

FAITH^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 36, No. 5

45th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

June, 1967

What Then?

Someday you will come to the end of this life.
 You know not how, or when,
 But the summons will come and you must go—
 Rejector of Christ, what then?
 You have spurned God's Word; reviled His name;
 Rejected His cleansing blood.
 What then will you do, when you come at last,
 To stand in the presence of God?
 You have turned your back on the Crucified;
 Rejected His nail-pierced hand.
 What then will you do at the Great White Throne?
 For there, in judgment, you'll stand.
 Too late to cry for the mercy of God,
 When death has silenced all plea.
 Today you must answer: "What think ye of Christ?"
 What then will your answer be?
 Today is the day of salvation, my friend,
 Death closes its door for aye.
 You may find tomorrow, forever too late—
 Then why not accept Him today?

—Selected

In This Lifetime

"But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." Luke 16:25. Here the Father of the faithful addresses the soul of one who had departed from this life. In response to his entreaty for succor, Abraham merely referred to his lifetime, informing him that his present woe was eternal reaping for what he had sown while on earth.

It would do us well to consider this for a while in the light of other scriptures to see what great responsibility is associated with life and existence in this world.

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ: that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10. The course that we

take in our lifetime will be recompensed in the great Judgment Day. God, the Creator of mankind, holds His creation responsible for the life and time allotted to them. They must one day give an account for their behavior on this earth.

"God that made the world and all things therein, seeing He is Lord of heaven and earth . . . hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from everyone of us: for in Him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:24-28. We see from this text that our life and existence in this world lies in the bounds of the decree of God Almighty. In Him we live, and move, and have our being. Life is not a right, but a privilege granted to us of God. It is not meant to be spent according to our own pleasure, but should be lived with great respect to the design and law of the Giver of life and all things. To leave the Creator and Giver of life out of our life is gross error, and will bring to us wretched defeat and an unhappy conclusion of it all. To spend our life time satisfying the desires and cravings of the outward man merits for us no hope of life to come. God wills that the outward man be blessed, but not at the neglect of spiritual life and communion with Him in spirit and in truth. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," He said, "and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Surely it is. And yet the majority of men and women today are overtaxed in mind and spirit about these things. Awake to righteousness, and come to the realization that true life is favor with God, and not the gratification of bodily cravings. There would be less poverty and financial crisis today if there were more trust in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.

Hezekiah's lamentation at the prophet's informing him of the end of his life was thus: "I said, In the cutting off of my days, I will go to the gates of the grave: I am deprived of the residue of my years.

I said, I shall not see the Lord, even the Lord, in the land of the living. I shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world. Mine age is departed, and is removed from me like a shepherd's tent." The ceasing of life weighed heavily upon him. He did not want to die. But he knew that his life and being were under the decree of God. He submitted to that fact that it was in God's power. "What shall I say? He hath both spoken unto me, and Himself hath done it: I shall go softly all my years in the bitterness of my soul." At that point God heard his prayer for a new lease on life, and granted him according to the prophet's word fifteen more years. "O Lord, by these things men live, and in all these things is the life of my spirit. So wilt thou recover me, and make me to live." Hezekiah's lifetime was worthy of being prolonged. It had been spent in the service and will of God. Therefore God could entrust Him with continuation of life. "For the grave cannot praise thee, death can not celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth." Isa. 38:1-19.

Dear reader, consider these scriptures. Take heed to your life. Consider your frailty and your dependence on God for your very existence. Waste not the breath, strength and time God is giving you in vain and fruitless endeavor. Get down before God on your knees and cry to Him for mercy, and resolve in your heart that by His grace you are going to live the remaining days of the life He gives you to please and honor Him. You have much to make your life count for. There is no work, nor labor, nor device in the grave whither thou goest. Do the things that lie in your power to do for God with all your might. Death is on your trail. While you have life, make it count for your eternal good and that of others. Look at your life, not as a right, but as a granted privilege of God. You have neighbors, friends, and relatives to bless by your existence. All the work that will be accomplished must be wrought while you live. Your works will follow you after you are gone, and may well continue to perform sacred and noble ends, but the toilings of your lifetime is the base of their structure.

Just think, your eternal destiny hinges upon the course you take within the narrow confines of a few years. Failure to have God's favor means eternal disaster, while faith and obedience assures one of everlasting hope.

—Leslie Busbee

EMPOWERED FOR SERVICE

"With the coming of the Holy Spirit, there came a deep peace, a thrilling joy, a new sense of power, quickened mind, a sense of being directly connected with the power of the Lord. In regeneration there is a gift of life by the Spirit; in the baptism of the Spirit there is a gift of power. It is evident a man may be born again of the Spirit, and not be baptized with the Spirit."

Sel. by A. E. Harmon

The Fulfilling of the Law

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5:17-19) These words of Jesus make it clear that He did not come to do away with the law, but to fulfill it.

To fulfill is to fill to the full; to fill entirely; to accomplish, or to carry into effect. To accomplish is to bring to perfection.

In the kingdom of heaven, which Jesus came to establish, the subjects were to be called great who obeyed and taught the moral law. This is proof that the divine principles of the moral law were to be fulfilled in our day, were to be brought to perfection. The moral principles of the law were in effect long before the days of Moses. The law taught that it was wrong to commit certain acts, because it always had been wrong, and always will be wrong.

The Old Testament saints were not able to fulfill (bring to perfection) the moral principles of the law. Therefore the apostle Paul wrote, "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Rom. 8:3, 4) What "the law could not do," Christ Jesus came to do, and to enable us, His New Testament saints, to do also.

The law was weak "through the flesh," or because of the weakness of the flesh. Power had not been granted man to conquer and to live above sin. Committed sins were forgiven by the animal sacrifices, but the sin principle still remained until Jesus came to accomplish what the law could not do. It was the "sin in the flesh" that Jesus came to condemn and to conquer. It is not stated that Jesus condemned the sinner, but "sin in the flesh." "For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:17). The sin principle, the very root of sin, could not be destroyed while the old Law order was still in force. But now, praise God, "the axe is laid unto the root of the trees." (Matt. 3:10) When "the sin in the flesh" is condemned, the justified one is convicted of its presence and seeks to be delivered. Being delivered and filled with the Holy Spirit, he is able to "fulfill the righteousness of the law."

—H. P. Huskey

"BIRTH OF A REFORMATION—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner" by A. L. Byers. Out of print for many years, it is reprinted in 496 pages and bound in a nice gold-lettered cloth cover. Price: \$4.00 each, postpaid.

"Sitting Down" on the Inside

A mother told her boy to sit down, but he didn't obey her. She took hold of him and sat him down. He looked at her and said, "I'm sitting down on the outside, but I'm standing up on the inside."

I am sure that all of us understand exactly what the boy meant. Grown people will not express themselves as children do, but they know the feelings that the devil brings to them by working through the fleshly feelings and lusts. There are those that have not been "born again," who will be under heavy pressures in different kinds of situations, which cause them to "stand up" on the inside. Later, when they are free to express themselves, they might even with swearing give vent to hatred, anger, envy, and feelings of revenge.

Thank God, those who have truly repented of their sins, been filled with the Holy Spirit, are given power to not only "sit down" on the outside, but can "sit down" on the inside with peace and rest. They do not just have to put on a front, as the world calls it, and try to be tactful by just holding their feelings down until they can get away from the situation. God has "sufficient grace" for His children. God does not expect us to live up to His Word without providing grace for us to do it. It is up to us to seek for that "sufficient grace" with all humility of heart and mind. We are instructed to "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom." Col. 3:12-16a. This is what God will give to us and we can by His grace and power "sit down" on the inside at all times.

Have you been tempted to "stand up" on the inside? I was with a sister one time waiting for her husband to come as it was about meeting time. He was very slow in coming out of the house to the car. This sister was getting troubled and her patience was being tried. Finally she said she thought she would just get out of the car and walk. She was sitting down in the car at the time but through severe temptations and the trial of patience she was losing her rest and peace. She was being tempted to begin to "stand up" on the inside. Now God has more grace than that for us. I am afraid that some are not seeing their privileges in God. They are not putting in for sufficient grace, which God has for them. They are not "putting on humbleness of mind" as our scripture teaches us. They need to seek for more "longsuffering; forbearing one another." This brings rest to the soul, mind and body. We want the "peace of God to rule in our hearts," then we can "sit down" on the inside with confidence. "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." Isa. 30:15. Quietness

brings strength from God and power in our lives over all the feelings that the devil would try to impose upon us. We do not have to yield to them because we can use the power that God has given us. We need to be filled with meekness. The Bible says, "The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord." Isa. 29:19a. We all desire peace and joy. We must exercise ourselves in meekness, quietness, bowels of mercy, charity, forgiveness, and let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly with wisdom. If we do this and resist selfish desires, we can "sit down" on the inside as well as on the outside, by showing humility and having a perfect willingness to be "killed all the day long" for Christ's sake. (Rom. 8:36.)

