afraid they would after it broke out in both my palms.

We intend to trust God while we live and trust Him when we die, then when all our work is done we'll reign with Him on high.

How thankful we are for all who prayed in my behalf. May God reward you and bless you.

Christian love, —Sister Sylvia Busbee

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and workers there at the Print Shop and all the saints scattered abroad, greetings in Jesus' blessed name: I want you to know I love every one of you, even though I may not know your name, nor where you live. If you belong to God, you belong in my heart, too. I love to pray for the requests in the "Faith and Victory" paper as it comes every month. I look them over carefully and prayerfully and spread them out before God and earnestly talk it over with our dear heaven-

ly Father about each case. For what concerns my sisters and brothers concerns me and I love to have a part and lot in winning souls for Christ, and praying for the saints and encouraging all who need it. I need it, too. I delight to serve the Lord any way and time I can. I feel it an honor to help bear the burdens of the saints and share their joys and sorrows and problems.

The Lord is so good to me; He is my all in all. He is my healer. I trust Him for everything and mean to do my best for Him who did His best for us. I know my days are numbered and I want them all to glorify Him.

Satan is angry with me, I know. He tried to destroy me bodily. I went into the kitchen to look after a leaky faucet behind the washing machine. The cookstove and washing machine are very close together. I had put the tea kettle on the burner nearest the machine. I was in my night clothes and I leaned over the machine with my back to the stove. The next thing I knew I was in flames. There was no time to call anyone, but I am looking to and trusting in our heavenly Father every day and hour, sick or well, and my trust was in Him. I reached behind my shoulder and wadded my clothing up and put the flames out. It blistered my hand pretty badly as any amount of fire on the body means extreme pain. I went to my little altar of prayer and poured out my heart in praise and thanks for again having my life spared. Why should I not love and serve my God who has done so much for me?

I am saved and sanctified and satisfied with God and His dealings with me, no matter what I may have to suffer. I am not looking for an easy way nor a modern gospel. I love the old time truth. The old way just suits me. I am willing to let God use me any way He may choose. So let's ask for the old paths and walk therein. I am not ashamed of this blessed old blood-strewn way—the way God planned for us. Our Captain and Shepherd trod the way before us and God said, "This is my beloved Son; hear ye Him" (follow Him). I mean to follow Him all the way. Pray for me.

Yours in His service, —Georgia V. Zinn

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

Oklahoma.—Dear Sir: Enclosed is 35c for the paper. Please send it, as I don't want to miss a copy.

—Ruth Harper

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

Ohio.—Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, greetings in His name. I am happy to report great improvement in my physical condition. I can walk five or six blocks now without any discomfort or pain, or bad results. Thanks so much for the prayers that I know have been offered in my behalf. May the dear Lord bless and keep you in the fold of His love and care is my prayer.

—Bro. L. Hassinger

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

Ind.—Dear Friends: Please find enclosed 35c for the little paper. I surely do enjoy reading it. A very dear friend had it sent to me for a while, so I thought I would subscribe for it.

—Mrs. Ernest Gardner

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

Ohio.—Dear Sister Marie and Saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name, "who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." I am happy in my soul to know that this promise is to each individual as God's mercy reaches all people. "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Pet. 2:9. Praise His holy name! We have obtained mercy.

May the Lord bless each of you for all the fervent prayers, cards, encouraging letters, telephone calls, and

deeds of kindness. Those prayers reached the throne of God for my life to be extended during my recent illness, and the pangs of death were rebuked in my behalf. Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

We desire your prayers now that our Lord will help me use this graciously given time more effectively in His work.

In Christian love,

—Sister Hazel Clark

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love this beautiful day which the Lord has made to rejoice and be glad in.

On Tuesday, the 7th of March, I felt led to fast all day. So I spent the day in much prayer and supplication. The Lord blessed me. That night as I was praying in bed before falling asleep the Lord spoke to me and said, "I am well pleased with you." I was overjoyed, for it is my desire to be faithful and please Him in everything I do or say, and to be a blessing to others.

I am very happy and contented in our Church of God Senior Citizens Home in Pacoima, Calif.

Christian love and prayers for you, Bro. Lawrence, all the workers in the Print Shop, and the saints scattered abroad. Pray for me. —Sister Marilyn Rendall

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

Ohio.—Dear Saints: We are so thankful to be still saved and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. It will soon be ten years since we gave our hearts to the Lord. I can say from the depths of my heart I have never been sorry. The Lord has been a present help in every time of need. He has never failed on any line. Praise the Lord!

