

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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New Jerusalem, My Home

Fair city of the gospel day,
Long have they sung of thee,
But sung thy glory far away
And failed thy light to see.

"Come," said an angel voice to John,
"I'll show the bride of Christ;"
He showed him New Jerusalem,
In bridal glory dressed.

This holy new Jerusalem
Came down from God all pure;
In her the Lord doth dwell with men,
And keep them evermore.

Thou art the mother of us all,
Thou art the Church of God;
And all within thy sacred walls
Are washed in Jesus' blood.

The Lamb of God himself thy light,
Shines out in crystal rays;
We call thy walls salvation bright,
And all thy gates are praise.

Oh, city of eternal truth,
Blest mother of the free,
As in the glory of thy youth,
The saints have come to thee.

Jerusalem, my blissful home,
Long has my soul pined for thee;
I'll sing thy praise forevermore,
Blest mother of the pure and free.

—D. S. Warner

"Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion. . . ." Psalms 48:1, 2.

What God Expects of His Church

1 Cor. 15:58, "Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." It is perfectly evident that Christ expected a specific service from the Church. It seems that the prevailing opinion about the Church is that it is a sort of asylum or place of safety for the souls of men. The chief desire seems to be to save oneself and shelter oneself in the Church, a safe place. Are not all within the Church partaking of the marriage supper of the Lamb? Certainly, the Church is a safe place to be, but that is not the primary purpose. It appears that Jesus expected the apostles and early Christians to live dangerously rather than safely, and they were required to lay down their lives for Christ and His gospel. The watchword of the Church is not "safety," but "service"; it is not "rest" but "work," and the Church, if it carries out God's plan, will live the most heroic lives of all people and challenge the world by their unselfish service and uncompromising testimony.

"And ye are witnesses of these things," said Jesus after the resurrection. Let us again consider that other great text, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8). Notice the majestic outreach of this prophecy. Ye shall be "witnesses in Jerusalem," right at home, the capital of the Jews, right where Jesus was crucified and where rage and fury were most likely to break out. "In Judea," the country around Jerusalem; in "Samaria," the next adjacent territory, "and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Yes, witness to all in ever larger and wider circles until every soul in all the world has heard the testimony. God expects the Church to evangelize. (Matt. 28:16-20.)

"Then the eleven disciples went away unto Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

Attend National Campmeeting, July 21 to 30, Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.

And when they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted." Jesus said "all power is given me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Let us read carefully the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." Matt. 28:19. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel everywhere." (Mark 16:15.) Here is a specific command, or the commission for a great work. Let us consider it seriously. Let us ask ourselves if the Church acts as if it had heard or comprehended the vast scope of this command, the parting command of our Lord. Are we ourselves, you and I, taking this command seriously? Put into a word, this command means to "evangelize"—evangelize the world. It means to carry the gospel everywhere. It means to witness of and for Christ in ever widening circles, beginning at home and spreading to the remotest part of the earth. Do you think this task is for ministers only? This work is for the Church—ministers, young and old, and everyone, to engage in.

Evangelizing is the central activity of the church—its real mission. Whenever the church ceases to evangelize, it ceases its most important work and falls in its mission, its real work. Evangelizing is the activity in which all should engage, some more than others, but all according to their capacity and opportunity.

What is my world? Acts 8:1-4. At that time there was great persecution against the Church which was at Jerusalem, and they were all scattered abroad, except the apostles. "As for Saul, he made havoc of the Church, entering into every house, and hailing men and women committed them to prison. Therefore, they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." "What is my world?" is a valid question. Earnest Christians who are becoming aroused concerning their duty are making the inquiry, If I am to go into all the world and witness, how am I to do it? Let us consider that. First, let us consider the "go ye." Honestly, do not most of us meet people every day? The commission does not read, "Come ye people of the community," but rather, "Go ye." Here is an essential difference, and here is where so many fail. It is right to build chapels and have revivals and invite people in, but that does not fulfill our obligation. We still are told, "Go ye into all the world." Neither does "go" mean "send." We may say, we attend our services and do our part, but is that enough? No, that does not fulfill our obligation. Many, no doubt, are living in constant disobedience to the Divine command because they think that because they support the gospel or are not called to full-time gospel work, that they themselves are excused. The tragedy of it! Well, then what is my world? It is my personal world, the world I live in. It includes the circle of those whom I can contact by literature, word of mouth, phone, letter writing,

and giving money as I can to keep other workers on the field, my family circle, my kin, my friends, my business and social associates and all. Am I witnessing for Christ in my world? Are you evangelizing your world? No one can do that but you and me, and the command is for us to do it.

What is the Message to Carry?

Luke 4:16-21, "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Esaias, and when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, the recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

The Church is the Force, Not the Field

1 Cor. 12:7-11, "But the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same spirit; to another faith by the same spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same spirit; to another the working of miracles by the same spirit; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues; but all these worketh that one and the self same spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."

There is a passage to which we wish to call your attention—Eph. 4:11-16. We quote verse 12: "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Moffat gives it: "For the equipment of the saints." That is, the ministry is given for the purpose of teaching, perfecting, and equipping the saints so they can do effective work for God.

In Acts 8:1-4 we learn that a great persecution arose in Jerusalem against the infant Church and "they were all scattered abroad" "except the apostles" who remained in Jerusalem. The apostles were preachers. "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." Here we see the Church at work. While the persecution drove the saints abroad, they went everywhere preaching, while the apostles remained in Jerusalem. Too many persons regard the Church as the ministers' only field of operation. Upon the congregation he is to expend all his labor; he is to visit and work to keep them spiritual and coming to services; his work begins and ends in the congregation. This is a false theory. Such a practice is common, however, and some congregations live on that principle. The congregation is the pastor's force of workers. Part of his work is to train this force to do effective witnessing, to be soul winners, to carry the message to each of their little worlds. When a congregation

is a force at the work of witnessing, the pastor has little trouble with them.

Let us resolve to be a force for God. Let us now get a new vision of the Church's work, and also of the work of the ministry. Let us ask our pastors to teach and train us so we can be obedient to the divine program and fulfill the last great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Amen. —A. F. Baldrige

The Worth of a Soul

The worth of a soul: Who can count its value? Who can appraise its worth? An immortal soul is beyond all price.

In money, one soul is of more value than the wealth of the world.

In suffering, it is better that all the people of the world should suffer all their lives on earth, if by suffering, one soul could be saved.

In journeyings, no foreign land is too distant or any portion of it too inaccessible for all the people of the world to take a journey there, if by so doing, one soul could be saved.

There is no trouble too great, no humiliation too deep, no suffering too severe, no love too strong, no labor too hard, no expense too large, but that it is worth it, if it is spent in the effort to win a soul.

Of all creation in this world and in the world to come, the greatest, the most wonderful, the most priceless, the most enduring is a soul.

God loves the soul more than all creation. He fashioned it after His own image, and made it like unto Himself. Every soul has departed from God and gone astray, and God has brought every soul back again with a price. That price was the blood of His only begotten Son, who took upon Himself the sin of the soul, suffering the death penalty, that the soul might be saved, cleansed and made holy again. God loves every soul with an everlasting, eternal love greater and deeper than any human love can possibly be.

