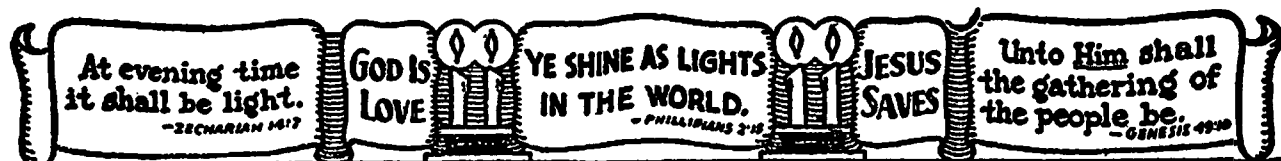


FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 36, No. 10

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Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

December, 1967

Christ Is Born!



Christ is born! To earth descended,
Swathed in bands of infancy;
Heaven's grace with earth is blended,
Light and life for men to see.

Christ is born! The Saviour lowly,
Heaven's rule and reign to bear,
With a power to make men holy,
And His resurrection share.

He, the Word of life and power,
Architect of earth and time,
Shines in a triumphant hour
As an infant so sublime.

Christ is born! A morning breaketh,
Shining forth without a cloud,
And the heart with joy awaketh
As His message rings aloud.

All the prophets' word fulfilling,
Who proclaimed in ages past
That Eternal God was willing
To unveil His plan at last.

"Unto us a Son is given;
Unto us a Child is born!"
Tidings from the highest heaven
To the hearts of men forlorn.

See Him lying in a manger!
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see;
Born to earth—to earth a stranger—
Hope for dark humanity!

Come and let us bow before Him,
Worship and extol His name.
With our hearts and lives adore Him
Who to earth from heaven came.

—Leslie Busbee

The Rest of Faith



Rest signifies quietness, tranquillity, happiness! not to be agitated by fear; not to be anxious; but to be full of peace and repose. There is a rest for God's people. There is a freedom from all fear, from all anxiety, from every care; there is a tranquillity, a quietness, a fullness of rest, for the follower of Jesus. Man knew no fear in the days of his primitive purity. Anxiety, fear, care, trouble, discontent, disquietude, unrest, etc., found no place in his nature. These words and all synonymous ones were coined since man fell from his primeval purity. After he fell into sin, then unrest, discontent, uneasiness, trouble, etc., took possession of his being, and he was most wretched. He was said to be "full of trouble" and to be like the troubled sea that casts up mire and dirt. He sought rest, but found none.

After man's disgraceful fall, a prophecy was spoken—"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be." Gen. 49:10. Shiloh signifies Peacemaker, the Procurer of our happiness, the Rest-giver. It has reference to Jesus. On the night when this Rest-giver was born a multitude of the angelic host shouted, "Peace on earth, good will to man." Jesus speaks to the troubled, sin-laden heart of man, saying, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Thus speaks the Rest-giver of prophecy. No one ever before offered rest to the heavy-hearted soul of man; but Christ came to give him rest. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Christ is this rest. As he is the way, the truth, and the life; so he is the rest. But how shall we enter into his rest? "We which have believed do enter into rest." Heb. 4:3. It is not that they shall in some future day or age enter into rest, but they do enter into rest. Praise God! This rest is the rest of faith. In Jesus we enjoy the holy Sabbath of which the Jewish Sabbath was a type. Oh, glorious rest of the soul! The blood-washed throng

take up the angels' glad refrain and shout over land and sea, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will toward man."

There is a full and perfect rest in Jesus for every soul. This rest is a holy quietness in him. It is freedom from all petulance, murmuring, or agitation. Christ erases sin (the seat of unrest) from the soul and establishes there his own righteousness, the work of which shall be peace, and "the effect . . . quietness and assurance forever."