One time a sister had asked her husband to repaint her living room. Finally he told her to buy the paint and he would do it on his day off. She took this to mean the next Saturday when he would be off. She bought the paint and told him that it had been purchased so he could paint Saturday. That morning she got up early and while he was asleep she took the pictures down off the wall, moved the furniture into the middle of the room, turned the rug back, and covered everything with newspapers. She kept looking in to see if her husband had awakened yet and wondered why he didn't get up. Finally the sister woke him and said that she had everything ready for him to paint after breakfast. He told her he wasn't going to paint today and then turned over and went back to sleep. The sister stood there for a while and looked at him. She didn't say any more, but tears flooded her eyes. She was deeply hurt. The devil was right there to bring all kinds of feelings and suggestions. She went to the kitchen, and falling on her knees, with tears begged the Lord for more grace and the peace in her soul that was being disturbed. The Lord flooded her soul with peace, quietness, and "sufficient grace." Since the next day was Sunday, she wanted her house to be in order so she went into the living room and put everything back in place. Later her husband got up and told her that he guessed he would paint. Without saying a word and with that grace still in her soul the sister went back into the living room and took down the pictures, moved the furniture, and put papers over things, while her husband ate his breakfast she had fixed for him. Her husband did a nice job of painting and all went well. Dear ones, God does have grace for his children to "sit down" on the inside.

The Apostle Paul speaks of our receiving "abundance of grace," and also says, "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Rom. 5:17, 20. Dear ones, take courage. God has all we need in this life. Put in for it and with patience watch and pray until you are endowed with that grace that will enable you to "sit down" on the inside as well as the outside.

—Sister Marie Miles

Jesus said that the poor widow who gave two mites gave more than all the rich people. You see, He measures our giving, not by the amount, but by what we have left for ourselves. She gave all. They did not.

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

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

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 13th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year\$.35
Single copy, three years\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year\$1.00
Write for prices on larger quantities.

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

Single set for one year (52 papers).....80c

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

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

EDITORIALS

The seasons come and go in the order of God's plan, and now this month of June ushers in the campmeeting season—a time when God's people make special efforts to extend the soul-saving gospel of Christ to the unsaved world and meet together in the various campmeetings for spiritual edification and holy fellowship. Many opportunities, spiritual and temporal, are presented to each one to be of service to the Master in making these meetings real profitable in the salvation of souls and the establishment of the believers in the truth of God's Word. May each one have a mind to work, and be ready for service or sacrifice.

The full announcements of the campmeetings to be held in June will appear in this issue, and all the others for the summer will be published in the July issue.

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

In Isaiah's vision the seraphims cried, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts." (Isa. 6:3). God requires that His people be as He is. "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15, 16. Holiness is the most prominent truth connected with the ancient Jewish tabernacle and its service. To make people holy was the great purpose of God's revealing true religion. Then they were made ceremonially holy, but now actually holy—perfected holiness. Though the tabernacle represented these various degrees of holiness by the holy place and the holiest place, yet it was all holy because of the supreme holiness of Him whose glory was manifested in the thrice-holy place beneath the outstretched wings of the cherubim. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14.

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

On this date, May 9, 5000 gospel tracts, translated and printed in the Efik language, were mailed to Nigeria for free distribution by the native missionaries working at the Church of God mission stations. Bro. Jackson Etuk, the translator of these tracts wrote: "I wish they could be printed and sent as many as a steamer can carry for distribution to every honest and hungry heart." Needless to say, we are not able to grant this request, but it does show his earnest desire to get the soul-saving gospel to the 50 million people in his native Nigeria. May the Lord help us at least in some small way to meet the challenge of millions of souls in heathen darkness!

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

Recently about 2500 Spanish gospel tracts were printed and mailed to the several missionaries working in Mexico. Much more Spanish literature needs to be made available to these workers for free distribution, and tentative plans are being made to that end. Help us pray about this urgent need.

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

Some of our readers want to purchase the following out-of-print books: "When The Trumpet

Sounded" by C. E. Brown, and "Bible Readings for Bible Students and for Home and Fireside," compiled by Speck and Riggie. If anyone has either of these books to sell, please write to this office, stating their condition and price.

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

Word has just been received of the recent departure from this life of Bro. Paul Landgraf of Tacoma, Wash. He and his wife have attended the meetings at Jefferson, Ore. May the Lord especially comfort Sister Landgraf in her bereavement.

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

Just off the press is a new book by A. Marie (Pruitt) Miles, entitled "Bible Chain of Truth," which presents the doctrines of the Bible in conversational form, especially designed for children, young people and those newly come to the faith. This volume is expected to supply a real need to help young people, as well as others, to become established in the Bible doctrines. It consists of 168 pages, bound in heavy paper cover. Reasonably priced at 60c each, or 2 for \$1.00, postpaid. Everyone should have his personal copy in order to read it often and for reference. Order several copies to loan or give to those who have questions about the doctrines of the Bible.

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

The series of articles, "Remove Not the Ancient Landmarks" by Otis B. Wilson, which appeared in this paper last autumn, will be off the press in a few days in booklet form, consisting of 28 pages. This vital truth should be circulated far and wide. Available at 15c each, or 10 copies for \$1.00, postpaid. If you can use a number for free distribution, write us and we will send them without charge.

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

Four years ago, on June 6, 1963, my father, Fred Pruitt, passed to the Glory Land from a very active life of about 50 years in the service of the Master. At the time of his departure he had completed forty years as the first editor of this "Faith and Victory" paper. His vacant place is still keenly felt, but we are standing on the same promise that God made to Joshua after the death of Moses: "... as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake." Joshua 1:5. With the Lord as our defender we need not fear the present exceedingly wicked spiritual, moral, and social conditions, nor the calamities, deceptions, persecutions, and tragic events which are ever looming larger on the future horizon. Evil forces are at work with the design to curtail and eventually stop the promulgation of the true gospel of Christ. Even the adherents of so-called Christianity have already become enemies of the cross of Christ, and aligned themselves with the unbelievers, skeptics, and atheists. Amid these conditions, "thank God for a church triumphant, all pure in this world below, for the kingdom that Jesus founded does triumph o'er every foe." The Apostle Paul exhorts the church in these words: "Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear" Heb. 12:28.

These are dangerous times with such a tragic breakdown of morals, of respect for law and order, and of respect for the rights of others and their property. "Civil disobedience" demonstrations, mob violence, campus riots, and the men and women's indecent undress portray the depraved nature in mankind. This present evil world will adversely affect the children of God if they do not live in close contact with the source of divine power and grace, and keep a clear vision of God's truth which sets a definite line of demarcation between the pure and the vile, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not. Jesus warned His disciples: "Because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matt. 24:12. Iniquity is surely abounding, and numbers are losing their "first love." Following the styles and fashions in dress and hairdos, attending worldly entertainments, television viewing, comic and novel reading are some of the so-called "no harms" which are gradually but surely destroying the vitals of victorious Christian living. The Apostle James writes: "Pure religion ... is to keep himself unspotted from the world." James 1:27. When Jesus returns He will receive His Church composed of those "without spot and blameless." Will you be one of them?

—L. D. Pruitt

OBITUARIES



Mary Ann Whipple was born March 26, 1893, and departed from this life May 5, 1967 at the age of 74 years, one month, and 10 days.

She was united in marriage to Thomas Edd Whipple at Monark Springs, Mo. July 30, 1944. They made their home at Forest City, Mo. where they had a happy life together.

In her departure she leaves her husband, Thomas Edd Whipple of Forest City, Mo.; one sister, Becky Barnes, Stoutland, Mo.; one brother, Fred Brown, Stoutland, Mo.; two step-sisters, Fannie Williams, Cynthia Robison; three step-brothers, George, Will and Carl Brown, and many more relatives and friends.

She was converted to God many, many years ago and lived a faithful life for the Lord. Through the ministry of Sister Lizzie Harper she was brought to the knowledge of the Church of God of the "evening light" saints, embraced it, and walked therein. She was a woman of low estate, but by her life and faith proved to be a royal soul of the heavenly Kingdom. She loved the service of God, and was ready to pray and testify for the Lord. She was loved by everyone, and will be greatly missed.

Services and interment (Benton Cemetery) were at Mound City, Mo., conducted by Bro. Roy Harmon. Scripture texts: Psa. 116:15; Jno. 11:25, 26. —Leslie Busbee

Dennis Ray Beisley was born in Hominy, Oklahoma March 11, 1948 and departed this life April 22, 1967 at the age of 19 years, one month, and 11 days.