Satan hates the soul. In Satan's enmity toward God he is using every snare, his utmost cunning, employing every means with the one single purpose of ruining the soul of man, because Satan knows the soul is God's most cherished creation, the apple of His eye.

A Soul Will Never Die

When this earth of ours has crumbled to dust and has passed away into the forgotten past, a soul will still be in its freshness of youth.

When in the fathomless future eternity has become hoary with age, the soul will still be young.

When a million million eternities have each lived out their endless ages and have rolled by into the unthinkable past and time is no more, the soul will still be living, a conscious personal reality, endowed with perpetual life.

God has said: "He that winneth souls is wise."

If Christians would only realize the value and the immortality of precious souls, and the shortness of

this earthly life they would work feverishly, unceasingly, with all their greatest energy, day after day, year after year, that they might save one soul.

O Christians! Are there souls passing your way? Are you bestirring yourself in their behalf that they may have eternal life and joy, or are you allowing them to cross your path and pass on unwarned, to an ETERNAL DEATH?

"Christ died for our sins and rose again." "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

—By William K. Norton, Missionary to India.

SMOG

Smog is a combination of smoke and fog. It seems to settle down upon areas that are walled on several sides by mountain ranges where air currents are in a pocket. When this area is heavily populated and there is heavy exhaust of gases and fumes, the air becomes polluted with a thick substance which sometimes brings visibility to one mile or less. Many people suffer daily with smarting eyes and a strong desire for a good breath of fresh air, and probably more ailments, although the causes for these ailments are most usually blamed on other circumstances. People have settled down to live in this smog and many more are going there. Do you wonder why? They gradually get so used to it that it is accepted as normal. Once in awhile the air currents change and the sky becomes clear blue and the sun is bright. The mountains take on a velvety look and for a little while breathing is deep and life takes on fresh vigor. But not for long.

Doesn't this give you a clear picture of the obnoxious spiritual atmosphere of today? Spiritual life is struggling to live under it. There is sleepiness and lack of vigor. The spiritual vision is at times almost zero. Some who have not given over to it, as "the times in which we are living," are longing for a deep breath of fresh air. The eyes are smarting for the want of clear vision. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12. It is true, once in awhile the air is cleared. God's breath breaks in upon the atmosphere by giving a good inspiring meeting, and for a joyful moment folks feel and see the beautiful workings of God. This is just a taste of heaven. But heaven is yet to be gained. Life is plagued with this awful thing. It is settling down thicker and thicker. What can we do?

We can run into our secret place of prayer ever so often, and let our minds dwell above this atmosphere. We can "look unto the hills from whence cometh our help." We can climb unto Mount Zion "where the golden sunlight gleams, o'er a land whose wondrous beauty far exceeds our fondest dreams; where the air is pure, ethereal, laden with the breath of flowers..." where we can have a clear vision to see God's way.

—Sylvia Bush

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

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

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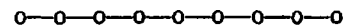
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EDITORIALS

Again this year, as usual, the "Faith and Victory" paper will not be issued for the month of August. However, the Bible Lessons for August will be mailed to all who receive rolls of papers for their Sunday Schools. If any other subscriber wants the August lessons, please let us know, and we will mail them to you.

Our faithful co-workers are much appreciated and they will have some time off from their regular duties here to attend the various campmeetings or do as the Lord may lead them. The schedule of printing gospel literature has been heavy, and much remains to be done, but we feel the time is well spent for all of us to feed on the Word of God and assemble in worship with the saints at these summer meetings. However, some of us will be here at the Office most of the time to fill orders for literature, take care of correspondence, etc.

When this July paper is in the mail, Sister Ruby Marken, who works in the subscription and mailing department, plans on spending some time with her parents at Twin Falls, Idaho. May the Lord bless her abundantly for her sacrificial labors in His cause.



The Church of God campmeetings at Tulsa, Okla., Holly Hill, S. Carolina, and Mission, S. Dakota are now in progress, and others will follow at various locations throughout the summer. We pray that the anointing of the Holy Spirit will rest upon every service, that deep conviction will seize the hearts of the unsaved, that believers will present their bodies a living sacrifice for the cleansing and infilling of the Holy Spirit as a second definite work of grace, and that divine physical healing will be administered to the sick in answer to the prayer of faith. May the Church carry a real soul-burden and prevail in prayer for the lost. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

One of the saddest texts in the Bible is recorded in Eccl. 8:10 which reads thus: "And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done." How tragic beyond words to describe is the death of that individual who assembled with the holy, heard the gracious gospel invitation many times, then spurned away the wooings of the Holy Spirit until his life was ended! Children brought up under the sound of the gospel are more responsible than anyone else, but "because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him." Eccl. 8:11, 12.

Let us not be weary in well doing in sowing the gospel seed. The gospel prophet wrote: "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters..." Of God's word he says: "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of

my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." Isa. 55:11. The Psalmist declares: "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psal. 126:6. There is power in the printed word, and more souls can be reached by the gospel literature than any other means. Order an assortment of gospel tracts from this office (more than 300 titles in stock) and place them in the hands of the unsaved all about you. At the end of the harvest you will come with sheaves instead of only leaves.

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Our sincere sympathy is extended to Bro. Clifford Wilson and the entire family on the loss of his mother, Sister Sam Wilson, on June 9 after a short illness. Residing in Oregon for many years, she departed this life in her 87th year. Funeral services and burial were at Jefferson, Oregon on June 12.

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Sisters Katherine and Gladys Williams returned the first week in June to Alabama to hold more meetings, taking along a supply of gospel literature for distribution. They report that they are now in a meeting at Tuscaloosa, some are being saved and there is a great interest in the old-time truth. They desire the prayers of the saints that the Holy Spirit will impress the truth on many more in that area.

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A reader would like to purchase the out-of-print book, "A Celestial Pilgrimage" by R. L. Berry. Also for our readers we would still like to obtain copies of the book, "When The Trumpet Sounded" by C. E. Brown. If you have either of these to sell, please write to this office, stating their condition and price.

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Best wishes are extended to Bro. Ostis B. Wilson and Sister Evelyn (Lynch) Wilson whose marriage was an event at her home in Sylmar, Calif. on Saturday evening, June 3rd. May God bless their lives together in the furtherance of the gospel.

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Not One of Zion's Stakes Shall Ever Be Removed

The ancient prophet, looking forward to the Church, the new Jerusalem, in the gospel day, exclaimed: "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken." Isa. 33:20. In this evil day there are those who would endeavor to remove the stakes of Zion, the Church, by condoning the innovations and compromise with this sinful world. Men may depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, but not one stake of Zion's eternal truth shall ever be removed. For instance, God's Word definitely condemns the use of the television because of its sinful influence, and in the year of 1959 the Church reaffirmed this truth when practically all the ministers signed a statement as follows: "We, the undersigned ministers of the

Church of God, seeing the spiritual and moral detriment and sinful influence of the television, definitely believe and teach from the Scriptures that the use of the television is wrong and should have no place in the home. Scriptures: Psal. 101:2, 3; 1 John 2:15, 15; Gal. 5:19-21. Therefore, we warn everyone against its (television) use, and advise that anyone who has professed to be out in the clear light of God's truth and has begun using the television or bringing it into the home over which he has control (1 Tim. 3:4, 5), has lowered the standard and has disqualified himself as a pattern for the saints." Brethren, this is still the position of the Church—not a cord has ever been broken. Since that date the few ministers who were snared by the television were given a hearing, given ample time to repent and retract their position, but most of them have not. Now the Lord is no respecter of persons, even as He told us not to be, neither is He influenced by personalities. Even though one does not have a television, if he condones him who has one, they are both alike guilty—having "pleasure in them that do them." Rom. 1:32. Extraction of a bad tooth is usually the last resort. Everything is done first to save it. We are not opposing people as such, but the wrong thing that has ensnared them. We would do any right thing to recover one from this snare, but we must be honest with every soul. Jesus said: "...if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." Matt. 18:17. Brethren, according to your own signed statement, you could not let a "television preacher" have liberty in your pulpit. A little leaven will leaven the whole lump, and instead of weakening the stakes it is time to heed the exhortation of the gospel prophet: "...strengthen thy stakes." Isa. 54:2. "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, ..." Isa. 58:1.