Water may be disturbed by something working in its depths, or it may be agitated by some exterior force. The water will not reflect your image if it is troubled, neither does an agitated soul reflect the image of Jesus. Doubts are destructive of rest. Faith in the promises of God brings rest. The world may frown upon you; may speak ill of you; riches may flee away and poverty stare you in the face like an angry wolf; friends may forsake you; saints may misunderstand you; but faith in the promise, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee," will keep the soul sweetly at rest. If it were man that gave rest, then man could destroy rest. If it were riches that gave rest, then poverty would bring unrest. If it were circumstances that gave rest, then circumstances could destroy rest. If it were this world that gave rest in any sense, it could in some sense disturb rest. But it is Jesus who gives rest to the Christian heart; and there is naught on earth that can destroy that rest. How sweet to trust fully in God and be at rest! Oh, the completeness of perfect rest in God!

Blessed is the man who has entered into rest. Truly the Christian life is the most tranquil, peaceful, and restful that mortal can find. The human family is traveling across a sea which is called the Sea of Life. Some are sailing one way and some another. The only successful and happy way is the Christian way. The way is full of rest; it is quietness in every storm; amid every turmoil it is sweet, calm repose.

—C. E. Orr

Anchor of the Soul

Each one of us is on a voyage through the sea of life. Each one of us has a destiny which we are going to make. As we take this voyage, there are many storms along the way, so there is one important thing we need in our ship and that is an anchor. But, sad to say, there are many in this life taking this voyage who are not concerned, nor do they have an anchor in their ship. They are being tossed to and fro by many difficulties in life and are going down in despair.

I read about a ship that was in a severe storm, when it was just about to reach port. They could not come in because of the danger of being dashed against the rocks. But they had an anchor. They had a small boat take the anchor close to the shore ground and the big ship rode out to sea with confidence. They were anchored and the cable was strong. The wind blew, the tide flowed, but she did not drift.

Why? She was anchored. When the storm was over, she pulled herself into port by the anchor.

Your ship in life needs an anchor, or you will drift with the tide onto the rocks of destruction, or go down with the storm. God is an "anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast." Heb. 6:19. What better anchor in life could we have than God! We need to have Jesus on board our ship as we journey through life. We must have Him to make it into the port of heaven.

The cable between us and the anchor is faith—strong faith in the reality and power of God, strong faith that He loves and cares for each of us, faith that He sent His Son here to die for our salvation, faith that Jesus is sitting on the right hand of God interceding for us, faith that the Holy Spirit will dwell in the heart of every consecrated soul whose sins have been forgiven, faith that the Holy Spirit will be our Guide, Comforter, and give us power in this life to live victoriously. We must have that cable strong and not one weak link in it. We must believe the Word of God and believe it means "me." What more would we need in our ship as we sail through the stormy seas of life? We have all when we have an anchor of the soul, which is God, and, remember, it is steadfast and sure.

Someone told me that a horse could be held with an anchor driven into the ground. Surely an anchor is valuable and important.

The Apostle Paul said, "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul." When all is clear between us and God, it gives us hope in our soul. When the crushing troubles of life touch us, we can rest in that hope we have in our soul. We know without a doubt that we are God's, and God is greater than all the powers that might touch us and our lives. We can rest in that anchor of the soul with confidence.

A man in Florida, who attempted to assassinate President Roosevelt, was questioned as to whether he belonged to a church. In reply to this he cried, "No, no, I belong to nothing. I belong only to myself, and I suffer." He didn't have an anchor. Many today do belong to some man-made church, but still do not have an anchor. We are told that there are several hundred religious groups in the U. S. But many who belong to them are storm-tossed and driven with doubts and fears because they are following false prophets. Many are taught that God is a myth; that Jesus was not born of a virgin birth; that you can't live without sinning; that the days of miracles are past, etc. Oh, how sad! But there is an anchor for the soul. God is real and is the Father of Jesus. His Son died for our sins that we might be "born again." When we receive the Holy Spirit, He gives us power to live daily without sinning. How do I know? Not only because the Bible tells me so, but because I have experienced it in my heart and life and today I have an anchor for my soul. I wouldn't want to go through the storms of life without that anchor. I have been translated "from the power of darkness . . . into the kingdom of his dear Son." Col. 1:13.