We were so thankful for the privilege we had of taking the evangelistic tent out last summer. The Lord blessed in every way. We do pray the Lord to bless the ones who take it out this coming summer. I know they will be happy in working for the Lord in that way. His presence was very near to us.

I enjoy living for the Lord very much. It seems to be a burden to some people. But I believe if they had been as miserable as I was before I got saved, they would rejoice to be free from that condition and enjoy their salvation more.

I have a very special request I would like for the Lord to work out between now and the time school is out. All who know the worth of prayer, please pray with us.

I desire your prayers that I will always be faithful to the dear Lord. He has done so much for me that I'll never be able to repay Him.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Sister Verna Samons

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

Ala.—Dear Saints: Greetings to everyone in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank God for what He did for me and I thank all the saints who prayed for me. I know there are people who prayed for me that I may never see in this world, but by God's help I hope to meet you in heaven. I was very sick with high blood pressure and stomach trouble. I suffered day and night with pain in my stomach. I began to vomit and then the swelling in my stomach began to go down. My throat was so sore I could hardly swallow water. God healed all that. I do thank Him. A sister in Oklahoma City sent me an anointed cloth and I placed it under my pillow. I asked God not to let me vomit any more. Thank the Lord, I didn't. Glory to His name! Oh, what a mighty God we serve! I can never praise Him enough. I know the Lord was watching over me. He knew my heart and that my trust is in Him. Saints, keep praying for me and my family.

May God bless everyone is my prayer.

Yours in God's love,

—Sister L. Cook

Okla.—Dear Saints, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: Today finds me still saved and much encouraged to live for the dear Lord. Truly, He is good to us.

I had an affliction on my body for several years and it seemed to bother me quite a bit. At night when I would lie down it would pain me greatly. Recently I went to sleep and sometime through the night when I awoke I felt good in my soul and body. I told my husband that I felt better in my body than I had for years. I know the Lord has healed my body. I thank and praise God for His healing power and how He came to my rescue! What a mighty God we serve!

Truly, I mean by heaven's grace to go all the way with the dear Lord. He has healed my body many times. I mean to make heaven my home at any cost. I know this is a pressing way and I mean to press my way on for the dear Lord. I love Jesus because He first loved me! I want to live so God can use me. I am living to, all I know and understand.

I desire the saints to continue to pray for me that I will keep true and humble at the feet of Jesus. Remember our unsaved children that they will get saved before it is too late.

—Sister Fannie Taylor

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in Jesus' name this beautiful day.

As I sit writing to you, I am watching the robins hop about on the lawn, happy and carefree. Birds are a good example for the human race. They depend entirely upon God to care for them and do not worry in any way. God has put so many blessings here in the beauties of creation that it makes one feel so sorry for people who cannot enjoy them as the saints of God do. The almond orchards are so beautiful at this time of the year.

Our God continues to bless and keep us growing in grace and the knowledge of His truth. We all have tests and trials to prepare us for heaven. When God puts us in the furnace He goes with us and gives grace to come out with victory. I want to be all He would have me to be, and to be used in his kingdom here for His glory.

We send Christian love and prayers for all the office workers there. Pray for us here as we need each others prayers.

jd

—Sister Letha Reece

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

Oregon—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings to you in the dear name of Jesus. I am glad I can report victory in my soul. Praise His dear name! He means everything to me.

One night I was having a real test. My head was hurting so much that I could not go to sleep. I also had some burdens on my heart. I was trying to pray but the pain was very sharp. God gave me the song, "The Victory is Mine." All I could say was, "the victory is mine and I'm trusting in the Lord." I could remember the last part of verse 3, "He's with me always, by night and by day." Before I knew it the pain was gone and I fell asleep. Truly it is good to trust in the Lord! I love Him dearly.

The dear Lord healed a very bad corn on one of my toes. I had bought a new pair of shoes and for over a month I would try to wear them but they hurt my feet, especially the one that was so sore. I tried to sell them, but could not. Last Friday morning I was in prayer and I spoke to the Lord about the shoes and how I needed to be able to wear them. The dear Lord told me to put my shoes on. When I got up from prayer, I did. I walked and praised the dear Lord. I walked to the post office and kept them on almost all day. It was wonderful, even though just a little thing. But our God takes care of the little things. Not only can God heal

big things like cancer, but He also has healing for the little things.

