

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Our Father, I Am Thankful

I am thankful for the Light
That shines from heaven above,
Revealing unto my soul
The wonders of eternal love.

I am thankful for the gift
Of God's own begotten Son,
Who so freely gave His blood
For my sins to atone.

I am thankful for the touch
That soothed my soul one day,
And made me rejoice to know
My sins were washed away.

I am thankful for the grace
Of my dear Lord to share,
That He in mercy gives me
My daily cross to bear.

I am thankful for the hope
That is more precious than gold,
Which is given to me
As an anchor to my soul.

I am thrilled with the promise,
So wonderful and fair,
That with the saints I shall rise
To meet my Lord in the air.

In those mansions eternal—
Oh, how thankful I'll be!
There with Jesus and loved ones
To dwell eternally.

—Ulysses Phillips

Singleness of Heart

The greatest curse to the earth today is not people who entirely disbelieve in God. It is rather the multitudes who believe in God to a certain extent, but are unwilling to go to the fullness of such knowledge and become single in heart and mind. So many believe in God but intermingled with their belief are elements contrary to the nature that the Scriptures reveal to be of God. But there is a real bearing in the Holy Bible that points one and all to "singleness of heart" and rebukes anything short of supreme love and devotion to God. Singleness of heart means that the aim and affections of the individual are solely centered upon one objective. Whether this objective be God or sin, it is better that we be one or the other and not both at the same time. Jesus said in Rev. 3:15, 16, "I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." He would rather we be outright sinners with no profession of His salvation than to lay claim to it without singleness of heart.

To try to unite two such contrary elements and forces into one life will only bring a role of frustration and unhappiness. Every person must come to the place of definite decision to one way or another. Let us notice what James 4:4-8 says on this. "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But He giveth more grace." Let us stop here and notice what the Greek renders this latter verse of expression. "Do you think that the scripture speaks vainly? Does the spirit that dwells in us strongly incline to envy? But it gives greater grace; therefore it says, God sets Himself in opposition to haughty ones, but He gives grace unto lowly ones." The sum of this expression tells us that what God gives to those who receive His salvation is a triumphing power over the forces of evil. Its true effect in one's life

"Almost two thousand years have passed since God sent His Son to earth as the Master Builder, to build a church designed for eternity. While men are building bomb shelters for survival, Christ is constructing a temple that bombs can never destroy."

brings about love and zeal for right, and hatred and abhorrence for evil. It does away with a divided condition of heart. It sets men and women's affections to supreme love and devotion to God. God judges the worthiness of men for this work by their state of humility or pride. To those who lift themselves up He sets Himself in opposition, but to the poor and contrite in heart who confess their need and yield willingly to Him will He give the riches of grace that will mean to them victory over all evil and joy and rejoicing in the things of God. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." Knowing that God is for one and against the other and will not stand for attempted concord with both, then we must also become decisive. Resist the devil, and draw nigh to God. First, submit yourself to God and be persuaded that trying to serve God and Satan will not work. Acknowledge that this is your trouble. Then take your stand for God and against the enemy of your soul. Purify your heart of double mindedness, cease your efforts to conform to the world in conjunction with living for God. Not until every idol has been dethroned and all the works of Satan are renounced and perfect submission to God is attained will the overcoming grace of God be given.

I heard once of a dog which was a cross between a Beagle hound and a Dachshund. These two different types of dog are very contrary in their natures. The Dachshund is a house dog. The Beagle is a wide-open-spaces dog. With these two natures this particular dog was a most unhappy and frustrated creature. Its Beagle instinct would get it out of the house to the front walk yearning to be on the go. Then the Dachshund nature would rise up and pull the poor creature back into the house. It wanted to do both, but could do neither very well because of the cross-conflict with the other. Such it is with many people. In their minds there is implanted a certain amount of the fear of God. It is really only natural for men and women to fear God, seeing so many things point that way. But the presence of another influence wars continually this principle of godly fear. It is the love of the world, the love of pleasure, wealth, gain, popularity, and praise. Thus we have the double-minded creature much like the unhappy cross-breed dog.

There are many today who are defeated in their purposes of living for God. So often they blame this person or that person and hold conditions and adversities of life responsible. But this is not the real root of their trouble. They are defeated because they have failed to come to the proper place of definite decision. Their heart and eye have never become single. They have not humbled themselves from all pride and vain-glory. God is thus resisting them, and will not bestow upon them His overcoming grace. On the other hand there are those who are triumphant in the midst of gross trials and merciless adversities. It is because their hearts have reached the point of

definite decision. Their hearts are single and every phase of their life comes through this single channel of decision for God and submissiveness to His will. Such a purpose of heart transforms all obstacles and adversities to means of greater joy and benefit. God is real to them, and their lives ever bear the fruit of the Spirit.

An expression from Psalm 27 amply fits this thought. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in His temple." Can you see this man's singleness of heart? Because he was so decided and persuaded, all his enemies and foes had no power or success against him. His confidence and victory rested in the fact that "one thing" he desired of the Lord, and that was to dwell in His house forever.

Let us conclude with this warning. God sufficiently declares to us that the doubleminded will, in the end, find their portion separated from God. God is worthy of nothing less than whole hearted surrender, devotion, and obedience. He will not accept anything else. It incites Him to great displeasure to see mortals that owe Him their all presumptuously giving Him only a part. He knows that the affections of man cannot be truly divided. The affection may secretly incline itself to something. Thus the divided affection or devotion in part is without real ardor and savor. Therefore it is rejected and the presumptuous creature back of such doings will merit eternal destruction from His presence and power. Oh, dear soul, how is it with you? Is your profession of acceptance with God really backed with the singleness of heart we have been talking about? Are you willing for God to search and try you, to see if there be in you any wicked way? You would do well to take diligent heed to this thought, and make sure that you are living in singleness of heart, serving the Lord.

—Leslie Busbee

Manna For Our Day

Manna, as you may know, was very important to the Israelites in the wilderness. It was a very special blessing to them. It filled a very definite need. Do you suppose there would be anything in our day that would compare to that manna in the wilderness?

In order to have a background for our thought, please take the time, right now, to turn in your Bible and read Exodus, chapter 5. Do you notice Israel's suffering because of the hardness in Pharaoh's heart? It seems the more Israel desired to be free, the more difficult life became for them. In our scripture read-

ing, Israel desired to go and worship God. Did you notice the answer to this request? It was a demand that they work harder and still harder. They must make as many brick as before, but do it with less help. There was no sense of justice in Pharaoh's command, was there? Life was miserable! When, oh when, would deliverance from such a taskmaster come?

Finally, through God's mercy, the children of Israel found themselves on their journey, leaving behind the toils, burdens and heartaches of Egypt. The Israelites could see God delivering them, but was Pharaoh satisfied to let this people go? No, he was not. Here was a multitude he had great pleasure in using and abusing. Pharaoh had not succeeded in outsmarting Moses and Aaron. They simply would not be frightened by his threats. Since these devices had failed, he would now use his army to either bodily recapture Israel and bring them again to Egypt or else he would utterly destroy them. Here again, however, God proved his power to deliver completely by coming on the scene—not too early—not too late.

Turn with me now and let us read the 15th chapter of Exodus. Isn't this a wonderful account of how happy Moses and Israel were over the great victory God gave them! Now, they were free! They were singing songs of joy instead of weeping. They were praising God instead of suffering from the burden they carried. They were encouraged because they saw that God loved them.

Do you know, however, that they were gone from Egypt less than two months when another "enemy" camped on their trail? This "enemy" was to be feared. This "enemy" was a killer. Though it could not kill with a sword, it was just as dangerous as Pharaoh and all his army combined. It could just as surely take their life from them. This enemy came invisibly, silently, creeping over the camp. Perhaps this enemy's presence was first noticed in the infant's cry when there wasn't enough of the proper food to satisfy the pangs of hunger. Perhaps the steps of the aged men and women could be seen growing more feeble for lack of food and strength. The heavier loads, the more difficult tasks of the journey, no doubt, rested on the young men, but how could they travel on when even their strength was failing? Meditate a moment about this condition, please. Imagine, if you can, what it might have been like in the camp. The realization of the awful closeness of death brought again a suffering to body and soul. No doubt, only the most necessary duties were accomplished with the least amount of effort in order to conserve their strength. This great company, who by God's help, had come from Egypt through the Red Sea with a marvelous victory over Pharaoh and his army was stopped in its tracks by an invisible "enemy"—starvation!