Look up, dear ones; don't be cast down under the crushing storms of life. Come into contact with God and know that your anchor holds sure. Keep that cable, which is your faith, strong in God. Doubts and fears weaken the cable. Resist them and believe God.

—Sister Marie Miles

Casting a Shadow or Influence

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you that your joy may be full. This then is the message that we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John 1:3-7. "He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him." 1 John 2:19. "And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women. Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." Acts 5: 14, 15.

The thought we have in mind as we write these lines and present the above scriptural quotations is casting a shadow or an influence. As it is necessary for there to be a light to cause or to produce a shadow, every individual has an influence either for good or bad, depending upon his or her relationship to the light. Jesus declared himself to be the Light of the world, and that every one that would follow Him would have the light of life. When John wrote concerning light, he was not speaking of the light of the sun, or the moon, or the stars; he was speaking of the Divine Light of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

As Peter walked down the streets of Jerusalem and his shadow fell on the sick that were laid on beds and couches, there was a power far greater than the power of the sun, or the shadow produced by its rays, that brought healing and deliverance to those who were contacted thereby. Peter was walking in the light of God. He was full of the Holy Ghost, and a divine knowledge of the presence of Him who said, "Lo, I am with you alway," and there was great joy among those who were the recipients of blessings drawn from above.

Everyone has an influence, as before stated, and everyone can be influenced either for good or bad. What kind of influence are you extending as you walk the paths of life? Does your influence count for God and good, or for the devil and evil? You know according to the Word that the devil has the power to

transform himself into an angel of light, but those who follow him bring much grief and sorrow into the world.

We read that Pilate, when Jesus was accused before him by false witnesses and enemies of the Truth, said, "I find no fault in him." Two or three times he said, "I find no fault in him," and emphatically declared, "I find no fault in him at all." "I find nothing worthy of death in him." But he was influenced by a howling angry mob to turn the Christ, the King of the Jews, over to the Roman soldiers to be crucified.

Let us consider the influence of another man. In Acts 7:5-8 we read, "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them, and the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did, for unclean spirits crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them, and many that were taken with palsies and that were lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city." A wonderful influence indeed! Philip was walking in the light of God, led by His Spirit.

Now let us look at Naaman, the leper, how he was persuaded by his servants to obey the command of Elisha the prophet to go dip seven times in Jordan, and through this influence he was healed.

Many have been influenced by evil companions to commit crimes and many wicked deeds, to the extent that many have been committed to long-term prison sentences. Others, through a good influence, have found deliverance from the dark prison of sin.

No man liveth to himself. In what direction does your shadow fall? Is your influence for God and right, or for the devil? Are you in the light or in the bonds of darkness? —Ulysses Phillips

A CLEAR CONSCIENCE

There is a treasure you can own
That's greater than a crown or throne;
That's richer than a diamond field,
Or all the pearls the oceans yield;
That's grander than the praise of men
That they might give by word or pen,
Yes, sweeter to the heart than song,
Though sung by some angelic throng.

This treasure is a conscience clear
That brings the sweetest peace and cheer;
A conscience free from guilt and stain,
That doesn't trouble, lash and pain;
A conscience that can rest in ease
When God beholds what no one sees;
A conscience good with which to live,
That only God Himself can give.

—Walter E. Isenhour

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EDITORIALS

THE SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the name of the Holy Child Jesus. May your days be bright and happy with an experimental knowledge of the wonderful proclamation of God's angel to the shepherds: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

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As this last issue for the year of 1967 goes to press, we are thankful to the Lord and our readers for the hundreds of new names received through the special subscription offer, to whom we shall be mailing this gospel paper for the first three months of the new year of 1968 if the Lord extends time. When you receive this copy you should have a few days remaining before the expiration date of this special offer on Dec. 8 to send in more names—10 for \$1.00. With your special help at this time we anticipate having several thousand new readers beginning with the January issue. Be an active home missionary and please rush in all the names possible by December 8! May the Lord bless your efforts in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and reigning King.

Let us agree in prayer that the gospel messages in the forthcoming issues will penetrate the heart of every reader and glean out of darkness many precious souls. The Spirit accompanying the Word is effectual in convicting the lost of their need of a Savior and pointing them to the foot of the cross of Christ where they can find deliverance and full salvation.