On other lines the enemy of all righteousness is endeavoring to make inroads and weaken the unique and distinctive witness of the spiritual Body of Christ—the Church. Creeping in among the saints are the ungodly and immodest fashions of dress, heathen hairdos, attending worldly entertainments, yoking up with labor unions, working in defense plants, participating in warfare, "revellings, and such like." True, we are living in a very complex society, and need a double portion of God's Spirit to keep ourselves "unspotted from the world."

The spirit of deception would suggest that we stick our heads in the sand, ostrich-like, and pretend that such conditions do not exist, but facts are stubborn things. The watchmen on the walls of Zion must keep wide awake spiritually, and blow the trumpet of warning with no uncertain sound. Precious souls are at stake! Ministers, pastors, souls are on your hands! "...thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in." Isa. 58:12. God has set watchmen on the walls of Jerusalem who shall never hold their peace day nor night.

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean

shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Isa. 35:8. Thank God for the highway of holiness which is far above this world's confusion. The unclean shall not pass over it, but the redeemed shall walk there. "Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time." Isa. 60:21, 22.

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Word has just been received of the passing of Sister Ruth Rudd, Pacoima, Calif. on Sunday, June 11. May the Lord comfort the family in their loss.

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We are sorry that space is not available in this small paper to include all the testimonies, articles, etc. which are sent in for publication. Please be understanding and bear with us in this situation.

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Our dependence is upon the Lord for divine wisdom and guidance. We solicit your continued prayers and co-operation in the work of the Lord. Obstacles confront the publishing work which only the Lord can remove or overcome.

May the blessings of our heavenly Father rest upon every reader until we greet you again in the September issue.
—L. D. Pruitt

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OBITUARIES



Everett Elmer Bethel was born Oct. 8, 1901 in Vinton County, Ohio, and departed this life May 31, 1967, at the age of 65 years, 7 months, and 23 days.

He was a retired employee of the New York Central Railroad. He had resided in Springfield, Ohio for the past 38 years.

He was united in marriage to Nellie Ruth McFarland on January 12, 1927. To this union six children were born. Four sons, Edwin E., Richard E., James E., all of

Springfield, Ohio, and Larry E. with the United States Marines stationed in Vietnam. Two daughters, Joann Turner of Springfield, and one which preceded him in death in infancy. Other survivors are seven grandchildren, five brothers, four sisters, and a number of nieces and nephews. He will be sadly missed in the home, and by those who knew him.

The service was conducted by Bro. Mart Samons of Fairborn, Ohio and Bro. Wm. McCoy of Dayton, Ohio.

Beulah (Smith) Wilson was born December 6, 1880 and departed from this life June 9, 1967 at the age of 86 years, 5 months, and 9 days, at Nyssa, Oregon. She was married to Sam Wilson on August 17, 1902. To this union ten children were born, five of whom preceded her in death. Her husband passed away October 1, 1966.

Sister Wilson is survived by one son, Clifford, of Guthrie, Okla., four daughters; Mrs. Myrtle Haugen and Mrs. Orpha Mapes of Tillamook, Oregon; Mrs. Alice Neiger, Nyssa, Oregon, and Mrs. Lois Biggs, Madera, California, 17 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

She was a devoted wife and mother who sought earnestly to instill the truth within the hearts of her children. We shall miss her greatly.

The funeral was held at the Church of God chapel in Jefferson, Oregon, conducted by Bro. Ostis Wilson, assisted by Bro. Gene Harmon. Interment was made in the Jefferson, Oregon cemetery.

In Grateful Appreciation

The family of the late Sister Gertrude Walker extends our sincere thanks to each and every one, far and near, for your prayers, acts of kindness, sympathy, condolences, telegrams, cards, floral offerings, and comfort of your presence. Your generosity also was very deeply appreciated in our time of grief and financial need. May God richly bless all of you.

—o—

Remaining Campmeeting Dates

Following are the dates for the remaining Church of God campmeetings for this year 1967:

Hoffman, Okla.—June 23 to July 2.

For further information, write Brother Woodrow Warren, 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447

Jefferson, Oregon—June 23 to July 2.

Sis. Beatrice Spaur, Pastor, Box 254, Jefferson, Ore. Phone 327-2855.

General Southern—Hammond, La.—June 30 to July 9.

Bro. T. H. Coffey, Pastor, P. O. Box 1177, Hammond, La. 70401. Phone Area Code 504—345-2412.

Akron, Ohio—July 7 to 16.

California State—Pacoima, Calif.—July 7 to 16.

For further information, contact Bro. Ostis Wilson, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. 91331.

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.

For further information, contact Bro. I. C. Chandler, 415 11th St., Bakersfield, Calif.

Fresno, Calif.—August 18 to 27.

Boley, Okla.—August 18 to 27.

Dover, Okla.—Sept. 1 to 10.

Campmeeting Notices

FIFTH CAMPMEETING IN MEXICO

The fifth annual campmeeting at El Alamo, Baja, Mexico will be held, Lord willing, June 30 through July 2, 1967. We are again looking forward to a rich outpouring of God's blessings on the meeting and earnestly solicit your prayers for its success.

—Harland Smith

317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711

MYRTLE, MISSOURI

The Missouri State Campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo., will be held, Lord willing, July 7 to 16, inclusive.

The camp ground is located 2/10 mile off the B. B. Highway, 1/2 mile east of Myrtle. Look for the sign.

We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing to preach the Word. The meeting will be supplied by free-will offerings.

Anyone coming on the bus or train to Thayer, Mo., can call 938-2482 or 938-2483. Someone will come after you. For further information, you can write to some of the saints at Myrtle, Mo. If it is possible, please bring your own pillow and covers, as ours are limited.

Please pray much for the success of the meeting.

—A. J. Sorrell

AKRON, OHIO

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God in Ohio will be held at 419 and 421 West Thornton St., Akron, Ohio 44307, starting Friday evening, July 7th through the 16th.

We are extending a hearty welcome to all. Every nation must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, so we are expecting ministers of our Lord's choosing to come to preach His Word to every creature for the saving of their souls, healing of their bodies and for the sanctifying of believers. We also need consecrated workers to help us fight the battle against sin, which is the root of all trouble, heartaches and diseases.

There will be sleeping quarters for all, food served in the dining hall, which will be furnished through free-will offerings as before.