See God's great power again as we read Exodus, chapter 16. If you will read these scriptures as we go, it will fill in the thought and give more to meditate upon as you go about the duties of life. This scripture tells us that God, in His mercy and love, gave

Israel meat for the evening and manna in the morning. He supplied their needs!

We have had a study here about something that happened to the children of Israel centuries ago. Since we didn't personally know these people and all this is more or less just Bible history, why go to such length to take a look at their lives? Well, it is because you or I or someone we know has possibly had a very similar experience in this present day! Let us see if we can find a comparison here. Perhaps we can come to our main thought.

As we move along, keep in mind Israel's experiences as we reviewed them in the scripture readings. Let us try to find every spiritual application we can that will fortify us against the devil. Have you known of anyone in the bondage of sin suffering more and more from the load that increased almost daily? Did you see the devil using all kind of tricks, threats, reasonings, and discouragements to hinder that soul from accepting deliverance? As that soul would make a break from sin to serve God, have you seen the devil rail on that newborn child of God, trying to recapture him, to overwhelm him? Have you seen that new Christian rejoice greatly over his deliverance? Have you ever known of that same one soon showing signs of weakness, a need of something to sustain him and keep him from being stopped in his journey to Canaan land and to heaven? He would surely gain that strength if he would partake of the "manna" that is provided for our day.

Will you notice with me just when it was that manna was given in the Israelite camp? (Exodus 16: 14, 15.) First, it came every day, didn't it? Second, it came early in the morning. I exhort all Christians, and especially those young people saved in the summer campmeetings, gather this manna for yourself! (See Exodus 16:16.) It is there for you! It possibly will take real effort, but set that alarm clock to awaken you an hour earlier in the morning. If you press for victory over the flesh, victory will come. Remember, your soul is at stake. Gather some manna for the day. Take your Bible and read it. Ask God for a blessing from it. Ask God for grace for the day. He will give you all of these things abundantly. As you read the Word, some simple little phrase that ordinarily would escape your eye will stand out to you. It will bless you with strength. Sometimes for several days after, you can draw food from that special scripture.

Notice again when the manna came—early in the day, when your mind is fresh, before it becomes occupied with the cares of the day. Then the mind is easily impressed. The manna came every day. It could not be saved for another day (only on the Sabbath, under the law, of course). We need special help every day. Eating of this heavenly manna will make the day go well for us. If everything seems to go wrong, there is still an extra supply of grace to keep us in the trials. It is no marvel that it should be this way, for in Psalm 78:20, speaking of manna, we are told that "Man did eat angel's food." Amen.

—Gene Beisly

"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.

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EDITORIALS

With feelings of deep appreciation to our readers, we report that each day's mail brings more of the subscription order blank envelopes with lists of names and addresses for the special three-month subscriptions. Please keep them coming, as it brings pleasure to us and the Lord in anticipation of reaching several thousand new people with the gospel message during the months of January, February, and March of 1968. Write us for more subscription order blank envelopes to fill out with additional names, or type, or write plainly the lists of names on a sheet of paper and mail them in promptly. A premium of your choice will be mailed to you for each list of ten names and addresses. Be a home missionary by participating in this gospel extension effort, and the Lord will bless you abundantly for your labor of love for souls for whom our Savior suffered and died on the cross of Calvary. Send in all the names by December 8, please!

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

A recent letter from Sister Martin Gurka informed us of the passing of her beloved husband, Bro. Martin Gurka, of Canaan, Conn. on June 16, 1967. He was a minister of the gospel and an appreciative reader of this paper. May the Lord comfort and sustain her in her loss.

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Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson of Pacoima, Calif. began a meeting here at the Guthrie chapel on Sunday, Oct. 15. The Lord is richly anointing the preaching of His Word and the hearers are being edified. These special services will continue through Oct. 29, Lord willing, and we urge those in driving distance to attend. You will receive a spiritual feast.

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Sister Opal Kelly has been translating more of our English tracts into Spanish. These are now being printed for the use of our missionaries in Mexico and other Spanish-speaking areas.

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The typesetting is in progress on a new book on "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present." This volume is compiled from material by early Reformation writers and testimonies of definite physical healing over the past 80 years. It would be nearly impossible to use all testimonies of healing in this book, but if you would like to submit your experience of divine healing for consideration, leaving it to us to edit, use or not use at our discretion, it would be appreciated. If possible, please have it typewritten, double spaced, giving date and place of healing, and leaving out unnecessary details. Manuscripts submitted and not used will be returned provided it is requested and return postage is enclosed.

We believe that a book on divine physical healing is timely and would serve a very useful purpose to inspire active living faith in God in these perilous times when the devil, the enemy of truth, is strongly attacking this Bible doctrine. Without faith it is impossible to please God. Jesus, looking forward to His second advent, asked this question: "Neverthe-

less, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" Luke 18:8. Real faith is at a low ebb, and the prayer of Jesus' disciples is in order, "Lord, increase our faith." Faith in God and His Word brings honor and glory to Him. Contrariwise, a lack of faith and trust in Him dishonors God and casts a doubt upon His infinite power and wisdom. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17. "... this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. The shield of living faith in God will deflect all the fiery darts of the enemy in this spiritual warfare, and enable one to move forward to final and complete victory.

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Bro. and Sister Louie Marler, R. 1, Senath, Mo. 63876 are secretary-treasurers of the National Missionary Fund which supports the evangelistic tent project as well as the home missionaries and evangelists. This fund should be supported regularly to advance the evangelistic work in new fields in our own country. Please send your free-will offerings, made in favor of "Church of God National Missionary Fund," directly to Bro. Marler for these purposes.

The Missionary Fund maintained at this office is used principally to support the foreign missionary work in Mexico, Africa and India. However, we will relay funds from our readers to any mission work that they may designate. From our contacts we are kept fairly well informed on the needs of the work of God in general. Marie Miles is secretary of this Fund, and offerings may be sent to her in care of the Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

Bro. Ralph M. Beisly, 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas 67337 is general manager and treasurer of the National Campground at Neosho, (Monark Springs), Missouri. Your free-will offerings for the upkeep of the grounds, buildings and the annual campmeeting should be sent directly to him.

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

No more letters have been received from any of the 20 mission stations in Nigeria since the one, dated Aug. 18, printed in the October issue. We trust the Lord is answering prayer, and protecting and supplying the needs of His people in that country which is torn by civil war. The newspapers report that the central government is moving forward on all fronts to regain control of the rebel Eastern region. Let us continue to pray for the protection of the church in Nigeria, and for the restoration of peace in that needy mission field.

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The workers here at the Lord's Printshop are working harmoniously, and keeping very busy reprinting tracts and books to fill the many orders for gospel literature coming in from all directions. The Lord is truly working with His Word and making the literature a blessing to many precious souls, and our aim is to bend every effort and use every means available to increase the quantity of printed pages and reach every soul possible with the gospel invi-

tation. TIME IS SO SHORT, and the moral and spiritual conditions even in this country are fast closing the doors against the pure gospel. Only what is done for Christ and souls will last, and it must be done NOW! Delay will mean eternal death to many. Our delight is to be in the Lord's service, and we appreciate those who are so faithfully praying and co-operating with us in getting the soul-saving gospel of Christ to this perishing world. —L. D. Pruitt



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OBITUARIES

Sister Lillie Bell Ivory Hood was born in Pickens, Alabama on Jan. 12, 1885, and departed this life at Oklahoma City on Sept. 21, 1967 at the age of 82 years, nine months, and nine days.

She moved to Oklahoma City in 1952. In 1898, at the age of thirteen years, she embraced salvation through Christ, and worshipped with the congregation of the Church of God at 3rd and Phillips, Okla. City.

On March 27, 1904 she was united in marriage to George Hood. To this union five children were born. Her husband and three children preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn two daughters, Mrs. Levonia Cook, Carrolton, Ala., and Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins of the home; 15 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren; two sisters, Mrs. Della Harris, Spencer, Okla., and Mrs. Rosie Genter, Okla. City, a host of relatives, saints and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Herman Kelley, assisted by others. Interment was at Trice Hill Cemetery.

Lelia E. Vunck, widow of Manning P. Vunck, passed from this life to be with her blessed Savior on Sept. 8, 1967.

Sister Vunck loved the plain truths of God's word. She believed in trusting God for both soul and body. The little group in Richmond, Va. are very sad at her passing and miss her greatly.

She is survived by three sons, Alfred L., Wesley M., and Charles T. Vunck; three daughters, Mrs. Evelyn L. Westrup, Mrs. Gladys M. Robertson, Mrs. Lois E. Walton; 10 grandchildren, other relatives, friends and saints.