He was adopted to Bro. and Sister Rufus Beisley at the age of nine years. In this home he was knitted into the hearts of his parents and love was a real mutual thing. Dennis showed his appreciation of a good home. He was willing to help in the heavier work on the farm. Through the providence of God he was introduced to an environment of spiritual things. Dennis was advised often

about the need of getting saved and living for God. One day, a year or so after he came to live with the Beisleys, Dennis was touched by the Spirit of God and he knelt in the hayfield three different times to pray until God satisfied and saved his soul. He said he would never forget the pit God brought him from. He was a member of the Church of God through the new birth. He was ready to stand for right in the midst of today's pressures that our young people feel.

Dennis was introduced to a sudden but lengthy illness. Through all his suffering he was so patient and kind and bore all that came his way with much courage and quietness.

He is survived by his parents, Bro. and Sister Rufus Beisley; a grandmother, Sister Lillie Beisley, of the home, several uncles, aunts, cousins, and a host of other relatives and friends. To know Dennis was to love him.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Charles Smith, assisted by Sister Margaret Eck at Welch, Okla. Text: "A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother." Prov. 10:1.

Pauline Jewel Brown was born to Ole O. and Ira Lowe, June 1, 1915 at Okmulgee, Oklahoma and departed this life in Tulsa, Okla. April 16, 1967 at the age of 51 years, 10 months, and 15 days.

She was united in holy matrimony to Raymond C. Brown July 5, 1936 at Stoutland, Mo. They lived in Mo. until moving to Tulsa in 1959.

Sister Brown heard and embraced the teachings of the Church of God at a very young age in life. She was a real faithful wife and mother. She had been a very sick sister for a number of years but bore her afflictions with much patience. She was a real example in kindness and was always trying to do something to make others happy. In her final illness she bore a wonderful smile.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Bro. Raymond C. Brown of the home; two sons, Lewis Henry Brown, Winchester, Tenn., and Kenneth Ray Brown of Richland, Mo.; three daughters, Doris Pauline and Mildred Dolly Brown of the home, and Viola Sue Browning of Tulsa, Okla.; her father and step-mother, Bro. and Sister Ole O. Lowe, Springfield, Mo.; two brothers, Harry V. Lowe, Greenwood, Ark., and Gary L. Lowe, Springfield, Mo.; six sisters, Helen C. Burdick, Springfield, Mo., Virginia M. Harmon, Overland Park, Kansas, Violet A. Harmon, Portland, Ore., Mary J. Cooksey, Shawnee, Kansas, Dorothy L. Hanson, Shawnee, Kansas, and Ruby O. Lowe, Springfield, Mo.; two grandchildren, a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services and interment were at Sapulpa, Oklahoma, conducted by Brothers Charles R. Smith and Richard Madden.

Below is a poem she taught her children young in life and she wanted this read at her funeral:

The Value of a Smile

The thing that goes the farthest
Toward making life worthwhile,
That costs the least and does the most
Is just a pleasant smile.

It's full of worth and goodness, too
With many a kindness blent,
It's worth a million dollars
And it doesn't cost a cent.

Grateful Acknowledgement

We, the relatives of the deceased Sister Bettie A. Churchman, thank everyone for your kind expressions of

sympathy, which we deeply appreciate and gratefully acknowledge. Thank you for your prayers, services rendered day and night during her illness in the home, your attendance at the memorial service, the beautiful floral offerings, the delicious food, and every concern shown us during our sad hours of bereavement. May the Lord richly bestow His blessings upon all of you is our prayer.

Campmeeting Dates for 1967

Following are the campmeeting dates for this year. More complete notices for the June meetings appear in this issue, and all the others will be published in the July paper:

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.
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.
Fresno, Calif.—August 18 to 27.
Boley, Okla.—August 18 to 27.
Dover, Okla.—Sept. 1 to 10.

Campmeeting Notices

MISSION, SOUTH DAKOTA

A campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, in South Dakota at Soldier Creek Village on the Rosebud Indian Reservation from June 9 to 18. The location of the chapel and grounds at Soldier Creek Village is 13 miles west of Mission, S. Dak. on U. S. Highway 18.

Bro. and Sister Mart Samons are expecting to be at this meeting, and we are trusting the Lord to send others to help, also. This meeting will be conducted by the Holy Spirit through the "evening light" saints. However, everyone is cordially invited to attend these gospel services.

Since this is rather a new field, the facilities for a campmeeting are very limited. Bro. and Sister Charles Lyons, the resident missionaries, will do their best to care for all who come, but those coming to stay for the meeting should prepare to care for themselves as much as possible. Bring donations of food and your own bedding, as well as cots and camp tents, if possible. Pray much for this meeting that it may redound to the glory of God in the salvation of many of the Sioux Indians, as well as the edification of the believers who may come from other places.

For further information write to Charles and Marilyn Lyons, c/o By The Way Store, Mission, S. Dak. 57555.

HOLLY HILL, S. CAROLINA

The Church of God campmeeting at Holly Hill, S. C. will begin on June 9 and continue through June 18. Each

and everyone is invited to attend this meeting. For further information about the meeting write to the undersigned.

Your Brother in Christ, —Bro. Huston Crummie
Rt. 1, Box 42, Holly Hill, South Carolina
Phone 496-5231

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

The Church of God campmeeting in Tulsa, Okla. at 1509 E. Pine Place will be held June 9 to 18. You are cordially invited to attend every service.

For further information contact Sister M. Littlejohn, 2021 N. St. Louis, Tulsa, Okla. 74106.

—Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor

ZION HILL, BENTON, ARK.

The Zion Hill Church of God campmeeting at Benton, Ark. will convene from June 18 through June 25, Lord willing. The chapel is located nine miles south of Benton on old Highway 67. Those coming from the north on the freeway turn off at the State Hospital exit. Those coming from the south take old Highway 67 north about 15 miles.

We are expecting the Lord to send ministers of His choosing. Come expecting a blessing, and come praying. All who can, bring pillows and sheets. Meals will be served on the free-will offering plan.

For further information write Cephas Moore, pastor, Rt. 3, Box 797, Benton, Ark. 72015, or E. A. Loftis, Rt. 1, Box 156, Prattsville, Ark. 72129.

JEFFERSON, OREGON

The Oregon State Campmeeting will be held at Jefferson, Oregon, the Lord willing, June 23 to July 2 on the saints' campground which is one block east of the main highway through Jefferson, on Hazel Street.

All the saints and lovers of the truth are invited to come. We extend a warm welcome to all who are seeking God. Come and get the help you need for soul or body.

We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His own choosing who are filled with Holy Spirit anointing to preach the Word straight and clean, not shunning to declare all the counsel of God. Come expecting a real blessing.

Cabins and other sleeping quarters are furnished. Meals will be served in the dining hall. The meeting will be run on free-will offerings as usual. The dear Lord has never failed to supply all the needs for these meetings in the past and we are not expecting Him to fail us now.

For further information write to Sister Hilda Neilson, P. O. Box 34, Jefferson, Ore., phone 327-2564, or Sister Nedra Watkins, Rt. 1, Box 320, Turner, Ore., phone 362-4384. These sisters have cars and can meet those coming by train or bus in Salem or Albany, Ore.

—Sister Bea Spaur, phone 327-2855

HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA

The Lord willing, the Church of God campmeeting at Hoffman, Okla. will be held from June 23 through July 2. All are invited to attend. Come and bring someone with you. We are looking forward to a good meeting and expecting the Lord to send ministers of His own choosing.

The meeting will be supported by free-will offerings. Those who can, please bring your linens. Pray for us and the meeting.

For further information write Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, or Bro. Felix Taylor, Rt. 3, Henryetta, Okla. 74437, or Sister Earnestine Myles, P. O. Box 63, Hoffman, Okla. 74439.

—By Sister Lorene Payne, Sec'y

GENERAL SOUTHERN AT HAMMOND, LA.

The annual General Southern campmeeting of the Church of God will convene Friday, June 30 on the camp grounds at Hammond, La. and will continue through Sunday, July 9.

We are looking forward to another refreshing shower from the bountiful hand of God, and expecting the Lord to send in ministers of His choosing.

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

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

ATTEND THE NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, on the Saints' campground at Monark Springs (Neosho) Mo. on July 21 through July 30, 1967.

We are extending a very sincere and cordial invitation to everyone who may read or hear about this campmeeting, to attend if possible. God is still on His throne and He has promised to supply our needs. He will not fail us now.

As in previous years, lodging and meals will be furnished on the grounds. The usual fee of \$5.00 is charged for camp tents, with an additional \$1.00 for cot and mattress. Spaces in dormitories will be \$2.00 per person. All who come will be taken care of regardless of pay. All that can, please bring your sheets and covers. It would also be advisable to bring wraps as the weather turns very cool at times. All meals are served on free-will offering plan.