If you come by bus or train, someone will meet you at any time. Call or write for further information to Bro. Adolph Robinson, 900 Peerless Ave., Akron, Ohio, Phone TE 6-6948, or the parsonage, 544 Van Everett St., Akron, Ohio 44306, Phone No. 724-5683. The church phone No. is 762-2286.

—Sis. Hazel Clark, Pastor

ATTEND THE 30th 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 GROver 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.

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMPMEETING

The Oklahoma State campmeeting will be held, Lord willing, August 4 to 13, 1967 on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner Streets, Guthrie, Okla.

This will be the 33rd annual State campmeeting on these grounds. A hearty welcome is extended to all, and provisions will be made to care for all. The dining hall and dormitories are on the grounds. Expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting and for the salvation of souls, sanctification of believers and the healing of bodies.

We expect to have the new addition to the chapel finished so it can be used for the campmeeting. All those who can come to help on the completion of this project, contact Bro. M. A. Davis, Rt. 4, Guthrie, Okla. Also if you have any contributions of food or an offering to help in this meeting, send it to him.

—Sis. Marie Miles

BOLEY, OKLA.

The campmeeting at Boley, Okla. will be held, Lord willing, August 18th through the 27th.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to come. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His own choosing.

For further information, contact Sis. Ora Spears, Route 1, Box 108, Boley, Okla., or Sis. Katherine Williams, Pastor, 905 N.E. 15th St., Okla. City, Okla.

FRESNO, CALIF.

The Fresno, Calif. campmeeting will be held August 18 to 27 at 7249 E. King Canyon Rd.

Those coming from the north on the freeway, get off at Venture Ave. exit, turn left on Venture Ave. Those coming from the south, turn right on Venture Ave. Keep straight out Venture Ave. It is E. King Canyon Rd. farther out. Drive on out to 7249 E. King Canyon Rd.

Those coming by bus or train, call Sis. N. Jennings, Ph. 233-6836; Sis. A. Johnson, Ph. 264-0953; or Sis. G. Foster, Ph. 266-2923, and someone will pick you up. Come one, come all.

—Bro. E. J. Trotter, Pastor

DOVER, OKLA.

The Church of God campmeeting at Dover, Okla. will be held on Sept. 1 to 10, 1967, Lord willing.

As usual, the meeting will be supported on the free-will offering plan. Ministers will be present to preach the Word. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this campmeeting.

The camp grounds are located 1 mile north and 2½ miles east of Dover. For further information, contact Bro. Henry Caldwell, Rt. 1, Box 76, Dover, Okla.

—Sis. Katherine Williams, Pastor

DAYTON, OHIO ALL-DAY MEETINGS POSTPONED

The congregation of Dayton, Ohio announced the postponement of their usual all-day meetings on the second Sunday of each month until possibly in September when the campmeetings will be over.

—Bro. Wm. McCoy, Pastor

Prayer Requests

Mo.—“Tell all the church to pray for me.” She has been real sick and has other problems. —Bertha Yoder

Kansas—“Remember my sister and family and our mother, also, who has arthritis.” —Mary O. Jones.

Mo.—Fell and hurt her shoulder.—B. Rumpfelt.

La.—Continue to pray for Sister Coffey. She gets relief, but has not received permanent healing.

Ohio—“May have cancer of the throat and have a lump under one arm. Whatever it is, it is not too hard for God to heal.” —Mrs. A. Belle Chestnut.

Va.—“I have heart trouble and knots in my stomach but know God can heal.” —Mrs. Ethel Adkins.

Pa.—“Grandfather Houck has been desperately ill. He is fully trusting the Lord. Has different ailments.” —Norma Houck.

La.—“I am not well in body.” —Sister Bush.

Ark.—“Pains in left hip and ears.” Eighty-seven years old. —John Atwood.

Miss.—“Our only son's wife left him; pray. I desire some spiritual blessings.” —Sister Ethel Lowery.

La.—Growth on face.—E. Mitchell.

W. Va.—“My brother has high blood pressure and stomach trouble. My son and wife are both sick and need to be saved. My daughter has a slipped disc in her back and has two little boys to rear. My brother has been sick for a long time and needs to be saved.” —Sister Essie Carter.

Calif.—“Grandson in mental hospital.” —Mrs. E. B. McNair.

Sister Jessie Taylor of Guthrie is thanking God for all He has done for her. A knot had risen in her side and was causing her much pain, but the Lord has taken it away. She has been without pain now for 18 days and sleeps well. She still expects God to heal her of this tumor. Your prayers have been heard. God took this knot away about the time last month's paper was getting around to the saints. Continue to pray for her.

I do thank God for those who are willing to place their bodies in God's hands. God made the body and is able to take care of it. One dear sister, who just recently had thrown away her medicine and is trusting the Lord for healing, writes: “I am still having my faith tried for healing. But I have no other intention but to stand, by God's help. When I threw away my medicine I committed myself wholly to the Lord, even unto death. So I cannot go back. I have burned every bridge behind me. ... It seems I never had thoroughly appreciated my salvation before. ... Bro. Byrum's book, “The Secret of Salvation,” especially the latter part of the book, has been a great

encouragement to my faith.” This sister's letter was precious. She is growing in the Lord just by committing her body in the Lord's hands. Her faith is being built up in the Lord. She is expecting healing. Thank the Lord! He does not fail His trusting children.

“Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.” James 5:17, 18. If we have the same hope, same faith and the same love that the prophets of the Old and New Testament had, we can receive the same blessings. We need to ask largely and expect large things from God. —Sister Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

India (May 23)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Your valuable letter dated May 5 reached me safely. Thank you for the contents.

God indeed blessed my trip to the northern districts for a convention. Even though the rains had started, God miraculously held off the rains and ordered the clouds not to pour till our convention came to a close. Glory be to His mighty Name! I humble myself and give glory to God.

We are amazed to hear about the sad plight our dear Brother and Sister Carver were put into. We have been praying for their journey. Still we pray for them, as we heard that Sister Carver is not well. May God keep her and restore her health. Now the monsoon has started here, yet not in full swing. Thank you very much for your concern for the souls. “They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.” Psalms 126:5, 6.

We are revived and awakened to realize that our responsibility to promulgate and propagate the gospel is great. We know that we, the little flock, are commissioned to go and preach the gospel of the kingdom to all the world for a witness unto all nations. The kingdom of his dear Son is the Church of God, the body of Christ. The unity and the uniqueness of God's church ought to be plainly and clearly preached and explained to all before the end comes.

Please pray for us and the progress and furtherance of the gospel.

Your saved Brother, —C. M. Verghese

NIGERIAN MISSIONS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE

Mid-Western Nigeria (June 1)—Dear Brother Pruitt: Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ—the Rock upon which we stand.

I have just received a letter from Bro. Carver reporting his return to U. S. A. from Holland, basing his reason for returning home to the political tension in Nigeria. He is quite right, and we have all to thank the dear Lord for advising him to return. Nigeria is politically torn and soon, except where miracles happen, blood will flow. Saints here are daily praying to God in the unfailing mercy of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to provide His children with divine protection and shelter His chosen ones from the bullets of this wicked world. The situation in the country is tense in the extreme. The Eastern region, where our brethren of Asana are resident, is now a different country with the name of Independent Republic of Biafra. All routes by land, sea, and air to the new republic are completely closed. I cannot communicate with our brethren of that break-away section. No telecommunication

or postal services are allowed passage to that republic. You cannot possibly communicate with them either. We live in fear. Federal Government is seriously and feverishly preparing for declaration of war with that republic any time from now, while they, too, declared themselves ready to face fire with fire.