The dear Lord is blessing in our services and the attendance is better than it has been. We thank the dear Lord for a sweet spirit of unity which is in our meetings. A few of the sisters are meeting on Monday and Thursday afternoons to pray for precious souls.

May God bless you.

Christian love,

—Beatrice Spaur

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

Ohio—Dear Sister Marie and saints: Greetings of much love in Jesus' dear name. Truly I can say God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. (Psa. 46:1). The Lord has been very near and dear to me through the days and months in the past and up to this present time. I surely count it a great privilege to be called upon to suffer just a little for my precious Lord who gave His all for me. I believe the toils of the road will seem nothing when we get to the end of the way. I can say like Job of old, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him." (Job 13:15) I think of dear Father Abraham, how he went out, not knowing where he was going, but still God was with him. I am glad he is also with his trusting children in this day and age. "God's way is best, I will not murmur, although the end I may not see. Where'er he leads I'll meekly follow; God's way is best, is best for me."

I want to take this opportunity to thank each one of the dear saints for their earnest prayers in my behalf and for the letters and cards which brought comfort and cheer to my heart. I have been moved to my son Melvin's home in Columbus and this will be my permanent address—3092 E. 5th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43219. I hope I'll be able to hear from the saints in the future as it is a real encouragement to me.

I desire your earnest prayers that I will be able, by God's help and grace, to come through with sweeping victory at the end of life's journey. Please remember our dear children and grandchildren who need to be saved before it is too late.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Maudie Sharp

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

Calif.—Dear Saints: Greetings of love in Jesus' precious and holy name. This letter leaves us saved, sanctified, and pressing on for the Lord. ... We want to thank the Lord for healing a wart on our little three-year-old girl. It was at the beginning of her fingernail and it grew real big and would bleed. People began to ask why we didn't do something about it. We would tell them that the Lord was going to heal it. We poured out our hearts to God, asking Him to heal it and stop another wart that was coming on another finger. Dear ones, the Lord did just what we asked Him to. We can hardly tell where the big wart was now. When we turned it over to the Lord, I didn't worry about it any more. The Lord assured me He was going to heal her finger.

Our little girl had asked the Lord to heal her finger, too. One day she came to me and said, "Mama, my wart is getting little." I said, "Yes, the Lord is healing it." Then she came again and told me the Lord had healed her wart. I told her God can do anything. We surely thank Him for healing her finger. He also healed a bump on my eyes.

Pray that we ever stay close to the Lord at all times.

—Earl and Earlean Jackson

o

"When Zion covets Babylonish gold or Babylonish garments, copies Babylonish ways, adopts Babylonish altars, and fights with Babylonish weapons, her strength fails because the spirit of power is lost."

Thanks!

I take this means to thank the saints,
And friends both near and far,
For all the greeting cards and such,
And offerings at par.

It was such a joy to know
You had it in your mind
To express your heartfelt love for me;
It was so sweet and kind.

The Lord has been so good to me,
To lengthen out my days
To threescore years and ten—plus ten;
To Him be all the praise.

'Twas through no good that I have done,
And naught that I can do,
That through His holy, all-wise plan,
My strength He did renew.

A thousand ages in His sight
Are just as one brief day,
Oh, may He have His way with me
As the potter with the clay.

Moses had it measured right;
Read Psalms ninety and ten,
So if coming days be short or long,
We are watching until then.

Thanks again to one and all, —Ulysses Phillips

SELFISH DESIRES

Selfish means actuated by, or absorbed in, one's own interest regardless of the comfort and happiness of others; putting one's own wishes first. Desire means to crave, to earnestly wish for, to lust.

King Herod inquired about the baby Jesus, as though he desired to go and worship Him also, but rather that he might destroy Him. When his selfish desire was not granted he destroyed all the male infants under the age of two years. He cared nothing about the feelings of others. (Matt. 2:7, 8.)

Also, a man and his wife, Ananias and Sapphira sold a possession and agreed privily between them to give only a part of the sale to the church, and reserved to themselves a certain amount to gratify their selfish desires. When each appeared before Peter at different times, bringing the sum they conspired to give, Peter rebuked them for their hypocrisy, and each fell down dead. Acts 5:1,4. This was in the days of the early church. The members had all things common and practiced equality. "Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need." Acts 4:34, 35. Thus they manifested their love and concern for their brethren. God honored this co-operation and unity, the Church grew and prospered, and great grace was upon them all.