Nancy Florissa (Peck) McMurrin was born August 17, 1883 near Valparaiso, Indiana and departed this life September 15, 1967 in Harrison, Arkansas at the age of 84 years and 29 days. She was the daughter of Zalmon and Betsy (Curtis) Peck.

When four years of age, she moved with her parents to Nebraska, in which state she resided until 1941 (with the exception of about a year on the West Coast), when she moved to Arkansas, where she resided until her death.

She was united in marriage to James McMurrin on May 9, 1906. To this union two sons were born: Samuel, who died in infancy, and James Irvin of Saint Joe, Ark., who survives. Her husband, five brothers, and one sister preceded her in death. Three grandsons: Alvin, Donny, and David, and one brother, Zalmon C. Peck of Central City, Nebraska, also survive. She also leaves to mourn her passing numerous nieces and nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

She professed faith in Christ as a young woman, and was a member of the Church of God.

Funeral services were conducted at St. Joe, Arkansas by Kenneth Smith, with interment in the Love Cemetery.

SAMONS FAMILY IN NEW FIELD

Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers: We greet you in Jesus' dear name. This leaves us still saved with a desire to press on for the Lord. We are much encouraged to labor on for our dear Savior. We trust all are well there and that the Lord is blessing the work at the print shop.

I guess you already know about us moving to Junction City, Ky. . . . The Lord made it so plain that we had to move in order to please Him. That's always been our desire—to please Him. We got moved last Saturday, Oct. 7. It was quite a job to move. Of course, we had the devil to contend with. We had trouble with the gospel truck which we were using to move, as it was still here. As I was going back after the last load, the motor went out. One of the rods came out of the side of the motor. Bro. Wilson came and pulled it back in. It will have to have a new motor.

The old meeting house here, which we leased for five years, needs quite a bit of work done on it before we can use it for worship, . . . and there are not many to help. But there are some precious saints here. They

seem so hungry to know more about the truth. It is wonderful to work with people who are hungry. . . . There have been between 20 and 30 out to almost every service since the tent meeting. . . . This is a very needy field and we are thankful to have a congregation of saints in Kentucky. . . .

We would appreciate all the help we can get down here. We especially need the prayers of all the saints, and would like for any of them to come and see us in Kentucky. Our new address is: Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons, General Delivery, Junction City, Ky. 40440
Phone (606) 854-3811

FRESNO, CALIF. CAMPMEETING REPORT

The Fresno, Calif. campmeeting has come and gone, and we wish to report some of the blessings received from the dear Lord. Surely God blessed us with a glorious meeting, supplying every need, both spiritually and temporally.

The Word of God went forth with great anointing. Little children, teen-agers, and grown-ups melted under the Spirit and pleaded God's mercy. Twenty souls professed salvation and many others sought help at the altar of prayer. Praise the dear Lord! Sixteen were baptized, and this was a very precious service.

We truly thank God and do appreciate the dear saints and workers whom He sent here with burdens on their hearts and who labored so faithfully in prayer and supplication, and kept prayer going continually between services. The results were felt in the meetings. We are rejoicing with victory in our souls and thanksgiving in our hearts to God for the blessed meeting and the souls He gave us.

—Bro. E. J. Trotter, Pastor

COFFEYVILLE, KANSAS MEETING REPORT

Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints abroad: Greetings and love in Jesus' name; the only name whereby we can receive richly all things from the hand of God. "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification and redemption." 1 Cor. 1:30.

Our revival meeting here in Coffeyville, Kansas was profitable and yielded a rich harvest. Souls were saved from the very first day even to the last. Many received help at the altar of prayer and the saints in general were edified and richly blessed. The Word of God went forth under the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit, sending conviction to many.

We were thankful to God for sending Bro. Curtis Williams our way to preach the Word.

On the last Sunday six souls were buried in baptism to rise to walk in newness of life. Surely the mighty God has spoken and richly rewarded us once again.

Pray for us and with us that the work of God may prosper in the world.

Your Brother in the Master's service, —Donald Sharp

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Dear Saints, greetings to you in the name of our blessed Lord. We are happy to report victory over sin and a desire to rescue others from that awful pit.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude to God and His people for making it possible for me to own a 1968 Dodge Dart. We owe \$2,063.52 on it and our monthly payments are \$57.32. We see the great hand of God in helping to get these low payments.

Even though our burden is centered around the youth of today, we enjoy visiting isolated and sick saints. We desire your prayers that we prove worthy of all these wonderful blessings.

—Sister Annie Bell Allen

1072 N. Norfolk, Tulsa, Okla. 74106

(Editorial note: Sister Allen uses her time and talents in conducting young people's services and vacation Bible schools among the congregations of the Church of God. She is worthy of your support. As the Lord leads you, please send your love offerings directly to her to help meet these monthly payments.)

THANKS FOR YOUR KINDNESS

Dear Saints of God: Bro. and Sister W. W. Crawley of Okemah, Okla. want to thank each and every one who came out to our home to observe our 68th wedding anniversary on the 26th day of this last August. We want you to know we appreciated your wonderful gifts. Above all, however, I thank God for salvation. I united with the saints of God in Boley, Okla. in 1911 when Bro. Henry Robinson and Bro. George Winn were living. Ever since I got saved I have been going to the campmeeting. I only missed two campmeetings in Boley. I am now 92 years old and my wife is 88. We both are still saved and encouraged to fight the battle on. I am not tired of the way.

I can see very little. We are the parents of thirteen children, a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Some of the children were here for our anniversary.

We are happy to have our oldest daughter, Callie, at home with us. She lives with us and takes us to meeting and anywhere we want to go.

Pray for us that we may hold out faithful to the end.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ, —W. W. Crawley
Rt. 4, Box 104, Okemah, Oklahoma

FUNDS FOR NATIONAL CAMPGROUND

At the business meeting of the recent National campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo. plans were laid to raise funds to purchase additional ground adjoining the present campground provided it can be bought at a fair price.

In order to raise funds to purchase the land, the Campground Board offers to sell lots to the Church members on a 99-year lease basis on the proposed additional ground at \$100 each. The choice of the locations of the lots, etc. on the proposed land will be granted in the order that the money is received, so please get your order and money to the secretary at once. This offer is extended to Jan. 1st. All money received will be deposited in a savings account drawing interest until such time that enough is available to purchase the land. In the event the trustees are unable to buy the proposed additional land, the money will be returned to the sender with the interest it has earned.

So far (Oct. 20) the response has been good on this offer, but many more orders are needed to have sufficient to purchase the land. Time is running out, so everyone who is interested should get his order in at once. The target date is extended to Jan. 1st. Please don't let this very worthy project fail!

Make all checks payable to The Church of God and send directly to the secretary, Bro. Bob Stover, 6304 S. 97th West Avenue, Tulsa, Okla. 74131.

—Editor.

SCRIPTURE TEXT CHRISTMAS CARDS—Box of 20 for \$1.00, postpaid. ORDER EARLY!

JEFFERSON, ORE. ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Assembly Meeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon will be held, the Lord willing, from November 3 to 12, 1967, inclusive. This meeting will be run on the free-will offering plan as usual. Cabins and bedding are also furnished.

For further information, write Sister Hilda Nielsen, P. O. Box 34, Jefferson, Ore. 97352, or Sister Beatrice Spaur, Pastor, P. O. Box 368, Jefferson, Oregon 97352. Phone 327-2855. —Sister Beatrice Spaur

HAMMOND, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual autumn Assembly meeting of the Church of God at Hammond, La. will be held, the Lord willing, from November 19 to 26, inclusive.

Sleeping quarters and meals will be furnished on the free-will offering plan as usual.

We had a wonderful meeting last year, with a number of visiting ministers and saints in attendance. We are looking to the Lord for another refreshing shower of spiritual blessings this year. We are expecting the Lord to send in ministers of His choosing to bring us messages of truth without fear or compromise. Pray for this meeting, and come if you possibly can!

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

LOS ANGELES REVIVAL MEETING

Lord willing, the Los Angeles, Calif. annual revival will convene Nov. 24 and will end Dec. 2, 1967. We are expecting the Lord to bless us as usual. We cordially invite everyone to attend and also solicit your prayers. For further information, contact Bro. I. C. Chandler, 415 11th St., Bakersfield, Calif., phone FA 5-6752, area code 805, or Bro. T. R. Summers, 207 E. 76th Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. PL 8-8319 area code 213.