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Word was received from a granddaughter that Bro. John Nottingham passed away on Oct. 29, 1967 at Union City, Ind. where he had lived many years. Sister Nottingham departed this life a year ago on Oct. 11, 1966 after a wedded union of 63 years. This writer well remembers enjoying the hospitality of their home while attending a campmeeting at Union City in the year of 1941. May the Lord comfort the family.

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The "Beautiful Way Songs" book, with words only, for children and young people, has now been reprinted and increased to include 37 favorite songs for juniors in a heavy paper binding. Excellent for Sunday Schools and children's meetings. Price, 10¢ each, postpaid.

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Earnest prayer is requested for Sister Lillian Meek, one of our faithful co-workers here in the Lord's Printshop for many years. Last Sunday morning (Nov. 5) about 2 a. m. she suffered a stroke alone at her home at 1005 W. Warner, Guthrie. Her right side and speech were affected, but in answer to many fervent prayers she is recovering. Though very weak and still in bed, her mind is clear and her speech is improving. Her faith and trust are firm in the Great

Physician, and she is thankful for how He is caring for her. Pray that she will be restored completely to health again.

Sister Meek was faithful to go to the chapel each Tuesday, the day for fasting and prayer, and take the many requests to the throne of mercy. The Lord is not unrighteous to forget her sacrifice and "labor of love" for precious souls and the gospel's sake.

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Bro. Wayne Turner, marvelously converted in the parish jail at Amite, La. several years ago, is now assisting the chaplain in the State Prison at Angola, La. while serving his life sentence for murder. At this season of the year he has asked us to extend his warm Christian greetings to all the readers, since he is not in a position to send out many cards. He is permitted to receive Christmas cards, and no doubt you would like to make him happy with a greeting and words of encouragement. In case you would like to include a little gift of money, do not send cash, but a money order or check. His address is: Bro. Wayne Turner, P. M. B. 62895 R. C., Angola, La. 70712.

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Very soon, Lord willing, another excellent out-of-print book will be available again. First published in 1919, "The Poorhouse Waif and His Divine Teacher" by Isabel C. Byrum is a very touching true story of a baby boy who was left by his wayward mother at a poorhouse, the account of his life, and how God led him step by step to salvation and to his call to preach the gospel. Containing 223 pages, the book will be bound in a heavy paper cover. We hope to have it ready by December 15. Reasonably priced at \$1.00 per copy, postpaid. Send your order now and it will be filled as soon as the books are finished.

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Though Dec. 25th is generally observed as the day of Jesus' birth, there is no historical record to prove that He was born on that day. However, a certain day is unimportant or beside the point to the true child of God because he worships Jesus Christ, gives gifts and does good deeds every day. It is a fact that Jesus was born on a day that we do not know, and the Bible tells us that following His birth the wise men of the east followed His star to the house where Mary and the young child lived. When the wise men saw Jesus, they "fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Matt. 2:11. The gifts were not given in observance of the day He was born, but because of the joy and adoration which they felt in their hearts for what He was—the long-promised Messiah, the Christ, the King of the Jews. When we, too, by an active living faith come in personal contact with Christ we will worship Him with a heart sincere every day and open unto Him our treasures. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40. Read also Matt. 25:45.

The term "Christmas" (Christ's mass) was originated by Catholicism, which in turn took practices

from paganism in observance of the day, such as burning the Yule log. Santa Claus stories and decorating the evergreen tree have no meaning with reference to the advent of Christ, but the giving of gifts does have a Biblical basis.

It might be informative to note that many years ago the Puritan colonies did not observe Christmas. In fact, the Pilgrim Fathers passed a law forbidding the observance of Christmas on pain of punishment. Evidently they had reference to the pagan and Catholic practices connected with its observance, and, of course, they were non-conformists and dissenters from the Church of England.