Praise God, divine love has never changed. God still rules His Church by reigning in the heart of every

blood-washed one. The Church would grow and prosper more if these principles were wholly practiced today. But we are living in a changing world and fast coming to the END of all things. Broadly speaking, love and concern one for another is at a low ebb, but selfishness, lust, greed, jealousy, strife, hatred and murder, etc. are rampant. Some folks will employ any means to gratify their desire. It seems the more they get of this world's goods, the more they want, and the enemy loves to have it so. He is continually bringing new inventions to captivate the souls of men. Many are being trapped and snared by his evil devices, and can't see it. How sad!

"See then that YE walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." Eph. 5:15, 16. Redeem means to deliver or bring out of bondage those kept prisoners by the enemy. May we ask ourselves this question, What am I doing to help bring souls out of sinful darkness and into the marvelous truth and light of the gospel? Am I using the means God puts into my hands for my selfish desires or storing it away in the bank to earn more? Have I fixed it so that if I am called to meet God today my earthly possessions will, in part at least, be channelled into the work of God? "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 19:21. There can be no safer place to store one's treasures than in the Bank of Heaven, by investing earthly means in some avenue or branch of the work of God. People's hearts are hardened through deceitfulness of sin and religious deception. It is not easy to reach them with the pure gospel personally, or by the printed page. Yet Jesus gave His all to purchase salvation and does not will the death of any.

We are commanded in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." 'Tis true, we can't all "go" but with our means and prayers, called and qualified workers may be sent. Our economy is escalating rapidly. Likewise, the cost of expanding the GOSPEL is increased. There may be those who would like to contribute to God's work, and may not know how to go about it. May we list a few opportunities?

First, I think of the printed gospel. The Faith Publishing House at Guthrie, Oklahoma sends out thousands of gospel papers, tracts, books, etc. to all parts of the world each month. The "Mission Trail," Guthrie, Okla. sends the gospel message weekly over radio station XEG and mails out printed copies of the message by the hundreds. This literature reaches thousands of souls where you and I could never go. The cost of printing is enormous; and then there are the consecrated workers who willingly sacrifice their time, talent, and life to this phase of God's work.

Let us think again of the missionaries at home and abroad. Through this branch of service souls

are taught the truth, hear it preached, their questions Biblically answered, and many embrace the truth and salvation. A short time ago the missionaries carried the gospel to darkened Africa at a sacrifice, you may be sure. God blessed their sacrifice and today Africa is still calling, "Come over and help us!" Some are now preparing to go. Gospel literature is being sent there continually. Their physical and material needs are also great. India is now also calling for the gospel, and places elsewhere. Many dollars are required to meet this challenge, plus qualified and willing workers. Can we say, "Here am I, Lord, send me?" We receive news-letters from the missionaries closer home reporting the success of their labors and specifying their needs. I had no idea what it was like in Mexico until I recently visited a service at Patzcuaro, south of Mexicali, Mexico. Their smiling, happy faces bespoke the joy of their hearts, while they live in the humblest of homes, with bare necessities, and some have floors of dirt. I understand that conditions are much the same in other parts of Mexico. May God stir our hearts to share our bountiful blessings with them.

I think also of the Christian Homes recently provided and established by the Church for the elderly saints—the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla. and the Senior Citizens Home at Pacoima, California. In these fine homes elderly saints live and worship the Lord according to the dictates of their hearts. Prior to this, elderly or disabled saints were often placed in unsaved homes or hospitals and compelled to consent to things against their religious convictions. Praise God for these wonderful homes. They are staffed with Christian personnel, and a Christ-like atmosphere prevails. Workers and financial aid are needed in this branch of God's work.

Look directly to the Lord in earnest prayer, and let Him direct you where, when, and what to give, and give cheerfully as unto the Lord.

A brother in a small congregation once asked us to pray that the Lord would send them a pastor. After we explained the duties of the congregation to their pastor, we asked him if he still wanted a pastor, or a preacher. He meekly said, "I guess we only want a preacher."

Jesus said, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Luke 10:2. Time is short. What we do for God and souls we must do quickly for we are workers together with God. Millions are going to the Judgment to be eternally lost. When we stand before Him, shall we hear Him say, "You have done what you could," or with remorse and shame admit, my SELFISH DESIRES have cost me my home in heaven? We need to consider this seriously.