OKLAHOMA CITY FALL MEETING

The Church of God annual fall meeting at 3rd and Phillips, in Oklahoma City will be held from Nov. 17 to 26, Lord willing. We are praying for God to send ministers and workers of His choosing. A welcome is extended to all.

For further information, contact Bro. Herman Kelley, Pastor, or Sister Mary Harris, Secretary.

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT NEOSHO, MO.

On the fourth Sunday of each month, beginning Oct. 22, there will be all-day services in Neosho, Mo. at the Church of God chapel which is located in the south-east part of the city on Freeman Road, just south of the U. S. Fish Hatchery.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services. For further information, contact Bro. T. V. McMillian, Rt. 5, Box 29, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT GREEN PASTURES

The saints at Green Pastures, Oklahoma will have all-day services Sunday, October 29 and extend to all lovers of the truth a hearty invitation to come and let us worship the Lord together. The chapel is located on Westminster Avenue.

5TH SUNDAY SERVICES AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

On the fifth Sunday, Oct. 29, all-day services are scheduled in Springfield, Missouri at the Church of God chapel, 718 N. Kansas St.

The congregation welcomes you. Come and let us worship the Lord together in spirit and in truth.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee, Pastor

Prayer Requests

Calif.—Remember our dear precious Sister Mabel Doolittle of Kernville, Calif. who is courageously trusting the Lord for her healing. It is a miracle that she is still with us. She is able to take very little nourishment and her breathing is hard and fast.

Mo.—Our dear Mother Bessie Sorrell, Myrtle, Mo. is still looking to the Lord daily for strength and help.

La.—Sister Lillie Miller still needs prayer. She loves the Lord.

Okla.—“Husband is in the hospital and not saved.” He is up in years. —Sister Ben Harrison

Ohio.—“Wife is about the same, some gains, but suffers much at night.” —V. Yantis.

Wis.—Sister Klatt has high blood pressure.

Ill.—Infection in ears. —Sis. Laura Nicholson.

Mo.—Sis. Zella Dollins has some afflictions upon her body and some heavy burdens.

Calif.—Sister Loretta Miles desires prayer for healing of her afflictions. Late word is that she has lost her husband. Pray that God will comfort her in this loss.

W. Va.—Diabetes, arthritis. “I know He can, and I feel it is His will to heal me.” —Bertha Roberts.

Miss.—Dear Sister Dorothy Bridges needs a well body in order to care for her mother.

Okla.—“My sister is not well.” —Sis. Nancy Jones

La.—“Pray earnestly for us. Husband is not doing well.” —Sister J. E. Mitchell

Ind.—My son and grandson need to be saved. Having trouble. —Mrs. M. H.

Kentucky—Stomach trouble.—Sister Montress.

Tenn.—Desires for himself and his wife to be saved. —Mr. R. L. G.

Calif.—“Pray for my wife who had a stroke, also for me.” —McKinley Eddens

Miss.—“I trust the Lord for both soul and body. I am 68. I have not been to a doctor, but believe I have cancer.” —Jessie Lean

Ill.—Arthritis and other ailments. —M. A. L.

Ohio.—“I have heart trouble and had a light stroke last April. Need your prayers that I may be healed.” —Mrs. Ida M. Hartley

Pa.—“Grandson has epilepsy. Pray for my family's salvation.” —Sister Eva Cox

Ark.—Eyesight. “I have been healed many times.” —Mrs. H. H. Null

Calif.—“Remember my daughter, Twilla, in prayer. She has some kind of allergy and her face, throat, and nose are swollen. She believes God can heal her.” —Ruby Miles.

Texas.—“I need prayer for my body. Sister Lambright's boy is real sick with his throat. Remember the work of the Lord here.” —Sister V. Ellis.

Mo.—“Our daughter Emily has infectious hepatitis.” They have some serious problems. —Austin McMillian.

Okla.—Dear Sister Ruby Stover had a heart attack and is still very weak in body.

Ala.—“Serious throat condition. I believe prayer will help me now.” —Elizabeth Mickens

Ark.—“Pray that my son will stop drinking and that no harm will come to him.” —D. Reaves

W. Va.—“Have some serious problems in the home.” —B. Lawrence.

There is power in the blood of Jesus for the saving of the soul and also for the healing of the body. Blood came forth from our precious Savior's body when he was beaten and the Word says, “by His stripes we are healed.” There is nothing that can withstand the power of the blood. When God puts His power against any affliction, it has to go. The other day I was meditating on the scripture, “For it is God which worketh in you.” Phil. 2:13. When we are sick, we need the healing power of God to work in us. How precious to know God has healing power for us!

I have had a battle with a nervous condition. One night I had a violent chill which lasted over an hour, but God came to my rescue. The next night I had another, and that week I had five of them, each not so severe. This seemed like a complete nervous break, and the devil tried to make me think I was through and could never be of any use again for God. Of course, the devil is a liar and it is his business to try to destroy our faith and confidence in the Lord. When one is weak, he works the hardest, and many times tries to make one think he will never be well. We must not listen to him, but take a stand against him. God wonderfully touched my body. He heard prayer, and three days after the last nervous attack I was able to do some typing on material for “The Beautiful Way” paper. Praise the Lord, from whom all blessings flow! I didn't even think of calling a doctor, but called upon the Lord, and the saints also looked to God for me. I appreciate every prayer that has been prayed for me. I am expecting complete healing through the power of the blood of Jesus and God who is working in me. Thank the Lord! I want to continue to give my time and talents in the service of the Lord, though there is very little I can do. Jesus has given His all for me, and I want to give Him my all. Continue to pray for me.

—Sister Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Sept. 25)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: We once again send our Christian greetings to all our fellow brethren in America in the precious name of our Lord.

Thank you for your good letter dated Sept. 6. Thank you for the contents and the help. God is blessing our efforts and helping us mightily. We are very much encouraged to see that some more are interested in the message of the Church of God and they are regularly contacting me to learn more about the “evening light truth.”

My eldest son is touched by God. We are praying for him. Some time ago, at midnight while all were asleep, I heard a groaning. My wife and I went to his room, and he was crying that he was just going to pass away. He was fainting and his pulse was going very slowly. I said, “Never lose heart, but be bold and trust in the Lord.” My other children and we parents knelt down by his side and prayed with earnest appeal to the Lord. After prayer, I looked at him and found him very weak, but he had fallen asleep. We all thanked God for His wonderful healing.

Again, my daughter had an attack of a very high fever. She had to sit for her examination in the college next day. She was so bad that my wife came and told me that Daughter was so sick that she might not be able to go. My wife wanted me to pray for her that she might

be healed. I went to her. She had a very high temperature. I laid my hand on her head and beseeched the Lord to be good enough to rebuke the fever and heal her just as the Lord healed Peter's mother-in-law so that she may instantaneously get up and serve as Peter's mother-in-law did. I entreated the Lord and then thanked Him for hearing our petition. Just after I came out of her room, I found she also got up from her bed and came to the kitchen, asking for something to drink. I felt her brow and found the fever had completely left her. She said she was all right. Praise the Lord! Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

Thank you for the beautiful and valuable book, “Cleansing of the Sanctuary.” I am absorbed in reading it. It is very good with rich thoughts. Yes, I am distributing the rolls of papers coming to me addressed to Bro. Carver.

It is our burden for workers. But God only must provide. I am always praying God to show me His choice. May He show me His choice is my prayer.

We are praying for our Nigerian brethren. The devil is creating political upheavals and chaos. May God preserve and protect His own. Psalm 91 is our sure promise.

We are praying for you and the work carried on by all of you. Kindly remember us in your prayers that God will lift us and help us to discharge our duties of helping save precious souls from the chains of sin and Satan.

Yours in the Master's service, —C. M. Verghese

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Illinois—Dear Sister Miles and all the workers at the print shop: I want to thank you for your prayers. My daughter called you saints at the shop a few days ago for prayer for me, as I was very sick. I thank God for answering prayer in my behalf. I give God all the glory. I want you to keep praying for me. I am having trouble with my ears; they pain me sometimes. It may be internal infection but I know God is on His throne and will fulfill every promise He has made. I am glad my trust is in God. Pray that I may grow stronger day by day in the grace of God. Pray for my children that they will be saved.

I am sending you a little offering. I know it will be used for the glory of God.

Your Sister, —Laura Nicholson

Mo.—Dear Saints at the Printshop and abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus!

It has been some time since we have sent in our testimony. We have had a busy summer in the work of the Lord. A number of souls have been contacted and we leave the results in the hands of God.