You are requested to pass a circular letter to all our brethren in America to go down on their knees to pray to God for our safety. We trust He will easily protect us. Praise Him!

You cannot remit money to Asana now. Position is confusing and sympathetic. At present you can communicate with us. Write us more frequently than ever.

Yours to make Him known, —Titus U. E. Enu

Bro. Enu, the writer of the above letter, is the pastor of the Church of God mission in the Mid-western region, the only mission with which we now have contact in Nigeria. This mission is more than 200 miles from the other mission stations situated in the Eastern region which has been blockaded and isolated from the outside world by troops of the Central government. As stated in his letter, the Eastern region seceded from the country and proclaimed itself an independent republic. Now a civil war is threatened as federal troops try to bring the seceded Eastern region back into the union.

The last letters received from Bro. Jackson Etuk and others of the Eastern region, where most of the stations are, were dated May 18 and 19. On May 22 we wrote to Bro. B. U. Etuk and sent a bank draft. Since that date all bank assets have been frozen in that region, and we do not even know whether he received the letter. All previous drafts had gone through the bank.

As you can see, our brethren in Nigeria are in serious trouble. Let us pray earnestly that further bloodshed will be averted, that the believers will be protected, and that the country will quickly return to normal so that the gospel work will not be hindered. God is still on His throne and has the last word in ruling the kingdoms of this world. We trust that we will be able to make a much better report of the situation in Nigeria in the next September issue. Bro. Enu will keep us posted on events.

Bro. and Sister Cecil Carver returned to the States from Amsterdam, Holland on May 8 after their proposed trip to Nigeria and India had been blocked. It is very well indeed that they did not go to Nigeria, and up to this time they have not received the visas to India for which they had applied.

Bro. Cecil Carver wrote on June 13: "Wife is still very weak. She feels able to get up, and soon must lie down again. We do thank the saints for their earnest prayers for her, and beg a continuance of their prayers until she is completely well. We have received so many cards and notes telling her they are praying for her, etc., and I don't know if she will get them all answered." He asked us to express through this paper their thanks and appreciation to the saints for their prayers, their "get well" cards, and letters offering encouragement and prayers for her.

Through the summer months let us not forget to pray for the spiritual, physical and financial needs of the foreign mission fields in Mexico, Nigeria, and India. A separate Missionary Fund is maintained at this office to relay funds from our readers to these various foreign missions. Consider the worth of one soul.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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

REPORT ON MEXICO MISSIONS

Dear Readers of the Faith and Victory: Greetings once again in the precious name of Jesus. This leaves me rejoicing in the Lord for His manifold blessings to me in both soul and body. I cannot thank and praise Him enough, but I mean to exalt His great and holy name and proclaim His doings among men as long as He gives me breath.

Last month we asked prayer for the proposed tent meeting in La Mision where the Huskeys live. God wonderfully visited us there with a good number seeking and receiving help at the altar. Several were seeking a definite infilling of the Holy Spirit, confessing this great need in their lives. Brother Tomas (who was gone at this time) noticed a definite change in the lives of some who had sought the Lord during the meeting. We give God all the praise.

Bro. Mendoza and family made a recent trip to Acuna, Coahuila, Mexico to visit Dama's parents and other relatives and conduct gospel services. Upon their return to El Valle de la Trinidad, they found that Bro. David Rosas had taken hold of the work very nicely, and reported that on Thursday night, June 8, Bro. David brought a good message with much liberty and anointing in the Spirit. This certainly rejoiced my heart because heretofore he has been rather shy about moving out in services. (We appreciate this, rather than some one who starts out like a ball of fire and soon burns out and fades clear away.) Pray much for this brother, as he expresses a real burden for the work in and around El Alamo where there is no resident worker at this time.

The interest and enthusiasm is growing in Ojos Negros where this writer has been conducting services on Sunday in a house. However, we can only get about 35 people in the largest room, which limits our inviting more to service, and this burdens our hearts all the more to get the chapel built on the lot already purchased. Some money has come in for that purpose, and as soon as sufficient funds are available we expect to begin work.

The young man who recently sought out Bro. Tomas and desired to be saved shows signs of being used of God in the ministry. Please pray that God will keep His hand on "Mario," and lead him. How it thrills our heart to see God answering prayer and laying His hand on native Mexican men.

These incidents are told to encourage you to continue to pray on and on and on for the work in Mexico, that the Holy Spirit will lead, guide and direct to the end that precious souls will be saved and sanctified, more workers raised up, the devil be put to flight, God's name be glorified and Christ's blood not be shed in vain.

Pray earnestly for the El Alamo campmeeting to be held June 30 through July 2.

Your letters and prayers to and for the workers will be a real encouragement. You may write to Edith Cole at Box 1425, Calexico, Calif. 92231. Carrie Sheppard, Opal Kelly, Larry Sneed, and Bro. and Sister James Huskey receive their mail at Box 2262, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073. Tomas Mendoza, in care of Harland Smith, 317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711. Bill and Geneva Hite, 3827 E. 9th, Pomona, Calif. 91766.

Thanks to each one who has been standing with us in the work with your prayers and offerings and letters of encouragement and may God richly bless you.

In the service of the King, —Harland H. Smith
317 E. Cucamonga, Claremont, Calif. 91711

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Mich.—Dear Saints throughout the world: Grace be unto you, and peace from God, our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." (Matt. 19:29) I am glad I have received the hundredfold. I have brothers and sisters all over the world and the bond of Christ's love unites and binds our hearts together.

Clarence, my husband, and I are still serving the Lord, determined to endure to the end, by God's help and grace. Clarence has had many afflictions in the past but the Lord has delivered him out of them all. Just recently he was having serious trouble in his head and stomach. At this present time he is much improved in health and we are giving the Lord all the thanks and praise.

I have been afflicted from time to time but the Lord is my helper. I thank Him for the daily strength He gives me. I was never a strong woman but have been able to keep going day by day by the Lord's help. At present I'm having some trouble. There are times when my heart bothers me pretty bad, so I desire the Saints' prayers. God is our healer, our business manager, our friend, and most of all, our Saviour.

I was reading in the Word recently where it said that "love is the fulfilling of the law." (Rom. 13:10) Think of the meaning of this four-letter word and then think of it fulfilling all the law. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor." "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Read I Cor. 13 for the true meaning of the word LOVE (the divine love of God or CHARITY).

We appreciate dear Bro. Ray Key coming to Mich. to be our pastor. He is a man that manifests the true LOVE of God. He carries a burden for lost souls and is interested in us here. The congregation has grown some. We have a new family with us now. They also manifest a sweet spirit and we appreciate and love them. They sing as a family group and bring us some good messages in song.

May God bless everyone—and those that we are acquainted with and haven't been writing to lately—please take a special portion of love. Special thanks for the prayers that went up in our behalf. —Sis. Margaret Brant

Okla.—Dear Sis Marie: Just a line to testify that our God is still on the throne.