Let us all come to this meeting in a prayerful, humble attitude with a mind to work and a willingness to let God lead us and direct us in all things. God will send His Spirit-filled ministers to bring the Word to us. Let us pray much for the ministers, for they surely need to cry aloud against the sin and wickedness of the world today.

Those coming by bus or train will come to Neosho, Mo. as the campground is five miles east of Neosho. It will be necessary to take a cab to the grounds or call G.Rover 472-6427, which is a Granby, Mo. number, or call Bro. Austin McMillian, GL 1-3692 (Neosho number) and someone will come after you.

We would appreciate receiving your tent and dormitory space orders as soon as possible.

Please send orders and offerings to Bro. H. A. McMillian, Route 5, Box 50, Neosho, Mo. 64850 or Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas. 67337.

CAMPMEETING CANCELLED

The saints at Green Pastures, Okla. are cancelling their campmeeting, and instead they are planning to have a revival meeting starting Sept. 15 which will continue as long as the Lord leads. For further information, contact the following: Icy Lee Tillman, Sec'y., Rt. 2, Box 282, Spencer, Okla. 73084, or Ophelia Lefford, Rt. 1, Box 170B, Spencer, Okla. 73084.

GUTHRIE CHAPEL ADDITION

Further progress has been made on the construction of the 32 by 68-foot addition to the chapel here at Guthrie, Okla. to accommodate the annual state meetings. The roof is on, the doors are hung, concrete floor completed, and most of the heating and cooling ducts are installed in the new part. We appreciate all those who have helped on the building and may the Lord bless each one. Much more work is yet to be done. More volunteer labor and free-will contributions are needed to complete this building in time for the Oklahoma campmeeting on August 4 to 13. Contact Bro. M. A. Davis, Route 4, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

—Lawrence Pruitt, Trustee

EASTER MEETING REPORT

Dear Sister Marie and saints scattered abroad: We are happy to greet you once more in the sweet name of Jesus. We do praise the dear Lord for the good Easter meeting He gave us here in Jefferson, Oregon. Surely it was ten days of real soul food. Saints came in from different parts of the state. Bro. and Sister Gene Harmon arrived here from California on March 13 and they were willing helpers to get everything ready for the meeting which started the 17th. How the dear Lord did bless from the first day until the last! There was such a sweet spirit of love and unity all through the meeting. We can say it was one of the sweetest meetings we have ever been in. No one came to get saved, although many prayers went up for many of the saints' loved ones that should be saved. Surely these prayers will be answered.

The saints rejoiced as the precious Word went forth. Some were at the altar for spiritual help, some for healing, and all testified to victory. We all felt the power of God.

This series of meetings closed on March 26 and at this writing, April 18, we can still say the dear Lord has been blessing in all our services. The dear Lord has added some precious saints to our congregation—Bro. Benson and Bro. and Sister Cable and family, also Bro. McClenden, all from California. Since the close of the meeting we have been doing some missionary work.

Bro. and Sister Gene Harmon are still with us, and at this writing they feel the Lord would have them to stay through the June campmeeting, as there is so much work to do here on the campground.

Paul said, "A great door and effectual is opened unto me." Do we see any open doors? May the dear Lord stir our hearts to do all we can to rescue precious souls. God has a work for each one. At least, we can pray as we near the Judgment Day.

Your Sister in the Lord,

—Bea Spaur

MEETING REPORT FROM ALICEVILLE, ALA.

The Alabama meeting was a victory for God and a defeat for Satan. Bro. Lindsey Shelton of Northport, Alabama called for an old-time Church of God revival in Alabama. Eleven gospel workers, including four ministers, answered the call. The meeting began on April 28, ending on May 7, 1967 near Aliceville, Alabama. On May 8 we held one service in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. More than twenty people came to the altar. Many of them got saved, others were seeking sanctification. Many people took their stand with the saints and for the old-time truth. Three ministers took their stand along with Bro. Shelton. The names of the Alabama

ministers are Bro. Lindsey Shelton, Sister Ruth Shelton, Sister Willie Chiles, and Bro. Thomas Jones. The deacons are Bro. Frank Mitchell and Bro. David Shelton.

The ministers that traveled with the gospel company were Bro. Lewis Williams and wife of Wichita, Kansas, Sister Katherine Williams of Okla. City, Sister Nancy Jones of Green Pastures, Okla., and Bro. Isaac Chandler of Bakersfield, California. Other workers were Bro. Robert Sherman, Sister Mildred Sherman, and Sister Lucy Mae Gaines of Bakersfield, California, Sister Gladys Williams and Sister Juanita Watson of Wichita, Kansas, and Sister Almeda Gaines of Tulsa, Okla.

Your Brother in the Lord,

—I. C. Chandler

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Dear Saints of God everywhere: I greet you again in Jesus' wonderful name, that name above all others, that name so holy, precious, and sacred, that name given the only begotten of God—by God the Father, for He said, "For He shall save His people from their sins." I have thought of that name with the significance thereof and considered that no one else ought to carry that name as a given name, but that it should be reserved for Him alone. We should also carry the name of a Christian in all lowliness and meekness, lest we bring a reproach to His name.

Dear ones, time and space just won't permit me to tell all I'd like to about the work in Mexico. God is blessing in many ways and we see progress being made. In one week a 14-year-old girl was gloriously saved in Patzcuaro, east of Mexicali, in a Sunday morning service. That same week a young man 22 years of age came to Bro. Tomas desiring to be saved. After some counselling and scripture reading, they prayed and the young man received the forgiveness of his sins and began telling others that same day to "seek the Lord and be saved." Numbers are under conviction at different places and they raise their hands for prayer to be saved. Do continue to pray for the work and workers.

The Lord has provided a Volkswagen car for Bro. Tomas which enables him to cover much territory on about one third the gas. He is now conducting services in five stations each week, so you see he travels several hundred miles weekly.

It was my privilege to be in Patzcuaro for three days last month where a ceiling was put in the chapel with insulation above. I enjoyed the fellowship with the brethren, also God visited us in a precious way in the Sunday service. The children's service each Saturday afternoon is very profitable. The attendance is good and the children participate nicely. Continue to pray much for Sister Edith Cole in her labors there.

It was needful for Sister Opal Kelly to be in Okla. City for a while, which left Sister Carrie Sheppard alone in Rosarito. This proved to work for good, as it left Sister Carrie "on her own" to communicate with the people in Spanish. As a result, she is advancing rapidly with the language and now is praying in Spanish, which is a real accomplishment. She gives God the glory. We rejoice with her in her courage as she is not as young in years as most who have gone to the field. We thank God for her burden and love for the people.

Sister Geneva Hite was blessed to be in Ensenada three of the four week-ends last month where two congregations await services. Do continue to hold that work before the Lord in prayer. There are some precious souls there, with some promise that God may raise up one or more native workers from that place.

It is hoped that several days' meeting can be held at La Mission where the Huskeys live. Pray with us about this. Also, remember Bro. Larry Sneed who has been on the field a couple of months now. We thank God for him and are looking for the Lord to bless him.

This writer recently was feeling very bad physically, to the point that it seemed there was no more "go" left. In answer to prayer God has wonderfully blessed, healed, and delivered. I give Him all praise, honor and glory, and purpose to give Him all my strength and to love Him supremely. I need your prayers.

May God bless each of you and make you a blessing in His church and among the world.

Yours for souls, —Bro. Harland Smith
317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India—(April 27) Beloved Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus who has done so much for us.

Thank you for your very good letter dated April 5, 1967. Thank you very much for the kind help sent along with it. We appreciate the kind consideration and concern you are indeed having for us, in the bond of peace and fellowship, as we are made one in the family of God. Yes, we are members of the same family, that we may naturally feel reciprocal sympathy. Hence I had just presented certain facts of current existence here so that you can pray and do something you can afford to do. I am very happy to go through your loving letters. Thank you for your valuable admonition and exhortation.

I have been away for some time and again I am planning to take a long trip early in May. We have some meetings. Please pray for these meetings. We need special unction from on high.

We are ardently praying for the saints in America. It is indeed a great mystery how the Lord by His Spirit made us one in the great household of faith, the great family of God, so much so that our love is without dissimulation. This charity comes out of a pure heart. This love speaks most clearly to the purified heart and enables us to behold the face of the Father. It enlarges the scope of the mind, spiritualizes joy, clarifies emotions, gives poise to enthusiasm, and is the essence of real character. Without it life is cold and void of true humanitarianism.