We don't feel well in body at times, but we can say as Paul, “Though the outward man perish, the inward man is renewed day by day.” 2 Cor. 4:16. We are much encouraged to fight the good fight of faith unto the end by His grace. The Lord has been so good to us. We never can praise Him enough. It seems we do so little, and He does so much for us. We are thankful to God for dealing and leading us to the family of God, the Church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. We do appreciate all the dear saints and their co-operation in the work of the Lord.

We have a special burden on our hearts at this time and would appreciate an agreement of prayer from all

the dear saints. Paul says, "Ye are helpers together with me in your prayers." 2 Cor. 1:11.

Saints, let us keep our eyes upon the goal, heaven, not turning to the right nor to the left. There are some falling by the wayside, but we must look unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. Greater is He that is within you than He that is in the world. Let us each one be faithful, fight the good fight of faith, then we can say as Paul said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day." 2 Tim. 2:7, 8.

Yours in His service, —Murphy and Natalie Allen

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South Carolina—Our dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers, greetings in Jesus' name: I am so thankful to know that we are serving a God that sticketh closer than a brother. I am glad to report that I am still trusting the Lord since the passing of my dear companion. I have been so lonely that I could hardly stand it, and I am spiritually hungry to be with the saints in service. I have no companion to pray with me and no one to read to, but I am glad that I can pray for myself and know that the Lord is near.

Pray for me that the Lord will strengthen me in spirit and in body.

—Sister J. D. Winter

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Oklahoma—Greetings of love to the dear saints everywhere: Often at the end of our prayer we tell the Lord that we will be careful to give Him all the praise. That is what I shall try to do at this time.

Words seem so inadequate to try to express our thanksgiving to God and His people for all that has been done for me. Everyone has been very good. Please accept this note as a personal thanks to each one for your prayers, letters, cards, flowers, kind words and deeds, errands to town and back, sewing, telephone calls, visits, tape recordings, and all the other things too numerous to mention. I feel little and unworthy. I pray that when I am able I will be just as faithful to others' needs.

My husband, Ralph, was off work for a month recently and Jody and I did enjoy being with him very much. He is gone from home a great deal. When I was able, he took us for little rides in the car now and then, which I enjoyed very much.

For the past two years Jody has had a problem in school which grieved her very much. We prayed earnestly about it this school term, and are happy to say that the Lord has wonderfully blessed and she is happy in school now. We thank the dear Lord daily for it.

Ralph started after the first load of apples from Missouri this year and the old truck wasn't running right at all. It sounded like a burned out valve, he said. I felt like praying. When he returned home he said he had taken it to the garage. They took the cover off and poured in a little oil and it ran just fine. He has now made the second trip of 1,200 miles without any trouble. Praise the dear Lord!

It has been very difficult to find a dress pattern for Jody, who has a weight problem. We tried all summer and couldn't find one suitable that fit. Then my sister-in-law bought one and gave it to me and we are thankful that it fits and can be used over and over again with minor changes.

Our cousin called when hurricane Beulah was headed for Brownsville, Texas, and said her parents and aunt who had been visiting her were unable to leave. All train, bus, and air transportation was stopped. She was praying and I joined her in prayer for them. Her parents are not well in body. Later her father called from 200 miles

this side of Brownsville and said that at 5 o'clock that afternoon the eye of the storm stopped moving and the weather calmed enough that they let one bus leave out on the only open highway (and it was covered with two inches of water) and they were on that bus. I said, "Tillie, that was a direct answer to prayer." She said, "Jessie, a lot of people wouldn't believe that, but we do."

There are many other things I could tell to the glory of God but space will not permit. I am thankful that I feel as well as I do. The dear Lord is still with me and I am expecting complete healing. I would like to request prayer for weakness in my body. I am not able to walk very well and I have shortness of breath. I dare not over-exert. It seems I can hardly live when I do.

Last night I woke up with this thought on my mind, "There is nothing too hard for Thee." Many times it comes to my mind that "the furnace is not heated seven times hotter to destroy, but to refine." I am willing for the Lord to do the refining, for I surely want to make heaven my home at any cost.

I send my love and appreciation to each dear one and pray God to bless you for all your efforts in my behalf. Let us all be of good courage, be of good cheer and fight the good fight of faith till time to go Home.

—Jessie Taylor

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La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, co-workers and saints everywhere, greetings of love to one and all:

Sister Lillie Miller of Bogalusa, La. asked me to write and thank all for their prayers and the many letters and beautiful cards. She would like to personally answer each one, but is not able at this time as her eyes water and hurt when she tries to read or write.

Some weeks ago, Wife and I visited her on a Sunday afternoon, and she showed us a growth in her mouth on her upper gum. She had been hemorrhaging from this place, off and on, for several days and had lost quite a bit of blood. This growth was about as large as the end of a finger. We had prayer with her and came to Hammond. After service that night we received a phone call from Sister Miller's daughter saying it looked as though her mother would not last through the night. She asked us to come and pray for her mother, so Wife and I and Sister Dora Doolittle went back up there. When we arrived we found the growth in her mouth had grown until it almost filled her mouth. It was hard to believe that it could have grown that much since we had seen it that afternoon. We prayed several times and were sitting, waiting on the Lord. She requested that we pray again that the Lord do something about the growth, as she could only breathe through her mouth and it was fast filling up with this growth. I knew something had to be done or she would choke to death before morning. We called upon God in earnest agreement of prayer that He would please do something for her, to deliver her in some way. About five or ten minutes after prayer, Sister Miller said, "Praise the Lord!" and spit the growth out of her mouth. Praise the Lord! We saw a miracle performed that night, and know of a surety that the Lord's power is still the same.

Please continue to pray for her. She still needs help from the Lord, but is praising God for what He has done. Her nose and right eye are giving her quite a bit of trouble yet. She is staying with one of her daughters, and all who desire to write or send cards of encouragement, may do so to this address: Mrs. Lillie Miller, 911 Ave. G, Bogalusa, La. 70427.

—Bro. T. H. Coffey

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SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFER:—

TEN NAMES FOR THREE MONTHS FOR \$1.00.

Oregon—Dear Sister Marie and all the workers at the Printshop, Greetings of love to you in the precious name of Jesus. I also greet all the saints scattered abroad, and the world, especially those who do not believe there is a God, or that He is dead. I feel like testifying to the glory of God and to encourage the saints; and I want to let the world know that there is a God today, an Almighty God who is very much alive. His ears are open to the cries of his trusting children. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Heb. 11:6. He is one that can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities. Heb. 4:15. He is able to take care of that which we commit unto him. 2 Tim. 1:12.

First, and above everything else, I want to praise our God for full salvation, for I feel that when God saved me, cleansed me, and set me free (for I was in bondage to sin), that was the greatest miracle that I have ever experienced in my life.¹ I have been trusting God for fifty-one years and have experienced many miracles, but will only tell of the latest one here. As you read this, I trust you will keep your eye on God who can do wonderful things for His trusting children; not only can do, but does do, even more than we can ask or think. To tell this so you can see what God has done for me lately, I must go back thirty-seven years. My husband and I were farmers, farming with a tractor. One morning I was helping him load a barrel of gas on a two-wheel trailer. We had the trailer tipped up. I was holding the tongue up and was to pull down on it when my husband got the barrel of gas part² way into the trailer. That way we could get it loaded without much lifting. When he said, Ready, I pulled down but the barrel slipped off and the trailer tongue came down with its weight and my strength, also, and hit me in the stomach and skinned my right side down to my ankle. It was a miracle that no bones were broken. From then on my stomach began to enlarge and I have had a large stomach ever since.