We were in the midst of a trial and could not seem to feel God, but we prayed anyway, claiming the promises of God. A cricket began making noise and that seemed to add to the trial. I began to tell the Lord that He said, "Whatsoever ye ask," and I asked Him to put that cricket to silence. I told God that I would write this testimony to the "Faith and Victory" paper that God can even take care of little things. As I finished praying, the cricket got quiet. Thank God for it! To God be honor and glory forevermore!

Yours in Him, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

Missouri—Dear Readers: A while back I did not feel well. So I prayed for God to make me well and He did. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. I want to thank Him for all He has done for me. I don't feel worthy of it all. —J. P. Sorrell

Illinois—Dear Sis. Marie: Greeting in Jesus' dear name. Husband and I are neither one very well but we

are thankful we are able to be up and our health is as good as it is. We feel that the dear Lord has undertaken for my husband for those spells he had some time ago. We wrote for prayer and he hasn't had any more since. We thank each and every one of the saints that took part in praying for him.

We haven't sold our place yet, so keep remembering us about this in your prayers that the Lord will send us a buyer for our place.

Pray that we both will live closer to the dear Lord. In Christian love. Your Bro. and Sis. in Christ, —Mr. and Mrs. Edward Boling

Okla.—Dear Saints scattered abroad, greetings to one and all: Today finds us still in the army of the Lord. The fight for truth to be spread isn't over. It is time that the saints should be working at it harder, for sin is increasing in forms that are so damaging to the soul.

One thing the devil has planted in the hearts of folks is that they must see the sin named in the Bible before they think it sin. But, dear ones, there isn't room in the Bible to name every sin, so it names all that it can and then says, "such like." Gal. 5:21. Dear ones, we cannot fool ourselves with such thoughts, for Jesus said He must work for the night is coming. John 9:4. Let us get our eyes on Jesus and off the things we can't find listed. After all, those things we think are small are plenty big enough to send our souls to a devil's hell.

We are in our late time of life; just waiting for our change to come. Our bodies are broken down by suffering. There are only a few more days to spend in our good fight of faith. We aren't able to attend church regularly and can't get away from our home to be active at all. But we desire to see the truth march on.

Bro. Barton's body is very frail and he nearly faints away at times, has hemorrhages so often, and has lost much weight. But we are pressing on for the truth which we must live to the end. God has not forsaken us.

Bro. Barton's mouth was filling with a growth. He could hardly eat because it rested between his teeth and caused much pain. We took it to God in prayer and asked Him to cause the growth to die and fall off. Thank God, it did, and he can close his mouth so much better. Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

I'm satisfied with God's dealing with me. I couldn't go on without His blessings. I want to do the last order God gives me to do. We need your prayers that we keep humble at the feet of our Lord. —Sam and Hettie Barton

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name, who is all and in all to every one who trusts Him: I feel it would be good to write my testimony and prayer request. I have a growth on my face and it has all resemblance to cancer, and it is growing. I have been anointed and felt the Lord had undertaken, but the devil is trying to discourage me. I don't want anything the devil has to offer. I know the Lord can heal cancer as well as any other affliction. The Word says if any is afflicted, let him pray. I have been praying and desire the saints to pray with me. The Lord has healed me many times. I know He hasn't lost any of His power. Praise His dear name! He has been a present help to me in trouble and sorrow.

I don't have any desire to turn to man's aid. I mean to trust the Lord to the end. This song came to my mind, "Leaning on the arms of Jesus." It is a great comfort to me to have Jesus to lean on.

Please pray for the healing of my body and that I will be faithful to the dear Lord.

A Sister in the Lord, —Dollie Gentry

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie: The Lord has surely been good to me this year and given me added strength to do my work. Sometimes in my worship the good Lord and I have enjoyable times. Thank God for His great, great mercies to me.

I do thank my dear Lord because these places on my face are better. One seems to be almost gone and the other one isn't even sore. The One whom I serve is able to do more than we can think or ask. Give all the dear saints my love in Jesus. —Sister B. Rumpfelt

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Miss.—Dear Sister Miles and saints abroad, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I thank all of you for your prayers, encouraging cards and letters that I received since I fell. They were a lot of help to me. It is wonderful how God has helped me. Praise His dear name!

In the winter when I was sick, and also not long ago when my body was in pain, I went to one of my prayer places. I remembered how God had done so many wonderful healings for me and I told Him He had as much power then as He had in the past and that He could take all the pain away before I went back to the house if He saw fit. Well, He did. Praise His dear name!

About two weeks ago a cat got mad at me and I counted ten places on my legs where he scratched me. It was bleeding on one limb. I did not feel so well from it. I called Bro. Max Williamson's home for prayer. I soon got to feeling better and the next morning I did not feel that I had been scratched.

Please continue to pray for me. I still have some ailments.

With much love and best wishes, —Dorothy Bridges

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and Saints: I am thanking the Lord for touching my body recently. For many months I had been having trouble. About a month ago I sent in for prayer. I haven't been bothered since for which I give God all the praise. I can't thank God enough for what He does for me.

Pray for my husband and children to be saved. My heart's desire is to live close to God at all times. May the good Lord bless and keep you one and all in His will.

Your Sister, —Mrs. Eathel Hill

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Texas—Dear Sister Anna Marie: ... As you know, for about ten years I had quite a bit of trouble with my heart, and on July 9, 1957 I died. I was at the hospital with my sister for the birth of her second son when suddenly I knew I didn't even have time to leave the hospital. I just slumped down in a chair and all the fluid left my body. I don't know what happened after that, except that my mother told the children that the people up there heard her pray. The Lord raised me up. Bless His holy name!

About a year later I became very ill. My husband was working 500 miles from home at that time. The pain was so bad that when I would finally go to sleep I would wake myself and the children screaming. They called Mother (Sister Whitley) and she called the saints who were faithful to hold me up to the Lord. My neighbors were very upset because I wouldn't call a doctor. I told them that I had the best doctor in the whole world and that I wasn't changing. When they thought I was about gone, I gave up for them to call my husband, and before he got home one of the neighbors came in and said, "Mrs. Dutton, you won't have a doctor and you won't take medicine. Will you let me call my preacher?" I knew that they didn't believe in divine healing, but I told her, "All right, anyone who can get hold of God," and of course, she assured me that he could.

Now I want to testify that the Lord healed me instantly between the time she left to call that man and the time he got there, and he came immediately, and when he walked in he said, "They told me you were near death, and, Woman, you don't even look sick to me!" Praise the Lord for His wonderful mercies to me! Another neighbor who stayed with me very closely had kept telling me I had locked bowels and then ruptured appendix. I kept telling them that it didn't matter what it was, that the Lord knew and He knew just what to do about it. She was there when the Lord healed me. The next day she came over and said, "Anecia, do you have a knot in your side now?" I told her that I didn't and that I was not even sore. She looked and felt, and yet she wouldn't believe.

In 1959 we moved to West Texas. I couldn't see why the Lord had moved us way out here (and I'm sure He did), when there were no saints close and I had children in high school. I surely felt my inability to teach them all they should know. It seemed to me the town where we moved to was the most unfriendly town I had ever been in, and I felt so ignorant and incapable of showing Christ to people. I once mentioned this to Sister Abbott and she said, "Honey, in a dark place even a match light is bright."