We are separated from our earthly families, kith and kin, from society, the sects and denominations. Thereby we have incurred the displeasure, hatred, and antipathy of our former associates. But we are experiencing overwhelming joy when we reflect that we are part and parcel of a great body, the Body of Christ. We belong to the seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. They are reserved to God by Himself. "How they love one another!" was the characteristic of the Christians of old. It is the working feature of the Church of God. Praise the Lord!

Yes, as I am moved to write there, my heart is moved with kindly feelings for the beloved fellow saints in America and all over the world. I realize that this is the happiness and holiness of true Christianity. It is the sweetest thing on earth to love and to be loved. This brotherly love is the family feature of true holiness.

My heart is tuned with feelings to recognize the genuine love of the Christian brotherhood in the Body of Christ, how the Lord has brought us miraculously in conjunction with you, the true Body of Christ. We that were far off are made one by His Spirit, one in every-

thing. My heart cleaves unto you as Jonathan's cleave unto that of David. We pray for you and for the great work you and all the saints carry on for His cause. Jesus Christ is the Head and we are members of His body. He is coming soon and we can see one another face to face. Pray, pray, pray is my solicitation.

Yours in His vineyard, —C. M. Verghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

The gospel work is moving forward at the various mission stations in Nigeria, West Africa, according to a letter dated May 5 from Bro. B. U. Etuk, native minister, and from the reports of the mission activities for the month of April written by the secretary, Bro. Nse Umanah.

These detailed reports are too long to reproduce in this space, but here is a brief summary:

A new station was opened at Ikot Ntuk with 25 believers at that location.

On April 2 a special district meeting was held at Ukpom with a number of ministers participating in the service. The total attendance was 297.

On Sunday, April 9, a combined service was held at Ibianga where the congregation is pastored by Bro. S. U. Uffort. The morning sermon was preached by Bro. Ben E. Udoka on the signs just prior to the second coming of Christ.

On Sunday, April 16, the first official opening service was held in their new building at Ikot Ntuen. Bro. Frank Uffort is the minister at this congregation. A heathen man was converted and arrangements were made to burn and destroy his idol gods. A four-year-old boy became unconscious at the service. The elders surrounded and prayed for him, and within 15 minutes he was recovered. Their hearts were filled with joy and praise to God.

On the last Sunday of April Bros. B. U. Etuk and Nse Umanah worshipped at Naing Asang Ikono where Bro. Jackson Etuk is the pastor. Bro. Arthur T. Udoffia conducted the services. A new house of worship is under construction at this place for the congregation numbering 83 souls.

Bro. Umanah writes: "Every congregation in the field is growing. Prayer is going on everywhere for Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver's bodily and spiritual blessings, as well as their safe arrival in our midst. Every day we are expecting them."

Bro. Etuk informs us that the bank in Nigeria has again delayed the cashing of the drafts from the Missionary Fund. These are for the months of March and April. No doubt the political trouble in Nigeria is affecting their cash reserves. Of course, this is a hindrance to the mission work and they desire prayer about this matter.

The Carvers' Trip to Europe

According to plan, Bro. and Sister C. C. Carver left New York by air and arrived in Amsterdam, Holland on May 1. There they learned that the airlines had suspended flights between Lagos and Port Harcourt in Nigeria, and they were uncertain whether there were any other means of transportation between the two cities on account of the civil strife between tribes in the north, south, and east sections of the country. Their plan to go to Nigeria seemed to be blocked. Since they had not received their "missionary" visas for India before leaving the States, they applied at the Indian Embassy in The Hague at Amsterdam for "visitors'" visas to India in the hope that they could be received "over the counter"

or in a very short time, as the embassy in Washington assured them that this could be done. When the Consul in Amsterdam looked at their passports and saw "Visa Applied For" stamped on with reference to India, he said he could not issue the visas until he cleared this with Washington and Delhi, India. While waiting for this clearance, they flew to Ireland on Wednesday and visited Sister Margaret Dundas, almost 86 years old, who has been writing to the saints in this country for many years. Their visit seemed to be very profitable. On May 8 Bro. Carver phoned from Ireland to Mr. Singh in Amsterdam and was informed that he had not heard from Delhi. With this turn of events, they felt it best to return to the States, and arrived at their son's home in Georgia on the same day. On May 10 Bro. Carver phoned this writer to let us know they had returned, and said that he was glad they did not or could not go on because Sister Carver's afflictions had become worse. She returned completely exhausted. Sister Carver had written us a detailed account of their trip while flying across the Atlantic Ocean on their return home. In this letter she had also requested the saints' prayers for her healing. May the Church at large remember her in earnest fervent prayer. They may be reached at their home address: 6125 Willard Ave., Shreveport, La. 70083, Phone 868-0154.

Through the reduced airline rates obtained because their son Vernon works for the airlines, the cost of their airline round trip to Amsterdam was comparatively little. Why this missionary trip was delayed and finally blocked the Lord knows and we are pleased to trust His wisdom. Of course, the native missionaries in Nigeria and India will be disappointed, as they had anticipated their coming so long, but there may be a lesson in it for them. Let us commit the matter to Him who does all things well.

—Lawrence Pruitt

Prayer Requests



Ind.—"Have special prayer for my son, not able to work; loves God." E. Swafford.

Pa.—Arthritic condition. R. Brown. Diabetic condition. K. Edmonds. Kidney trouble. N. Brown.

La.—"This has been a very trying trip for me. I took an asthmatic condition in my chest before I left Georgia [for Amsterdam, Holland], also my other trouble which had been subdued flared up and I am worse than ever. Each day I am worse than the day before. . . I'm expecting God's mercies. When I saw some pictures a few nights ago, taken in 1959 when I had that big black ugly growth on my face [which now is gone, I know] I realized I've already experienced God's mercies. . . Please pray for me. May Carver." Sister Carver has truly been a steadfast saint of God and is worthy of our prayers. We love and appreciate her greatly.

La.—Sister Coffey is again having a trial of faith. The Lord relieved her of severe pains and of not being able to retain her food, but she again is having trouble and vomits blood. Pray earnestly for complete healing.

Okla.—Still remember dear Sister Ersas Carrick.

Ind.—"My mother is in jail and desires the saints to pray for her salvation. She knows about the truth and has tried different times to live for God but has failed." Donna Stump.

Still remember Sister Jessie Taylor of Guthrie and Sister Inez Beisly of Coffeyville, Kansas. They are still trusting God for complete deliverance. We thank God for those who have proved their confidence in Him and are

standing firm, waiting until God delivers. Sister Jessie said the Lord brought to her mind the words of the song, "Let not your hope be dimmed with doubting."

N. Car.—"My granddaughter got the bone under her front teeth broken; also, I have chest pains." Bunice Hope.

Tenn.—Sister Nora Clayton needs complete healing.

Ark.—"Hurting around heart, other afflictions, unsaved loved ones, desire closer walk with God. Mr. Harlie Jones.

Tenn.—"Afflicted." Chaney.

Texas—Sister Ellis is sorely afflicted—blood clots on her limbs.

Minn.—Bro. Kirchner still desires prayer.

S. Dak.—Bro. and Sister Charles Lyons have some heavy burdens. Pray for their coming campmeeting.

Ill.—High blood pressure, trusting God completely. T. Sprague.

Mo.—Sister Amos Porter had strokes, not able to talk. She can walk some with help.

Ala.—"Been sick for over a year." Mrs. F. Morrow Nigeria, Africa—"My wife gave birth to a baby boy who lived six days." Pray for Sister Theresa Etuk.

Texas—The Lord spared Bro. Troy Meek through a severe backset of pneumonia. Pray that he gains strength.

Mo.—Sister B. Rumpfelt has a growth on the side of her face.

Pa.—Sister Avis Tinsley suffers day and night.

There are many other requests for prayer, some that could not be made public. Some homes are broken that need to be restored. Other homes need God to be the head of the house. Many have unsaved loved ones who need God. There is much to pray for, but thank God, our God is a great big God. Let us cast our cares and burdens upon Him. He can work out all of our problems for our good, for the good of others, and to His glory. We thank God for how He does answer prayer. He does not fail His trusting children.

Recently on Saturday before my husband and I were to leave on Wednesday to visit our children in Texas for a few days, I took cold. I prayed and requested prayer that the Lord would heal me as I told my husband I wanted to love the grandchildren when I got there. The Lord in his mercy healed me by Wednesday night when we arrived. Thank the Lord!

"If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. Sometimes the Lord lets us have a "trial of faith." We thank God that we "are kept by the power of God through faith . . . Wherein ye greatly rejoice though now for a season, if need be ye are in heaviness through manifold temptation; That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom . . . ye love." 1 Peter 1:5-9.

—Sister Marie Miles

"REMOVE NOT THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS" by Ostis B. Wilson. Vital truth in booklet of 28 pages. 15c each, or 10 for \$1.00, postpaid.