About 1940 I had a sick spell. My neighbor was a nurse, and when I told her how I was feeling she said I had a tumor. We did what a child of God naturally does—started fasting and praying. I have been anointed and prayed for by ministers and saints, but God, for some reason known ^{only} to himself, didn't heal me. He would give relief, however. The last few years I have had a dull pain in my right side. It was not bad except at times. When I would pray, God would give me relief in just a few hours. This time it was different. I was to be tested, I realized later. I found that God had taken His hand of protection from around me, and I was just as helpless as a rag doll in a windstorm within myself. For three days I was just that helpless. I was like Job as recorded in Job 23:8-12. I couldn't seem to reach God. I see now that He had withdrawn himself for a season that I might, like Job, be tried. Saints, we are each one going to be tested sooner or later. Heaven is a holy place, as the song says, and no impurity will get in there. Therefore we must go through the fiery furnace of testing as the Word says in Zech. 13:9. We are God's people and we say the Lord is our God, and the only way we can be tried and tested is for God to withdraw his protection from us and let the devil at us to see if we will hold our integrity with God or give in and turn to the aid of men. We have the same devil to fight that Job did. He is still going about as a roaring lion, seeking to afflict and trouble God's children, trying to make them give up their trust in God. God and the devil must have had a talk about me something like this—the devil said to God, Every time I afflict her, you stop me, but if you take your hand of protection away, I will make her suffer until she will seek relief some other way besides you. God

said, Go ahead; afflict her, but spare her life. So on September 6, 1967, I started feeling the pain in my side getting stronger. I called the saints here for prayer. I didn't get any better; rather worse. On the 7th three of the saints came to see me. They anointed me and prayed for me. The pain eased some, enough that I rested some that night. On Friday, the 8th, it got worse. The pains were so bad that it made me sick at my stomach and I had vomiting spells. After one of these spells my heart started beating very fast and hard. For about thirty minutes I was choking for breath, then I began to breathe easier. My heart was still beating so fast that I could not count the beats. I lay down and was quiet. All this time it seemed my prayers didn't go above my head. It seemed the Lord had hidden himself from me. But I kept calling on him. The pain kept getting worse all the time.

All day Friday and Saturday, the saints would come in and pray for me, but no relief came. Saturday, Sept. 9, 1967, about seven o'clock, several sisters came and found me writhing in severe pain. They prayed but I steadily got worse. Two sisters sat by my bed and the rest were in the living room. I am sure they were praying with us. I was talking to God all the time but it seemed He wasn't listening. I was suffering so intensely that I couldn't think of any one promise in the Bible, so I told the Lord, I am standing on them all. I don't know how much later it was, for time had ceased for me, I told the Lord I couldn't stand much more. I guess I must have spoken out loud, for one of the sisters said, "He will not let you suffer more than you can bear." Later, I do not know how much, I heard one of the sisters say, "She is passing through the crisis; it won't be long now." I seemed to hear a voice say, Turn on your right side, which I hadn't been able to do for some time as it seemed to make the pain worse. But I turned on my right side anyway. A stabbing pain, almost unbearable, went through my body. I turned back on my left side, but right away that voice said, Turn on your right side. I did, and instantly the pain left. Praise our God! He only let the devil go so far. When God said it was enough, the devil had to take his pain and leave, praise God. I am glad He is all-powerful! It was such a relief that I just lay there for awhile, not moving a muscle. Such peace and calm all at once! The illustration came to me that it was like cutting a tight string with a pair of scissors; the pain left that quickly. I said to the sisters, The pain is gone. Needless to say, we all thanked God, and will never get through thanking him for his goodness to his trusting children.

My testimony is not finished yet. As in Job's case, the devil was not through yet. He afflicted me the next day with a high fever. But all the saints here and elsewhere were agreeing with me in prayer. And, as the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man, it availed much. God heard, answered, and stopped the fever. Praise God! But the devil came again with hemorrhaging. God put the devil to flight again.

It has been four weeks since God stopped that pain instantly. The suffering left me weak in body, but much stronger in my trust in God, for which I praise God. I find we can't trust God too much, but we surely can trust Him too little.

While I was so weak with the fever, some of my friends (I thought they were good friends but they turned out to be Bildads) pointed accusing fingers at me, saying I had let down in my faith and therefore these afflictions came upon me. This grieved me much for I knew I had not, and the dear Lord knew I had not. To encourage me he gave me this, "I will be with you in the sixth trouble, and in the seventh, no evil shall befall you." Saints, it

was like a big friendly hand offered me, and believe me, I took a firm grip on that hand right there. Let the "Bildads" and their friends say what they will, I have a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. His name is Christ. Oh, how I love Him today!

For several years I have been so afflicted in my back and legs that I could not stand very long at a time. I had to sit down to do my ironing. This week is the first time I did my ironing since being sick, and praise God, I stood up to do all my ironing without an ache or pain in my legs or back. I tell you folks, our God is not dead! He is very much alive, and doing things for those who trust in Him. It takes a death-bed consecration on our part. We must live by it every day so we will have it when the testing time comes, for at that time we may be in such pain we can't think. It behooves us to make our peace calling and election sure while we can do business with God with a clear mind. I pray God will bless this testimony to the encouraging of His trusting children that they will renew their determination to trust God, live or die. I also trust it will inspire some souls who have been in doubt about God's existence and His power and turn their eyes on Jesus who is the author and finisher of this faith.

Dear souls, don't let anyone deceive you by trying to make you believe that the day of miracles is past, for that is not true. I know for myself. The Word says, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." 1 Pet. 2:24. When was the atonement made for our healing? When Jesus received those stripes in Pilate's hall. He had flesh and blood, the same as you and I do. And when those lashes were applied, His back bled and He suffered from that cruel whip they lashed him with. That is our atonement for healing—by His stripes we are healed.

I do want to thank all the saints who had a part in the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man for me. And I do thank the precious sisters who ministered so faithfully to me. Most of all, I praise God for his goodness and love shown me in my testing time. I am well pleased with his dealings with me. He always knows what is best. There is a reason why He didn't take me home to be with Him. It could be there is some dross yet in me that I don't know about. If so, I will be called to go through some more testing and my work on earth is not yet done. Pray for me that I walk humbly before God the rest of my stay here and always be ready when He calls me. I want to be able to say like John, in Rev. 22:20, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." May the dear Lord reveal Himself to everyone who reads this is my prayer.

God's trusting child, —Sister Dolly Locker

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

Kentucky—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Marie, and all: We send greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. We are greatly encouraged in the Lord and feel a greater determination to press on to the prize that lies before us and the crown that awaits all of God's faithful over at the end of life's journey.

Words cannot express the joy of having good health again. Surely the Lord has been good to us in every way. Praise His holy name! We feel the Lord would have us give our testimony of the miraculous healing the Lord performed on me this year at the National campmeeting, Neosho, Mo.

For about one and a half years I had been afflicted with severe trouble in my right lung. The trouble started with pneumonia fever and then a backset. Then trouble developed in my right lung, which brought much suffering. After a few months' time, I got some better and moved

out too soon in preaching and started having trouble again. Some days I would think I was gaining ground and other days it seemed I would lose more ground than what I had gained before. For several months I had to quit taking a shower altogether because the steam and heavy moisture would cause much suffering in my lung. I had to be very careful when bathing or I would take cold and be in danger of taking pneumonia again. When the weather would change from dry to wet, damp weather, I would suffer much and would have to stay inside, hoping for the sunshine to come out and bring dry weather again, which was the one thing that was a big help to me during my illness, and brought relief to my lungs.

My right lung felt like it had a place eaten out of it as big as a child's hand. The odor of my breath, at times, was almost unbearable to my companion. What the trouble was I am not sure, but the God whom we serve continually and fully trust for our healing without the aid of medicine, was with us and furnished us grace and kept us encouraged at all times. Praise His holy name forever!

The last bad seige I had was when I took a trip back East. On returning to my home in Kentucky, I took what we believe was pneumonia again. This time both of my lungs and my chest caused me much pain, and for some time I was confined to bed. During my illness we were advised by some to turn to medical aid for help. Some criticized us for trusting God without the aid of medicine. We sought the Lord in prayer that He would give us some words of encouragement. I opened my Bible to Psalm 9:10 and read, "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee." These words of scripture gave us the encouragement we needed, and a greater determination to trust God fully and completely for complete healing without the aid of medical help.

Just before the National Campmeeting this summer, Brother and Sister Bob Forbes and family came to be with us for a few days and helped us prepare for campmeeting so my family and I could go to the meeting together. Bro. Forbes helped with the driving. We made the trip fairly well, but suffered quite a bit the first few days of the meeting. We went to the meeting with the expectation of receiving healing to the glory of God.

On Monday, about noon, three brother ministers, in whom we have perfect confidence, said they felt the time had come when God wanted to heal me for His glory. We went to one of the brother's cabin and had a good season of prayer together. We felt the mighty presence of the Lord during prayer. After prayer and words of encouragement from the Scriptures, the brethren anointed me with oil according to James 5:14-16 and laid on hands together in agreement of prayer. The Holy Ghost anointed for the prayer of faith to be prayed, and I felt the power of God go through my body from the top of my head to the tip of my toes. The more I would praise God and testify of my healing, the more the Lord blessed until I was running, leaping, and praising God over the campground. I felt the power of God so strong that I felt I could not be still. Praise God for His great love and mercy which He has so wonderfully bestowed upon us!