We were there some time before I got acquainted, then finally one day a neighbor came across the street and introduced herself. Just to show how God's people are watched, this woman told me, "I didn't come over before to meet you because I wear shorts and I smoke, etc." I assured her that I had never said anything about her behavior; that was between her and God. "Oh, I know that," she said, "but you are not the kind of people who do these things because I have been watching you and your children."

Some time later, when we had become better acquainted, I walked across the street to talk to this neighbor and by the time I reached her front door my heart had almost quit. Her husband and my son carried me home and she undressed me for bed. They called the office for my husband, but he was so far out in the oilfield that they had to send a car for him. She and another neighbor stayed with me, and when my husband got there, of course he didn't call the doctor. He just kept praying, and called the saints for prayer. When the Lord came to my rescue, she was standing there with her hand on me and she told me that she felt life come back into my body. She went home shortly and didn't come back for several days, and then was very cool. Why? Because I didn't have a doctor, and before this, she had been coming to see me five and six times a day.

I am a living witness that the Lord does heal and that He does still raise from the dead, and that He does still perform miracles. At another time some said there was no doubt that I had cancer, but to me it still doesn't matter. My God is greater than cancer or any other affliction or disease.

All the year of 1966 I was sorely afflicted in body in still a different way. What it was I don't know, and it isn't important, for today I am praising the Lord for complete victory over this thing. I have not been bothered at all since December 29, 1966.

I feel the Lord has been very good to me and I don't want to fail Him in any way. Pray for me that I will always stand true, and that the Lord will give me more boldness to speak out for Him.

Yours in the Master's service, —Anecia Dutton

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas—Dear Saints everywhere, greetings to all in the name of Jesus: This leaves me still saved, sancti-

fied and satisfied in this holy way, determined to go all the way with Jesus.

Upon thinking of the many blessings the Lord has blessed us with, I desired to testify through the paper.

First, I must thank the saints for their prayers for my mother, Sister Droke. The Lord has healed her of diabetes, but her nervous condition is not good and she needs much help from the Lord.

I want to tell to the glory of God how the Lord healed me of a hurting I had in my back at the lower part of my ribs. I laid my hand on the place and prayed for God to move it. As I prayed, I coughed, and the pain moved upward, hurting as it moved, and then I didn't feel it any more. It was gone and never came back again.

About a week later I was having a bad hurting in my stomach. I could not touch it with my hands or it would hurt worse. I remembered how the Lord healed me of the pain in my back. So I thought, just like the Lord moved that pain in my back, He could move this pain. So I put my hand on my stomach where the pain was and began praying. I felt the pain move to another place. I kept on praying and it left completely, and I do thank the Lord and give Him all the praise.

The Lord has healed us many times and I do thank Him. Pray for us. —Odessa Johnson

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

W. Va.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear workers at the Print shop: I think of you all so often and wish I could be with you in your good meetings.

I need your prayers that the Lord will strengthen me and give me grace to please him, for I do love the Lord with all my heart. Praise His sweet name.

I am a diabetic, but I know the Lord can heal me. Remember me in your prayers.

My brother, for whom I requested prayer, can see very well now, even in the eye that was blind. I gave him the anointed handkerchief and he kept it in his shirt pocket. He can mop, wash dishes, and get around well. He is 70 years old. I told him to give the Lord the praise and he said, "Yes, I give Him the praise." I told him to pray often and he said he would.

Remember me in all your prayers.

Christian love to all, —Bertha Roberts

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

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Pruitt, the staff and the saints of God everywhere: greetings in Jesus' name, the only begotten Son of God who came into the world to save us from our sins. Praise His name!

I am happy to be able to report victory over sin and the devil with a mind to go all the way with Jesus. I mean to be steadfast and unmoveable in this clean and holy way. I am on my journey heavenward and I can't take any of this world with me. Every day I am getting nearer and nearer Home. I am striving hard to enter in at the strait gate. Praise God! I don't have time to look back because I am running and I must run on because heaven is my goal.

I am very sad indeed over conditions this world is in. There are so many false leaders in the world teaching their false doctrine just as Jesus said there would be. So many people are listening to their false doctrine and going their way that it is sad. People are leaving the pure God-given gospel and have turned to follow a false doctrine. Oh, how sad! The Bible is being fulfilled. People now are acting just as the people did in the days of Noah. The Lord said in His holy Word, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Hos. 4:6. These false leaders are not teaching the people the knowledge of God and they are being destroyed spiritually, and

unless they change they will be eternally destroyed. Jesus said, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth and honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Matt. 15:8, 9. Yes, people as a whole are giving God lip service and not giving Him heart service. God wants heart service. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." It is a wonderful thing to have a steadfast mind for God and not be tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

Please keep me before the Lord as I do you. Enclosed is a small offering.

One in the Body of Christ, —Sister P. R. Bowers

o

A Warning to Young People

I have been burdened for some time to write to the young people and warn them not to take the wrong step in choosing a companion. Now, I realize that I'm a young person, too, but what I have learned through heavy trial I'm going to pass right on down to all the young people that I can.

We are personally acquainted with a young couple in their middle twenties who have three precious little children. One of the parents was brought up to trust God and look to Him to choose his companion for him. He rebelled against this truth and chose rather to have his own way, which he did. He picked a companion from a worldly so-called "church." She was a sweet girl, one whom everyone thought well of. They looked like the perfect couple. But just remember, God did not have His way in the matter. God was left out of the picture.

For five and one-half years they struggled on together without revealing their troubles. But finally the enemy worked so strongly in them that it had to come out in the open. They are separated now, living in different states. Both of them are miserable and unhappy. Their little children are suffering from the effects of sin and selfish desires of having one's own way. You may think this will never happen to you. "I will never let this happen to me. I'll be more careful whom I choose," you say. But will you? How can you tell what the enemy of your soul is going to get that companion to do later on down the line? If you do your own choosing instead of God choosing for you, you have just left the door open for the devil to step right in and start his work against you.

Dear young people, don't let this happen to your lives. Be positive that he or she is chosen of God to be your companion. Live closely to God, obey Him in everything, then do as Gideon—lay your fleece out twice to make sure God is having His way.

If you are contemplating marriage, just remember, this is serious business. Your marriage isn't for just a few days, or until you get tired of each other, but it is for life, "Till death do you part," and when you say this, God holds you to it.

Therefore young people, let the Lord choose your companion for you. He will reveal His will to your heart so you will know for certain that you are getting the right one, and you won't have to wonder about it. Then you can live in faith with a home built upon the Solid Rock to start with. Then you have all the armor of the Holy Spirit to fight the enemy with and keep him out of your home.

I was reading in Proverbs 31:30 which says, "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

Keep encouraged, for surely if a battle is worth fighting, this one is. We'll receive a crown of life at the end, and happiness while here waiting for that crown, if we will stay true to God.

In Christian love,

—Joan McIntosh

WORKING MOTHERS

Let the wives be "chaste, keepers at home,"
Teaching their children not to roam.
Juvenile delinquency is on the rise,
Most of it because of working wives.

Out in the world it doesn't seem to matter,
But saint mothers should set a different pattern.
Bring up your children 'round the family altar;
It'll mean so much to them when they get older.

A child left alone will bring its mother shame,
And bring reproach upon the family name.
Little boys and girls are often sad and hurt
Because Mother thought she surely had to work.