"CHRIST'S TRIUMPHAL REIGN" by H. M. Riggle. This reprinted booklet of 28 pages will be off the press very soon. 15c each, or 10 for \$1.00, postpaid.

"BIBLE CHAIN OF TRUTH" by A. Marie (Pruitt) Miles. A new book just off the press presenting the Bible doctrines in a simple conversational form. 168 pages bound in heavy paper cover. Price—60c per copy, or two for \$1.00, postpaid.

FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



La.—Dear Saints at the Printshop and abroad: Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus. With the help of the Lord and His Holy Spirit, I want to write my testimony for His glory. He has done so much for me. He set my feet upon the solid Rock, Christ Jesus, and established my going. Praise His dear holy name!

I love the truth of God's Word, and by His help and grace I want to obey every word of it. I thank the Lord I see the true Church of God as it is. It is a holy church made up of saved and sanctified people. In John 3:7 Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." Thank God for a born-again experience that makes it possible for us to live free from sin, and make it through to heaven where we will be with Jesus and all the saints. Praise the Lord!

I met the saints here in Hammond, La. in 1932, and they are precious to me. I soon saw the truth and the church and accepted it with joy. I have made some mistakes through life, but thank the Lord, we can profit by our mistakes. The devil tried to impose on me, and make me think it would be all right to do this or that, but during my sickness last spring and winter God helped me to see myself. He showed me that some things I was doing were of the devil and the wrong spirit, and helped me to take a stand against the devil and his tricky ways. I asked the Lord to forgive me and to help me not get in that condition again. He forgave me and blessed me in both soul and body. Praise His name! We need to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation. God's Word says, "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they be of God." 1 John 4:1-7.

I want the Spirit of God to lead and guide me into all truth and keep me preserved blameless in His love, and help me to love Him with all my heart.

In 1 Tim. 5:22 it says, "Keep thyself pure." In Matt. 5:8 it says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." God can and will help us keep our hearts pure; and if we will keep pure, we know we will meet the Lord in peace. Praise the name of Jesus!

Some people think we can't live free from sin, but read the first, second, and third chapters of First John and you will see that we can and must live free from sin in order to get to heaven. I want to go there, don't you? Sin is of the devil and anyone who thinks we have to sin more or less every day had better pray much for the Lord to save them from sin. Jesus said, "If ye die in your sins, where I go ye cannot come." Thank God for the truth.

I thank the Lord with all my heart for salvation and helping me to find the saints at the Church of God camp ground in Hammond, La. I thank God for the bell I heard ringing one Monday morning. A neighbor told me they were having a holiness meeting over there on the camp ground. So the bell was the means of my finding the saints, the church, and the truth, and I accepted it with joy. Praise the Lord!

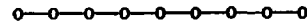
I have eleven children and love them all dearly. Please help me pray for them that God will help them understand His word and be born again, filled with His Spirit and live a life free from sin. Joining some church will not get us to heaven. I thank the Lord for helping me to see and understand this truth.

Now, I want to testify of the healing power of God and His mercy to us. Jesus died to save our souls and to heal our bodies, and I wish to point you to some scriptures that tell us of his healing power. Read Matt. 12:13-16, also verse 22. Mark 5:25-43; John 14:13-15; Acts

9:33-43; James 5:13-20; 1 John 3:21-24; Matt. 21:22-25. Now I want to tell you how the Lord had mercy on me and healed me. One year ago this past March an affliction started on me, and it became worse and worse. I got to the place where I couldn't lie down day or night, couldn't sleep, and suffered much, but my trust was in the Lord. I waited patiently on the Lord, knowing He could heal me if He wasn't ready to take me home. For eight months I sat up in a chair almost night and day. Many nights I would call my wife out of bed to pray for me, and the Lord would give relief, but did not completely heal me. During this time the Lord talked to me and I talked to Him. I spent a lot of time in prayer and meditation, and through this the Lord drew me closer to Him. Several times it looked as though I would die. I told the Lord I would like to live and be well and be a better witness for Him, but that I was ready to go or ready to stay. I was in a very nervous condition and my body was full of fluid. My limbs became so swollen that my left leg burst in two places and drained. A lump came in the lower part of my stomach and seemed to be about two inches thick and about six inches long. In answer to prayer the Lord took all this away and healed me. Praise the Lord for His healing power!

I thank all the dear saints and ministers everywhere who prayed for me and held on to the Lord for my healing. Also, I want to thank the three faithful ministers here in Hammond who came to pray with me and for me, and to encourage my faith. They are our pastor, Bro. T. H. Coffey, Bro. Max Williamson, and Bro. E. B. Pinkerton. I thank each and every one for the cards and phone calls while I was sick. Pray for us that God will help us to keep saved and faithful to Him to the end.

Your Brother who loves the truth, —W. S. Miller



Mich.—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Pruitt, I am writing to tell you of the wonderful answer to prayer. I wrote to you for an anointed handkerchief for my sister, Mrs. Stanley Winkler of Bybee, Ky. God really heard and answered that request. She wrote me that she is much better and able to help with the work, which before that she wasn't able to do. We do praise the good Lord that we can come to Him with all our ills and sorrows and He hears them all for us.

A couple of weeks ago I had intestinal flu. I kept trusting Him to heal me. I was not disappointed, for I am back doing my work again. All praise to His name!

We were called to go to a home last Monday night to pray for a man who has cancer. We instructed him of the promises of God that He would heal the sick. He said he believes. We had prayer with him, he seemed so interested. Unless God touches him and heals him, he will not live long. We ask you to agree with us that he will be healed for the glory of God. I believe it would help the cause here in this town for him to get healed. He is a business man and people are well acquainted with him. We are praying that God will open his and his wife's spiritual eyes to see the Church and unity of God's people. Oh, how sad to look around and see the blindness of the people! Then I think of the time when I was in darkness. My heart goes out in pity for them, and I look up and thank the name of Jesus that I had my eyes opened to see this glorious truth of this evening light, and I ask that they, too, may see the truth and come into the one straight and narrow way.

We thank you and all the saints for your prayers for us. We always pray for you and all the brethren. How wonderful He is!

Sincerely in the faith, —Floyd and Esther Hines

Kansas—Dear Workers at the Office and saints and friends abroad: My prayer to the Father is that you will not feel chagrined at hearing from me so soon again. The truth is I feel the hand of the Lord heavy upon me to be about my Father's business writing letters, articles, and other script in the name of the Lord, for the glory and upbuilding of His Kingdom alone; not for fame for the world to see, neither for prestige and a name among the saints in my old age. But, yea, rather that I may fill my little place in the Body of Christ, and thereby grow and help others to grow.

My burden is still "good old campmeeting days." Before me is a poem by that title. It is very long, thirteen verses, eight lines to the verse. At the end it says, "Author Unknown," so if I may, I wish to pass it on in something of an abridged prose-form. Listen to the first verse in the Author's own words: "My thoughts go back to long ago, to old campmeeting days; when people came from far and near, their Savior's name to praise. They laid aside all worldly cares to tune their souls aright, determined by the grace of God to walk in all the light." "Their fellowship was sweet, with 'Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!' Their dress was plain and modest, no gold or jewels rare, no feathers, flowers, paint or rouge was found, not anywhere. The keynote of the camp was prayer from morning until night, and many times they prayed until the dawn of morning's light."

The preachers preached repentance with stress upon the new birth. They preached against all worldliness, tobacco, lodges, and dress. Two works of grace were plainly taught, that hidden foe exposed. The Bible calls him "the old man." They also preached on restitution and the coming of the Lord.

The altar scenes were real, where seekers wept and groaned and prayed and men of God prevailed until those souls were saved or sanctified, pardoned or cleansed as was the need; and when they came forth with their testimonies, they set the camp on fire. The missionaries, too, obeyed the call to go to those outside the fold, to preach the Word and heal the sick and gather the wanderers in.

And now since God's the same and His Word's the same, let us heed the closing verse of this poem: "So let us not sit down and say, The former days are best; The Pentecostal skies are full if we but meet the test. The good old Gospel still has power if we will fast and pray. God waits, He longs to show His arm, His mighty power display." —Sister Ethel K. Miles

La.—Dear Saints of the Lord: I would like to take this means of telling of the goodness of the Lord once again to us. As many of you know, I was much troubled last year with a skin disease that seemed to be ringworm, a fungus infection that can be very stubborn to battle. But thank the Lord, nothing is too hard for our God. It started on my arms, spreading up and down them with large crusty sores that dripped much water. It spread to my legs and covered them from the knees to the ankles and ran so much water that I wrapped them in paper towels to absorb the liquid. At the time my arms were at their worst I contacted what seemed to be poison ivy and it covered my head, arms, and chest with a weeping red rash. The Lord undertook for the fungus on my arms but the poison ivy seemed to catch afresh about three times during the summer and fall. The last of the bad sores on my legs healed after the end of the year.