Yours for lost souls, —Sister S. E. Abbott

"All that is deformed ought to be reformed. The Word of God alone teaches us what ought to be so. And all reform that is effected otherwise is vain."

—Lambert

WHERE SHALL I WORK?

"Father, where shall I work today?"
And my love flowed warm and free.
Then He pointed out a humble spot
And said, "Tend that for me."

I answered quickly, "Oh, no, not that!
Why, no one would ever see.
No matter how well my work was done;
Not that little place for me!"

The word He spoke, it was not stern;
He answered me tenderly;
"Ah, little one, search thine heart,
Art thou working for them or Me?
Nazareth was a little place,
And so was Galilee."

—Selected

OTHERS

"He saved others; himself he cannot save." (Mark 15:13). This was said of Him, our Redeemer, to mock and deride Him. But, nevertheless, it was true. In order to be the Saviour of the lost it was needful that He lose His life for "others."

Many today are lovers of their own selves. Apostle Paul prophesied of this day (2 Tim. 3:1, 2), "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves." We hear the Apostle lamenting the fact that all were seeking their own and not the things of Jesus Christ. (Phil. 2:21). We are told to "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Phil. 2:4)

Dear ones, these are the last of the "last days." Evil seducers are "waxing worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3:13). Jesus said, "Take heed that no man deceive you." (Matt. 24:4). The greatest enemy to our progress on the highway of holiness is self, as Satan works through self in order to destroy the soul of man. Jesus also said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it." (Luke 9:24.)

We are living in a very selfish time when men are "lovers of their own selves," "lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." (2 Tim. 3:2-4.) Many have lost their natural affections. In a time like this, there is grave danger in being overcome by "self ease" while we are diligently watching and abstaining from all appearance of evil. "Self" is so cunning and wants to go the easy way, does not want to suffer, sacrifice, or to be spent for "others."

Among the most devout (seemingly, at least) are some at ease in Zion today, while "others" are perishing for the heavenly food that would save their precious souls.

We read the account of the wayfaring man who was beaten, robbed, and left to die on the road to Jericho. Those who should have helped the man only looked and passed by on the other side. In reality we are committing the same crime. Why did they

pass by on the other side? Was it not for the lack of love for "others"? Loving themselves more than others, they did not wish to be involved in the affairs of "others," for fear of hindering themselves in the pleasures of this life. "Self" did not want to be bothered in considering the welfare of "others." No, that would disrupt its life of ease.

Let us take a close look at ourselves, and our attitudes toward "others." Whom are we the most concerned about—ourselves or "others"? This is a big question, and must be answered honestly. While writing this, I am led to exclaim: "Oh, God help us!"

While living more for self than for others, are we losing our lives or saving them for our own pleasure? He, the One who redeemed us, said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35). Shall we take time out while living for self to merely "look on the fields" and then "pass by on the other side"? May God help us. If we are more concerned about the welfare of others than we are for the ease of self, we would be burdened every day for the souls of the lost.

If we live a life of ease, while doing everything to save self, giving little or no consideration to lost souls all around us, I am of the opinion that we shall hear on that great day, "I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity." Luke 13:27. "Take heed that no man deceive you." Self-deception is easy to fall under. Many are being deceived by self in these last days.

Yours in Him,

—H. P. Huskey

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BIBLE STUDY

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April 2, 1967

CHRIST'S COMMISSION AND ASCENSION

Printed Portion Acts 1:1-11

Acts 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for³you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you in to heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Memory Verse: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8

Practical Truth: Are we using the power given us by the Holy Spirit to witness for God?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The book of Acts is a continuation of the "former treatise," which is the book of Luke. We are glad for the "infallible proofs" that Jesus arose from the grave and was seen by many. This was important then and it is today, in preaching the gospel. We are serving a living Christ.

The word "power" means "great ability to do, act, etc.; force." Jesus knew the disciples needed this power of the Holy Spirit in their lives to act, do, and be all that God wanted them to be in this world. They needed to be baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit completely so that selfish desires and the carnal nature would be cleansed and self brought under God's power. They needed to be submerged in God insomuch that it would be God and not them working. The power in the engine causes the car to run; just so the power of the Holy Ghost working and moving would cause the Spirit-filled person to do, act, and work for God.

God has chosen to work through people to get the gospel to souls. He needs those who will be willing to let Him work through them. The more yielded to the Holy Spirit one is the more He can work through him.