Little Mary, as a child, was very sweet;
Little Johnny, too, when kept from off the street.
They got in trouble when left with another.
Now who is to be blamed? The working mother!
—Bro. Mart Samons

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July 2, 1967

THE CHURCH REACHES OUT

Printed Portion Acts 13:1-3, 42-49

Acts 13:1 Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

42 And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

43 Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44 And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Memory Verse: For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. Acts 13:47.

Practical Truth: God calls only the willing and obedient to do His work.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In the book of Acts there are two cities named Antioch. One is Antioch in Syria and the other is Antioch in Pisidia. The Antioch spoken of in our lesson is in Syria.

Barnabas and Saul, who is called Paul, had returned to Antioch, bringing the nephew of Barnabas, John Mark, with them. The church at Antioch was missionary-minded. The five mentioned in our lesson were seeking God to know who should go and tell the gospel story. As they fasted and prayed, God let them know that Barnabas and Saul should go. No doubt, the whole church also recognized the same thing. They agreed in prayer with those who laid their hands on them, imploring God that His Holy Spirit should accompany them and give them power to be able to break the "bread of life" to souls who were perishing without God.

There are many in the world today who need God. A person who claims to be God's child and does not have a burden to help others find salvation is dying spiritually. A church without a missionary spirit is lacking greatly. There are many ways that we can help. If we cannot go ourselves, we should send others, or we can help send forth the message through the printed page. But dear ones, there is much you can do. Start with doing the little things around your door. You can help by words, prayers, deeds, and through letters. Seek God and He will make you know what you can do. Don't become discouraged because there is opposition. Paul and Barnabas did not let opposition hinder them.

July 9, 1967

PAUL AND BARNABAS AT LYSTRA

Printed Portion Acts 14:8-18

Acts 14:8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men.

12 And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker.

13 Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

14 Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out,

15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

16 Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways.

17 Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

18 And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them.

Memory Verse: And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things: We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein. Acts 14:15.

Practical Truth: We are to let God have the honor and the dishonor that touches our lives.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul and Barnabas surely needed the prayers of the church at Antioch as they went forth. They found opposers at Iconium and the city was soon in an uproar, and they fled for their lives. Now they were at the gates of the city of Lystra. They were not discouraged but preached the truth of God's Word with power. As Paul preached, which must have been a message on divine healing, he saw a man in the congregation who had been crippled from birth. Paul detected that this man's faith was built up by hearing the Word and he spoke to him saying, "Stand upright on thy feet." The man leaped and walked. The people were astonished when they saw this miracle. They lifted up their voices and called the priests of the gods they worshipped to offer sacrifice to them. They thought Paul, who was the speaker, was their god, Mercury, and that Barnabas was Jupiter. They had a myth about their god Mercury always bringing Jupiter when he made a trip to the earth. They were supposed to appear in the form of men to check the good and evil works of men.

How did Paul and Barnabas react to this honor that was about to be bestowed upon them? Have you been in a position where honor was being bestowed upon you for something God did? Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes and rejected all of it. "To God be the glory."

July 16, 1967

THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM

Printed Portion Acts 15:1-11

Acts 15:1 And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.

2 When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

3 And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the con-

version of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.

4 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

5 But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses.

6 And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

Memory Verse: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. Romans 1:16.

Practical Truth: We need to stand for right and truth with love in our hearts.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Paul and Barnabas had returned to Antioch and had been there worshipping and working with the saints in that place. Some trouble-makers came from Judaea — probably some Pharisees who were very zealous for the Mosaic law (see verse 5). They stirred up the people and opposed Paul and Barnabas in teaching that the Gentiles could not be saved unless they kept the rite of circumcision. This question needed to be settled so it was decided that Paul, Barnabas, and others would go to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders there concerning the question. God has a way for questions to be settled. There are those in the church who are given this gift.

When this question concerning this rite was brought before the council in Jerusalem, there was a discussion about it. Peter related his experience about how God had saved the Gentiles and given them the Holy Ghost. He did not feel that this yoke should be put on the Gentiles. The Apostle James suggested that they send a letter from the brethren at Jerusalem to the church at Antioch telling them that they need not keep this rite. (Read Acts 15:23-29). When the church at Antioch heard the letter read they rejoiced and the trouble was settled. God has called all of us to peace.

July 23, 1967

THE GOSPEL GOES TO EUROPE

Printed Portion Acts 15:36-41; 16:6-12a

Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of God, and see how they do.

37 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.

39 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.

Acts 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the regions of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia; but the Spirit suffered them not.

8 And they passed by Mysia and came down to Troas.

9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them.

11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis:

12a And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part Macedonia, and a colony:

Memory Verse: And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them. Acts 16:10.

Practical Truth: We need to let the Holy Spirit make our plans for us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

John Mark, a relative of Barnabas, had gone on a missionary trip with Paul and Barnabas but left them in the early part of the trip. We do not know why; but he was a young man and may have been homesick, or perhaps the hardships seemed too great to him. It seems that they could not come to an agreement about taking him on this trip so Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus to work among the churches there. Paul chose Silas and they left on a second missionary trip. John Mark must have proved himself because later Paul speaks of his good works and also mentions Barnabas. (Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11) The disagreement did not affect their love for each other. God wants us to have respect for the feelings and leadings of others. No doubt, God wanted two teams to labor for Him.

God will make His will known to us as He did to Paul in the last part of our lesson as he waited upon Him. The Holy Spirit forbade him to preach in Asia but called him to Macedonia. God wanted the gospel to go to Europe as that was part of the first commission.

To get the mind of the Lord we must first be surrendered to the Lord with self out of the way, searching the scriptures with an open heart and a prayer, "Not my will but thine be done." God might lead contrary to your cherished hopes, and make drastic changes in your life. But our prayer should be for the Lord to use us in the way we can be our best for him.

July 30, 1967

RESPONSES TO THE GOSPEL

Printed Portion Acts 16:12b-23

Acts 16:12b And we were in that city abiding certain days.

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

16 And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

17 The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.

18 And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

19 And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains were gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers,

20 And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city.

21 And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans.

22 And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

23 And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely.

Memory Verse: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. Acts 16:31.

Practical Truth: Don't be afraid to suffer for Jesus. You will receive a blessing.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We have in our lesson various ones and their responses to the gospel. Lydia was an eager listener, obedient and ready to care for the missionaries in her home. This is the effect the gospel has on those who accept it and we are thankful for those who have this response to it.

Then there was the damsel who was possessed of an evil spirit who acknowledged that Paul and Silas were servants of the most high God. We have people like that today. They will acknowledge the truth but their lives are not what God wants them to be and they are not his servants. Paul and Silas recognized what spirit prompted this damsel's declarations. They rebuked it and she was delivered.

We see her masters who were wicked men. They did not care nor respond to the gospel. Today there are those who have others under their control or influence. Dope fiends generally can be brought under the control of their suppliers. In many ways other people can be brought under masters. These masters of the girl stirred up the people and the rulers and they had Paul and Silas beaten and put in jail.

There was the jailer who no doubt was touched by the gospel that he saw manifested in the lives of Paul and Silas as they sang at midnight. Note the remarkable change the gospel made in the life of the jailer. Do we not have people today similar to the above mentioned?

—Sister Marie Miles