I do thank the Lord for His mercy and thank each of you for your many prayers, cards, and letters of encouragement during this trial. This trouble has seemed to leave my skin very sensitive and allergic, so still re-

member me in prayer. I want to be faithful to God unto the end and I do thank Him for what He has already done.

—Arnett J. Carver

Oregon—Dear Workers at Faith Publishing House: I am trying to fulfill a promise to God by writing you. It's very important to keep our promises to God. I feel if we don't, we will suffer.

On a recent Saturday night my 13-year-old son's pet cow came down with milk fever after giving birth to a pretty white-face calf. Milk fever is caused by a calcium deficiency. My husband tried to get a veterinarian, as our son was crying and was afraid the cow would die. We couldn't get one, but the druggist recommended giving her an injection of glucose. This he did and she seemed to feel better. The next morning she was worse, near death and very bloated. He still could not get a vet. to come out, but one told him to come in and get some calcium and inject it into her vein and she'd be up and around in three hours. At 11 a. m. my husband did this. At 2 p. m. she was no better. Three and four o'clock came and she hardly breathed, except for occasional gasps for breath.

I went down at 4 p. m. and prayed for the cow and told God I'd write to the "Faith and Victory" paper if He'd heal her. I went back to the house and began thinking how some relatives and friends, when they read the paper, would doubt that God would answer prayer for me. So I decided I'd write it and not sign my name. That way God would get the glory, anyway. Well, 5, 6, and 7 o'clock came, and the cow was no better, probably worse. So I cried to God that I'd sign the letter. My son went down to see the cow before 8 p. m. and she sat up and with his help walked over an eighth of a mile to the barn. I thank God, for I felt He answered my humble and feeble prayer. He is so great and has so much for us if we will only grasp it. Praise Him!

I told my son that God spared his cow for him, and he said, "Yes, He did." Pray for me.

An humble child, —Mrs. Ernest Luehring

Oregon—Dear Saints of God: I feel the leadings of the Lord to write my testimony and tell you of the wonderful things that God has done for me.

I always had a longing to be saved and be a child of God, and I can thank God for a Christian mother and my two uncles who were ministers. I wandered on in sin, but the longing was still there, and there was a hunger for something real from God. I joined a sectarian church, and had a desire for a real experience of salvation, but had an up-and-down experience, instead. I finally left this church and joined another sect church, backslid and became a hopeless drunkard. The bottle was almost my constant companion. I couldn't do without liquor and although I tried numerous times to quit the life of sin, I just could not as I was its slave.

Finally one night after being sick all day with a "hang-over" I surrendered my life to God alone in my home. How the joy of the Lord came down and flooded my soul. Yes, there was sunshine in my soul. The old pipe I had smoked for years didn't taste good, so after a few days I threw it into the stove. Praise the Lord, for three years now salvation has been real. Jesus never fails. Praise God!

About a week after this blessed experience I was seeking for more of God and the windows of heaven were opened up and the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit flooded my soul with glory divine. I was sanctified, and that old stony heart was removed and a heart of flesh

was there instead. Often times I am awake in the night broken up before God, and shouting and praising God.

Finally I prayed much and for some time that God would send me some Christian friends. I was so hungry. As the old song goes, "Longed my soul for something better, only still to hunger on." But one day, here came some of the saints from the Church of God at Jefferson, Ore. and what a love feast we had, and what an encouragement it was for me! Within a few days one of the saints from there came and took me to Jefferson. I was only in two meetings and found they had something that I was longing for. As a dry sponge soaks up water, so my hungry thirsty soul drank the songs, the preaching of the word of God, the testimony-meeting, and rich, deep, real Christian fellowship, such as I had never found before.

God has brought me out of the wilderness to His church, and I am glad that I found the light at last. Beloved, God has a way, one way, the only way. Jesus died outside the gate that He might cleanse and sanctify His church with his own precious blood.

Since God saved me I have gone into the tract ministry, and I get most of my tracts from the Church of God. I find there is a hunger for something REAL from God.

Beloved, I believe that we are living in the last days and God is calling His people out of bondage of sectism into the glorious liberty in His own Church. I am glad that when the light came I did not reject it and now salvation means more to me than ever before. When we do find and come into the true way we should thank God and walk in the light.

God has made a way now for me to go to the Jefferson Church of God campmeeting, and how I do thank Him for His wonderful love to me. I trust that this might be a help to others who perhaps are wandering about and longing for salvation. Praise God, "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" and at last I have found it.

His child, washed in His blood, —Clyde Southwell

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

Ohio—Dear Saints of God: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus who has heard and answered the prayers of His dear children in my behalf. I thank the dear Lord for healing my body and I want to thank everyone of you dear ones who prayed for me. Praise the dear Lord! Your prayers were answered before I received your letter. I felt better on Saturday and then on Sunday I knew the Lord had touched my body. I didn't know when you would get my letter, but didn't think you would get it that soon. But I knew God had touched me and I felt good in my chest. Then when I got your letter and saw that it was mailed May 6 I knew the dear saints had prayed for me and God had healed me. Thanks and praise to Jesus, and thanks to all for your prayers. What a mighty God we serve!

Please continue to pray for me that I can keep the victory, live close to the Lord and trust Him for all things. I pray God to bless all of you in His work which He has given you to do so that many souls will find Jesus and live for Him.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Adah Smalley

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints there: Greetings in Jesus' dear name, which name is above every name and who loved us so much that He gave His life for us while we were yet sinners. Praise His sweet name! I am glad that I got so sick and tired of sin that I was willing to give up all for eternal life. I can't see how anyone could love a sinful life. I believe what the song

says, "How sweet is my rest and how richly I'm blessed, oh, how sweet is the rest of my soul."

The Lord is still blessing us. We both have been sick since Easter, but the Lord has answered prayer. Virgie requested prayer for us at the revival at Lorange, La. The Lord heard and answered. We both are able to work again. I am still not strong but I surely thank the Lord for what He has done for me.

Sister Marie, we appreciate the good work at the "Lord's Print Shop." Without the Lord's help it could not be done. We pray it will last until the Lord comes. We are glad for the few that will preach and hold up the Bible standard—the one true way, the only way that will lead people to heaven.

Pray for us for we want to ever keep true and faithful.

—Katie and Asa Gibson

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: I feel so glad that God spared me and let me come in contact with your father's teaching and literature, for it was what I was converted under in 1908, north of Elk City, Oklahoma. In the last few years I have taken my stand and God truly is good to me. He is keeping me, soul and body. He has done so much lately for me. Bless His name!

Here is an offering. Use it as you see fit and pray for me. I will be 87 years old on June 29. Bro. Guy Littrell

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

Ohio—Dear Children of God: I would like to renew my subscription to the "Faith and Victory" paper. My subscription expired some time ago and I have missed it very much. The little paper certainly has been a blessing to me and has helped me to find the true way. I still have a need to be sanctified and have a closer walk with God. I would like for you to include me in your prayers. I desire more light on the word of God and a closer walk with Him.

I would also like to have some other literature namely the booklet on "Sanctification" by J. W. Byers, and the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," by Fred Pruitt. I am enclosing \$. . . and I hope this will cover cost. If it does not, please let me know. I would also like a price list of more literature if you have one. I do like to read the good sound truth.

—Mrs. Harold Blakeman

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

Calif.—Greetings to all the saints of God: Today finds me saved and meaning to go on with the Lord all the way.

I have been impressed to write concerning the article in the "Faith and Victory" paper about the old landmarks. It was really encouraging to my soul. May I add a few truths on the old landmarks? One is the way we should dress as holy women. Another is that saved young people should not go with unsaved ones. May God help us to continue to stay with the old landmarks. Another truth is that no one in double marriage should hold any office in the church of God. I heard the truth many years ago when it was preached and lived in its fullness.

Pray for me—one who believes in the whole truth of the Bible.

Your Sister,

—Katie Gaines

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

"THE CLEANSING OF THE SANCTUARY" by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riddle is now available for immediate delivery! Long out of print, this volume of truth is reproduced in 541 pages and bound in a nice silver-lettered cloth cover. Price, \$4.50 per copy, postpaid. Order your copy today from this very limited edition.

FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Greetings of much love to you from Rosarito, Baja, Calif. in Jesus' mighty name, who gave Himself for us that we might have life. He is coming again!

I'm so thankful that our God is working here in Mexico. I just wish you could hear and understand the many good testimonies and prayers in the services here.

In a Wednesday night service my back hurt so badly that I thought I would have to leave the services. Then I asked for prayer. They gathered around me and prayed so earnestly and immediately all the pain left. Praise our loving heavenly Father! Then His blessings fell on me so strongly that I could do nothing but cry and praise His wonderful name. We rejoiced.