After God healed me, the devil tried to bring symptoms and everything he could to make me doubt what God had done for me, but what God had done was so real I could not doubt it. The symptoms left and I have been enjoying perfect health ever since.

We are now (Oct. 5, 1967) in a Holy Ghost revival at Coffeyville, Kansas where the Lord is wonderfully working. A number have been saved so far, and several have

put in for spiritual help. We are expecting greater things even yet in the meeting from the Lord.

We want to thank all the saints of God for their prayers and kindness shown to us during our past illness.

Pray earnestly for us that we may prove our love sincere to God and His cause and make heaven our home.

—Curtis and Burnice Williams and family,
Clearfield, Ky. 40313

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

Calif.—To all saints everywhere: I am saved, dear ones, and encouraged to live pure and clean that the Lord can use me to his glory. There is nothing better than living true to God and man. I need your prayers, and I am praying for you.

My request is that the Lord would deliver my oldest grandson from a mental hospital in Georgia. He has been in this condition since May, 1965. He was taken on a ship in the Navy at Newport, Va. and from there was sent to Philadelphia, Pa. and from there to Augusta, Ga. His mind is clearing up some, and our Lord can make him completely whole. He always desired to be a Christian. Please pray for him with me.

Yours in the one body, —E. B. McNair

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

Illinois—Dear Sister Miles: I would have written sooner, but I thought someone else had written to tell you I was healed last Tuesday morning, Sept. 12. Thank all of you much for your prayers and fasting. You asked the Lord to do something definite for me and He surely did.

My trouble started with a bladder infection, with frequent and painful elimination, and chills, on Sept. 2. The infection spread to both kidneys and up the left side on Sept. 5. On Sept. 6, it spread to my right side. I could feel it move up my sides, causing much pain and hurting in my kidneys. I had a high fever for at least eight days and finally began to have cold, clammy sweats that would break out in the night and leave me wet. I have never been so sick in my life nor suffered so much. At times I was terribly nauseated. I lost at least ten pounds. When it looked like I could stand it no longer, the Lord always sent relief. Linda, my daughter, was a great comfort to me. She stood with me and encouraged me, although she is young in the Lord, and I am sure things did not look good at times.

My husband kept telling me that a shot would bring relief. I stood firm, for I had promised God I would never take medicine, and all I did was trust God. I did feel that God would heal me for I felt I could claim the promises, unless the Lord showed me it was my time to die. Some of my unsaved loved ones wanted me to have a doctor. In each case I told them why I could not. One sister-in-law told me I should have an operation like she did, and that if I did not I would get into a serious condition. None of these things moved me. In fact, I was more determined, knowing God could show them all that there is something to divine healing. There was much talk about my not taking medicine, and I am sure there were some unwise things said but the Lord knew all about it and stepped in just at the right time. Someone asked my husband how I was, after the Lord touched me, and he said, "She's getting better all the time." When they learned I had not taken medicine, he said they looked strangely at him. I feel that God was glorified in my healing because of the things that had been said. Praise the Lord!

I asked the Lord to give me something definite early Tuesday morning that I could hold to. This is what I received: "Shout, for the battle is the Lord's!" That encouraged me as I thought of it. I didn't have a thing to worry about, it was all in God's hands. I felt like the

angels were looking down from heaven. I began to rest for the first time since my affliction started. The soreness and pain went away. When my mother came, she asked how I was. I said, "I am better," and I knew it was true. When she asked what she could say, I said, "You can say, 'Praise the Lord!'" and she did!

I could write much more, but it is sufficient to say it was worth it all! I am so glad I stood and proved my God would keep His word. When we meet all the conditions of His word, we can be sure He will not fail us. I want to be a better Christian and do more for Him.

It is good to know that there are those who will pray and stand with us. I appreciate every prayer that was offered in my behalf. God bless everyone who was concerned and loved me enough to pray.

Your Sister in Christ, —Thelma Sprague

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Staff: Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I greet you in His holy name because He is my daily living. Wherefore, I have come out from among them and become a separate man from unclean things, which I do not touch because I have found God's Word. I know that He sees me and knows my heart.

I thank the Lord for you and pray for you daily. I thank the Lord for the wonderful "Faith and Victory" and the word of truth you are printing in it. I read it through right away when I receive it, and then I pass it on. I am renewing it for three years and am sending you a little offering of . . . which you can use where you need it most. My prayer is that the Lord will give you many, many souls for your hire. May the Lord bless you all richly.

Your Brother in Christ, —Sam Nusz

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

Texas—Dear Sir: I received the tracts with joy, as I feel they are the gospel for those in jails. I am glad to feel that this is the will of my heavenly Father. It seems so small a thing to do, but I pray the Lord will visit some honest heart as he reads and he will turn to God.

One night as I was praying I asked the dear Lord, "Lord, what can I do to help someone?" The answer came back suddenly, "Get some tracts." "All right, Lord, I'll do it." So as I send for more when needed, pick out of your supply the ones that suit the lost sinner.

Thanks for your tracts, —Mrs. Mae Seaton

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

Mo.—Dear Saints scattered abroad, greetings in Jesus' precious and holy name: I'm praising the dear Lord for all He has done for me. He has brought me out of a life of sin and put me on higher ground.

I want to testify to the healing power of God. On September 1 we were at some friends' house in Marshfield, Mo. I was running along in front of their porch and stepped on a stump which was hidden by the grass. As I stepped on this, my left foot slid off, twisting my ankle to where all my weight came down on it. I felt it pop three times and felt surely it must be broken. The pain was great, and I could not stand on it at all. One of the young girls at that home came over and took hold of me and said, "Why, you are just shaking all over!" Then her mother and my mother came over to help me. They got a chair and I sat down, unable to walk. After about ten minutes I got up and was helped to the car and we went home. By that time my ankle had swollen twice its normal size and a knot puffed up on the left side of it. But the pain was all gone as the Lord had touched me. I laid my foot on an end table and pulled on it. I could feel two bones rubbing across each

other. I felt pretty certain that it was broken, but that didn't disturb me as I knew God could heal a broken bone just as easily as He could a cold. My full trust was in Him and I knew He would not fail me if I would only stay true to Him and believe His word. It says, "If ye ask anything in my name, I will do it." So that is exactly what I did. On Saturday Morning, Sept. 2, I still could not walk on it, nor even put my foot down to rest it without pain. It was this way all day and I asked my mother to go to town and get me some crutches so I could get around the house a little better than the way I was doing—hopping, which sometimes hurt my foot. She went with the intentions of getting some for me, but when she got there she found out that they would cost to use them, so she didn't get any. Instead the Lord brought to her mind this thought: "She could be healed and walking by tomorrow" which was Sunday. When she came home and told me this, I said, "Well, by the way it feels now I won't be walking." Mother said to me, "What are you going by, faith or feeling?" I couldn't say anything to that, but it surely did make me think. That evening about six o'clock I was out in the yard, and had started to raise my foot up to another position and it popped real loud and hurt some. As it did I thought, "Now, I've got to take this by faith," so I did, and got up and started to walk and it popped again and I could walk even better. I went a little farther and it popped once more, and still I could walk better, with a slight limp. On Sunday I walked into the chapel there in Springfield and nearly everyone was amazed to see me come walking in, as they had heard I could not walk. It has been over a month now and I can run, hop, jump, walk, do anything and it does not hurt. I praise the Lord for it all. I do praise God for His healing power and for what He has done for me.

Pray for me that I will always be what He wants me to be.

—Jean McIntosh

Pa.—Dear Saints: I send greetings of love to all of you in Jesus' dear name. I am so thankful that by God's grace, I can report victory in my soul. The dear Lord has done so much for me and I want His will to be accomplished in my life. I find this way precious, even though the trials and tests are severe sometimes. It is His presence abiding with us that makes the bitter turn sweet. I am not sorry that I enlisted in this battle, and it is my desire to endure to the end.

The world thinks we are a narrow-minded people, but I wouldn't want to be traveling on the broad way that leads to destruction. I love the narrow way. I wish that everyone would be on it. Words can't express the joys that are found there. It is well worth denying ourselves and following Him.

I love the saints of God and appreciate their interest and prayers so much. We are all one in the body of Christ and need each other as each member of our physical body needs the other.

Pray for me that I'll be faithful to Him who loves me. Pray also for my unsaved loved ones.

Love and prayers, —Norma Houck

Wash.—Dear Sister Marie and saints, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: What a wonderful God we serve! I am so thankful to the Lord for salvation. I am trusting Him for both soul and body. I can truthfully say He is very good to me. I had some trouble with my nose and eyes for some time, but the Lord has healed my nose. How wonderful He is! My eyes are bothering me some yet, but I am trusting Him with it. I'm sure He will take care of that, too, when He sees fit. It is wonderful to trust the Lord for the things we need.