April 9, 1967

THE COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Printed Portion Acts 2:1-11

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and dwellers in Mesopotamia and in Judea, and Capadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Memory Verse: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Central Thought: We need the Holy Spirit to change our natures.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We who are "born again" are members of the body of Christ, or the temple of God. The 120 disciples or the temple of God needed to be filled with the glory of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. The time had come and they were all together in "one accord" waiting for the day of Pentecost, which was one of the three feasts that was kept by the Jews. They were doing as Jesus had told them, tarrying until they were endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:19)

What a day of rejoicing that was for the 120 disciples and others round about them! The Holy Spirit came down and filled the temple. The glory of God moved upon their souls and they rejoiced and praised the Lord. When others heard about it they came running to know what had happened. It was so important that God wanted every nation to know that the Holy Spirit had come. God gave them the gift of languages or tongues and they told the good news in such a way that 16 different nationalities heard it. There is no language barrier to the Holy Spirit. He speaks to people of all nations. Praise God!

Only those who are born again can know the Spirit of God. The world cannot receive the Holy Spirit. He is God's gift which brings power to the child of God.

April 16, 1967

PETER'S SERMON AT PENTECOST

Printed Portion Acts 2:22-24, 32-39

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens; but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Memory Verse: Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38.

Central Thought: Each of us should live so we can be "approved of God" and a witness for Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We have a different Peter in today's lesson. He was now filled with the Holy Spirit. Never again would a little girl cause him to deny Jesus as the Saviour of the world and that he knew Him. He now had power to boldly declare that Jesus was the Christ and that they had crucified him. He was the Man who worked miracles among them and was "approved of God." When they heard these things they were "pricked to the heart." They cried out, "What shall we do to be saved?" Peter told them to repent and be baptized and then they, too, could receive the "gift of the Holy Ghost."

The first work in the heart is to repent. Repentance is more than just a change of the feelings or thinking. It is a change of the will and a work in the heart by God. Repentance is brought about through "godly sorrow." (2 Cor. 7:10). A person who is "born again" is a new creature in Christ Jesus and old things pass away and all things become new. Praise the Lord! It causes one to make his wrongs right and live a different life.

April 23, 1967

PETER AND JOHN AT THE TEMPLE

Printed Portion Acts 3:1-16

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we have made this man to walk?

13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Memory Verse: And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Matt. 21:22.

Central Thought: Faith in God's power changes things.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Healing for the body was included in the atonement. The prophet Isaiah prophesied of it. He said, "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." (Isa. 53:5) Then the Apostle Peter verified what Isaiah declared by saying, "Who His own self bare our sins in His body on the tree ... by whose stripes we were healed." (1 Pet. 2:24) David prophesied that Jesus would heal our bodies. He said, "Who healeth all thy diseases." (Psa. 103:2). So we have many scriptures that prove healing is definitely a Bible doctrine. Jesus said, "All things are possible to him that believeth." (Matt. 9:23)

The Apostle James said, "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up." (James 5:14) Then Paul tells us, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb. 13:8) What a wonderful privilege to trust God for our healing!

Our lesson tells us that "through faith" in Jesus the lame man was made whole. We need to have faith in God and through His power we are healed in the name of Jesus.

April 30, 1967

WITNESS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN

Printed Portion Acts 4:5-20

Acts 4:5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

14 And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves,

16 Saying, What shall we do to these men? for that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem, and we can not deny it.

17 But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name.

18 And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, Judge ye.

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Memory Verse: For we can not but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20.

Practical Truth: One has said that courage is being able to sleep in peace knowing that God is awake; or facing danger when fear is conquered through Christ.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Sanhedrin was the supreme court or council of the Jews, although they were under the Roman government rule. The Sanhedrin was composed of over seventy men who were chief priests, elders, and scribes. They were called together to decide what to do with Peter and John after the lame man was healed. They asked Peter by what authority or name he had done this. Peter, being full of the Holy Ghost, was given courage and he boldly declared that the lame man was healed by the power of Jesus Christ whom they had crucified. He also told them that only through his name could salvation be found. Peter's courage and words of truth, also the presence of the lame man who had been healed caused the council to be speechless. They told Peter, John, and the lame man to step out while they discussed the situation. While they were gone they admitted that the man had been healed and that a notable miracle had been performed. They decided they would command them not to speak nor teach in the name of Jesus lest they be punished. When Peter heard this he boldly declared, "Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye." God will bless us, too, if we will have courage to obey God rather than man. —Sister Marie Miles