Last week I had a terrific pain in my forehead and when kneeling in prayer with Etsaban and Josefina in their small home our mighty God gave me another precious touch. Praise His wonderful name!

We were thankful for a recent three-day tent meeting held here in Rosarito, and for the mission home that was used as a dormitory during the meeting.

We wonder what it will take for souls to seek God! The recent suicide of Jorge Mendoza, one of Brother Tomas Mendoza's younger brothers, has caused some to seek God and wash in the cleansing fountain. The mission house was used this time as a funeral home. The body was brought here and the house was soon filled with the grieving ones. The family was terribly grieved over this death. Jorge was only 22 years old and left a wife and three small children. He was unemployed and there was no food in his house. This boy's father and two brothers have found peace with Jesus due to this tragedy.

What a responsibility the saved have toward the unsaved, knowing that we shall meet them at the Judgment in the last day! I was happy to know that my brother-in-law, I. D. Basham, of Jena, La. found peace with Jesus before his departure. "Behold, he prayeth." Acts 9:11. "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" John 6:37. What a wonderful promise! His little wife had prayed for him faithfully. We shall meet him there! Praise our mighty God! This should encourage each of us to "pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17.

In the night hour recently as I was praying and looking to the Lord concerning burdens for the work here, the Lord gave me this thought, "Touched by the Master's hand." The violin (in the poem) when touched by the master's hand, went for a high bid. Oh, how we need the touch of our Master's hand! Jesus said, "Without ME ye can do nothing." John 15:5. But, oh! how that TOUCH from the Master can bless! Jesus said, "If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32.

God is LOVE and how we need that touch of love. "Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: ..." 1 Cor. 13:4-8.

Oh, that wonderful touch! The joy, the bliss of His touch! "The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Isa. 35:10. Only those who have experienced that touch know this peace.

I have always marveled at that gulf between the saved and the unsaved. The unsaved do not hear or see spiritual things; eternal things, things that last forever! Only Jesus can wake them. "Stir not up nor awake my

love till he please." Cant. 3:5. If they could only get a tiny glimpse, they would run to the cross, repenting.

Oh, awake, sinner, awake, **AWAKE!** In the night hours God gave me this message. He is surely, warning you! Today is the day of salvation. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13. **AWAKE** and receive that wonderful touch!

Please continue to pray for us.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Carrie Sheppard

P. O. Box 2262, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073

BIBLE STUDY

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

June 4, 1967

THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

Printed Portion Acts 9:19b-31

Acts 9:19b Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus.

20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.

21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said: Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt in Damascus, proving that this is the very Christ.

23 And after that many days were fulfilled, the Jews took counsel to kill him:

24 But their laying in wait was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him,

25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.

26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.

28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.

29 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him.

30 Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.

31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Memory Verse: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Philippians 3:7.

Central Thought: We live different lives after Jesus becomes our Saviour.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice in our lesson that it is said of Saul when he was saved or "born again" that "all that heard him were amazed." Dear ones, when God saves us from sin and

we become "new creatures in Christ Jesus" our lives are different. We do not live the same as we did before. We have Christ in our lives. Those whom we once hated now we love. I have heard of those who carried a gun to kill another person, but when such an one got saved, the first person he wanted to see was the one he had once wanted to kill to tell him how sorry he was for his hatred and evil intentions. Salvation changes folks.

Saul, who had worked against Jesus, now worked for him. He preached Christ. Many believed when they saw what a change there was in Saul. Those who used to be his friends now took counsel to kill Saul. Some might say that they would like to get saved but they couldn't give up their friends. We notice Saul didn't have any trouble, but his old friends became his enemies. Those are not the kind of people who are real friends, anyway.

Sometimes the Lord tells us to stand and face problems and then at other times he permits us to leave them. This time God let Saul escape his enemies. At other times they caught and mistreated him. But he was willing to suffer for the One who died on the cross for him and had brought such a change in his life.

June 11, 1967

PETER AND THE GENTILES

Printed Portion Acts 11:1-18

Acts 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,

3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

4 But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying,

5 I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:

6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw four footed beasts of the earth, and fowls of the air.

7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat.

8 But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.

9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.

10 And this was done three times; and all were drawn up again into heaven.

11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.

12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:

13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

14 Who shall tell thee these words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.

15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

16 Then remembered I the words of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

18 When they heard these things they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Memory Verse: For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3,4.

Central Thought: God loves all people alike.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God wanted the early church to understand that Jesus died on the cross for every person in the world. This was hard for them to see as the Jewish nation had a severe barrier set up between themselves and the Gentiles. This barrier affected the early church. God had to work in a plain and definite manner to get them to understand that there was no barrier between the Jews and the Gentiles in salvation. The Apostle Paul brings it out in these words, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make himself of twain one new man, so making peace." Eph. 2:13-16. Praise the Lord, we who were "strangers and foreigners" are made, through Christ, "fellow citizens with the saints." We are through the Spirit of God builded together for an "habitation of God through the Spirit." (verses 18-22.)

Truly God is no respecter of persons. God loves all the peoples of the world and God wants us to love them, too. We take into our fellowship every person who has been "born again" and belongs to God, regardless of color or race.

June 18, 1967

THE CHURCH AT ANTIOCH

Printed Portion Acts 11:19-30

Acts 11:19 Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

20 And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

21 And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

22 Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which was in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as Antioch.

23 Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

24 For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

25 Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul.

26 And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves, with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

27 And in those days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.

28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea.

30 Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Memory Verse: And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord. Acts 11:21.

Central Thought: We need to be workers for God, even though we receive persecutions.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first verse in our lesson lets us know that those of the early church did not let persecutions dampen their spirits nor discourage them. They still preached Christ wherever they went. God knew he could trust them with the gospel and with persecutions. Some might say that they are not preachers, but in reality all of us are "epistles . . . known and read of all men." (2 Cor. 3:2). Our actions, words, and deeds will display Christ and others will know. We are preaching Christ and it will touch hearts as we walk and live in the Spirit.

Our lesson tells us that the "hand of the Lord was with them." Oh, how precious it is to feel the "touch of the Master's hand"! That great Hand is able to carry our burdens and comfort our hearts in such a way that we can rejoice and give out the good news that Jesus does save and works out our problems. That Hand will guide us through life and carry us through the deep waters that might seem to swallow us up. We never want to go anywhere or be anywhere unless we know that the "Hand of the Lord" is with us. The Apostle Peter said, "humble yourselves under the hand of God: that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:6, 7.

An only child of a believing woman took a great fever and died. The unbelieving father asked, "What do you see in this?" The weeping wife and mother answered, "I see the love of God." Happy is the soul that can see the Hand of God in all things that touches one's life.

"There is sweetness in the bitter,
There is comfort in the rod;
There is gladness in the sorrow,
For there is the hand of God."

June 25, 1967

PETER IMPRISONED AND FREED

Printed Portion Acts 12:5-17

Acts 12:5 Peter therefore was kept in prison; but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.

6 And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; and the keepers before the door kept the prison.

7 And behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands.

8 And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me.

9 And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision.

10 When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.

11 And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.

12 And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

13 And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel came to hearken, named Rhoda.

14 And when she knew Peter's voice, she opened not the gate for gladness, but ran in, and told how Peter stood before the gate.

15 And they said unto her, Thou art mad. But she constantly affirmed that it was even so. Then said they, It is his angel.

16 But Peter continued knocking: and when they had opened the door, and saw him, they were astonished.

17 But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

Memory Verse: If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 1 Peter 4:14.

Central Thought: God knows when to answer our prayers for our good and the good of others.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Sinner and saint alike will have troubles but those who belong to God have a wonderful privilege of taking everything to God in prayer. The sinner has to work out his problems the best he can and many times they get the best of him. He may try to run from them by believing that in taking his life he can end it all, but soon finds out his troubles have just begun.

Peter was in real trouble. Not many of us have been placed in his position. He had not done anything wrong, yet he was seized and put in jail. How did he face that severe injustice? How did the church face that fact? They had faith in God. "Prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him." Here was a burden that all felt and shared. They were of one soul and one mind in imploring God for Peter. They faced facts. James had just been killed and now they had taken Peter. They did the only thing there was to do. They prayed without ceasing unto God. Peter also had faith in God. He prayed through and went to sleep. God performed a miracle and brought him forth. His faith and trust in God paid off. If God wanted to let him be killed as he did James, that was all right with him, but if He wanted to spare him, he was willing to labor on for God. We should not question God's ways but submit to Him in all things.

The church was so overjoyed that they could hardly believe it to be true. God loves to honor faith when He sees it.

Sister Marie Miles