I hope all of you at the Printshop had an opportunity to go to campmeeting this summer. I went to the Jefferson, Ore. campmeeting. It surely was anointed of the Lord. I also had an opportunity to go again for the week end of Sept. 9.

May God bless you.

—Sister D. T. Thomas

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

Calif.—Dear Saints, greetings: Our continual prayer is for the advancement of the Lord's work at the print shop. We would like to express our appreciation for the many prayers that have been and are still being offered for Mabel's healing. We praise God for the many victories given in her behalf in answer to prayer. The struggle has been long; but the Lord's presence has made it an enjoyable one.

Looking unto Jesus with an unwavering faith, we are much encouraged to press on to a final victory. We solicit the prayers of the saints. F. E. and Mabel Doolittle

BIBLE STUDY

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

November 5, 1967

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH TRAGEDY

Printed Portion Hosea 1:1; 2 Chron. 26:14-21

Hosea 1:1 The word of the Lord that came unto Hosea the son of Beeri, in the days of Uzziah, Johan, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel.

2 Chron. 26:14 And Uzziah [the king] prepared for them throughout all the host shields, and spears, and helmets, and habergeons, and bows, and slings to cast stones.

15 And he made in Jerusalem engines, invented by cunning men, to be on the tower and upon the bulwarks, to shoot arrows and great stones withal. And his name spread far abroad; for he was marvellously helped, till he was strong.

16 But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God, and went into the temple of the Lord to burn incense upon the altar of incense.

17 And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the Lord, that were valiant men:

18 And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the Lord, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed: neither shall it be for thine honour from the Lord God.

19 Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priest in the house of the Lord, from beside the incense altar.

20 And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the Lord had smitten him.

21 And Uzziah the king was leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the Lord: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

Memory Verse: But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. James 4:6.

Practical Truth: We always suffer some kind of penalty when we disobey God's word. We cannot sin and get by. God rules over all.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Hosea, the prophet, received the word of the Lord in the days of King Uzziah. We read how the people did not follow the Lord closely. Ahaz, the son of Jotham, did evil in the sight of the Lord.

King Uzziah (Uh-zye-uh) was 16 years old when he began to reign in Judah. He did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. God was with him and helped him. Verse 5 tells us that "as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." He was able to gain victories over his enemies and build up his kingdom. His name was proclaimed abroad and he was strong. But he became proud and lifted up in his heart when all was going his way. He could not handle honor nor the great blessings God had permitted to come his way. He did not regard the strict laws of the One who had given him his blessings. He disobeyed and it brought him trouble. God had commanded that only the high priests could burn incense upon the altar of incense. King Uzziah refused to receive instructions from God's people. He became wroth when they rebuked him. Just at that moment when he was wroth with them God smote him with leprosy. It was with him until his death.

God speaks to us through this tragedy. When we receive blessings from God we want to humbly acknowledge from whom they came. The Apostle Paul tells us not to be "highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us all things to enjoy." 1 Tim. 6:17. We also notice that God punished Uzziah right at the time when he rejected instruction from 81 priests of God. It never pays for us to reject God's laws when they are brought to our attention by others.

November 12, 1967

THE LURE OF OTHER GODS

Hosea 4:1; 1 Kings 18:21, 25, 26, 28-32, 37-39

Hosea 4:1 Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first: for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the

evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God: the Lord, he is the God.

Memory Verse: Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Exodus 20:3.

Practical Truth: When we measure our lives according to God's perfect plan, then the fire of the Lord will fall on us.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Elijah found the people in his day as they were in the days of Hosea, the prophet. The Lord had a controversy or indictment to make against the people of Israel. They were summoned before God at the bar of justice. The people in Elijah's day had nothing to say when he asked them why they were halting between two opinions. There was no truth or established principles, no mercy or steadfast love, nor the knowledge of God or of his requirements of them. They had wandered far from God and his ways through idolatry. How true this is today!

We read about the priests of Baal cutting themselves and crying unto their god and say how foolish that is for them to do such things. They ought to know a stone image could not do anything for them. Yet today we see people acting unwisely day after day. They know that the god of this world, which is the enemy of their souls, has nothing to offer them in the hour of death. They cannot find the true satisfaction to their souls by following the fads, fashions, and the corruptions of the world. We who know what God will do for a person who will repent and fully surrender his mind, body, soul, and strength to the Lord, feel grieved when we look upon the thousands who are following those gods who are leading them to eternal destruction. The Apostle Paul said that "the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not." 2 Cor. 4:4. The beloved Apostle John said, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." 1 John 5:21.

November 19, 1967

GOD YEARNS FOR HIS WAYWARD PEOPLE

Printed Portion Hosea 11:1-4, 8, 9; 14:1-4

Hosea 11:1 When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

2 As they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images.

3 I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms: but they knew not that I healed them.

4 I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

8 How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? how shall I deliver thee, Israel? how shall I make thee as Admah? how shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together.

9 I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.

Hosea 14:1 O Israel, return unto the Lord thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity.

2 Take with you words, and turn to the Lord: say unto him, Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips.

3 Asshur shall not save us; we will not ride upon horses: neither will we say any more to the work of our hands, Ye are our gods: for in thee the fatherless findeth mercy.

4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.

Memory Verse: The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. Jeremiah 31:3.

Practical Truth: We never have to doubt God's love. He has proved it to us many, many times.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

It seems that God talked to the people in every way he could to let them know of his love for them. His prophets used examples, figurative speech, and touching incidents true to life to teach them. How sad that, often, they would not listen except through severe punishment.

Our lesson today shows the feelings of God as He deals with His children, with a nation, and as He looks upon the world today. How did God deal with them and call them out of Egypt? Were they not under heavy taskmasters as we are today when we serve the devil? He fed them in the wilderness and fought their battles for them and gave them the Canaan land. Again and again they wandered away from him. God took them by the arms, drew them with cords of love, healed them, took away their troubles. In verse 8 we read how he yearns for them. He can't bear to destroy them like Admah and Zeboim. (These were two cities that were destroyed with fire and brimstone like Sodom and Gomorrah were. Deut. 29:23) God tempered his justice with mercy. He promised to "heal their backslidings." Today God is pleading with those who do not love him to come unto him. He sent Christ to die on the cross for their sins. All is ready but they must respond to His love. The prodigal son found forgiveness in his father who looked for him to return home. God looked upon Israel as a wayward son and he a grieving father who longed for their return.

November 26, 1967

GOD'S PURPOSE IN DISCIPLINE

Printed Portion Hosea 2:13, 14, 18-23; 3:4, 5

Hosea 2:13 And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings, and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord.

14 Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her.

18 And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

19 And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness; and thou shalt know the Lord.

21 And it shall come to pass in that day, I will hear, saith the Lord, I will hear the heavens, and they shall hear the earth;

22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel.

23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.

Hosea 3:4 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim:

5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days.

Memory Verse: And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. Hebrews 12:5, 6.

Practical Truth: Those who backslide and leave God are like unfaithful wives who leave their good husbands.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The word "her" in our lesson refers to the Israelites who like an adulterous wife had decked herself and gone "after her many lovers," and spurned the ways of God. (The "days of Baalim" were special feast days at the shrine of Baal, their god.) Is not God grieved today when people leave Him and go after things of this world or false prophets? But how great is the love of God! Verse 14 tells us that God will "allure her" and forgive her. (Wilderness would mean privacy.) How does God show his love to the backslider?

Verse 18 makes us know God would keep the beasts, etc. from destroying them and prevent wars. Does not God show as much love to those who repent as if they had never sinned?

Verses 19, 20. Three times the words "betroth thee" are repeated. In ancient times the betrothal was as binding as the wedding. What kind of a husband will God be to those who repent? In righteousness, judgment, lovingkindness, mercy, and in faithfulness "thou shalt know the Lord."

Verses 21, 22, 23. In these verses we understand that when people return God will cause their needs to be supplied. The heavens will give rain and the earth will bring forth. God will bless those who turn to Him. He will be their God and they will be His people if they will do their part and respond to His love.

Verses 3:4, 5, Samaria would be taken in exile and be without their religious worship that they falsely trusted in. While in trouble and all sources of help are gone they will then "seek the Lord." The "latter days" refer to the gospel day in which we now are living. Thank God, we are enjoying the blessings of the Lord, our husband, and we are his bride.

—Sister Marie Miles