In this complex society in which we live it would be difficult to disengage ourselves from the use of pagan terms, or words originated by pagans. Even the New Testament uses the pagan term "Easter," the name of the pagan goddess of spring. There are also many other pagan terms which all people use every day and think nothing of it in the sense of pagan worship. For example, the days of the week and some months of the year are named after heathen gods: Sunday for the sun god, Monday for the moon god, Wednesday for the god named Mercury, Thursday for the god named Thor, Friday for the god of the planet Venus, Saturday for Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture, and the month of January for Janus, the Roman god of portals or beginnings. Words and their meanings are coined by common usage. Some words lose their original meanings and take on new sense over a period of time.

The term "Christmas," when used to mean truly honoring the first advent of Christ—"the unspeakable gift," is far different than using the term to mean the popular worldly spirit of the season with all its elaborate paganistic and sensual festivities—feasting, drinking and dancing—which are so dishonoring to the lowly Babe of Bethlehem.

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Material is still being compiled on a new book on "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present." The Bible doctrine of physical healing will be set forth. 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. Please be prompt in sending in your healing testimony, so we can get this book ready for the press as soon as possible.

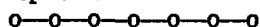
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"They went to their own company. . . ."

In the Book of Acts we read the blueprint of the Church of God in its pristine glory, exhibiting the Holy Ghost power to work and witness as a visible body of believers, separate and distinct from all the religious bodies of that day.

On one occasion Peter and John healed through the name of Jesus Christ a crippled man at the gate of the temple in Jerusalem. For this good deed they were arrested and brought in question before the council of the Jewish rulers. Finding nothing how they might punish them, the rulers threatened Peter and John and let them go. "And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them." Acts 4:23. Note that they reported "to their own company"—their own group which was a distinct separate body of believers. Some say today that they are not group-minded, meaning that they can worship with several groups, but Peter and John had "their own company" and they knew where to go to report. Brother, do you? How is your vision of the church?

When the ancient Jews were taken captive to literal Babylon, they hung their harps on the willow trees, for they could not sing the songs of Zion in a strange land. They were not at home and could not sing the songs of victory. Zion is a metaphor of the Church in this dispensation. When one is really saved out in spiritual Babylon, he is not at home—not in his proper sphere. One member alone cannot properly represent the Church, for it is a "called out" body of many members—the spiritual Body of Christ. The true believer should declare his freedom from spiritual captivity and come home to Zion—the one distinct visible Church of the living God as portrayed in the New Testament. Notwithstanding the teaching to the contrary, the Church of God is not scattered out among all the denominations and religious groups formed by man. The call to the believer in those places is to "come out," and Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, . . ." and there shall be "one fold and one Shepherd."



For nearly 45 years this paper has been published in the interest of the Church of God of this "evening light" reformation, to unify and edify the spiritual Body of Christ, and to carry the soul-saving gospel to "all nations" and "every creature" in response to the Great Commission. This writer's parents, Fred and Mary Pruitt, gave their lives to this gospel publishing work and finished their course with victory—Mother in 1954 and Father in 1963. Now they "rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." Their lives of sacrifice and devotion to the cause of Christ have greatly influenced our lives, and we have likewise dedicated our lives, though long or short, to carry on this ministry of literature evangelism in the order and will of God. Our greatest desire is to see the salvation of souls and the spiritual progress of the Church which Jesus purchased with His own blood. We humbly rely upon the grace and mercy of God each day for divine wisdom in His work, and we covet your continued daily prayers.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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OBITUARIES



Martha Fannie (Robertson) Hunter was born in Arkansas on July 13, 1881 and departed this life Oct. 18, 1967 at the age of 86 years, 3 months and 5 days.

She was united in holy matrimony to Sidney Wallace Hunter July 16, 1900 and to this union three daughters were born. Her husband and one daughter preceded her in death.

She heard and embraced the teachings of the Church of God many years ago. So many times in the past several months of her suffering she would ask for prayer. She made her faith active and God answered.

She leaves to mourn her passing two daughters: Mrs. R. Monroe (Vivian) Smith, Houston, Texas, and Mrs. Harry (Mildred) Hoch, Piedmont, Mo., one brother, T. A. Robertson, Sacramento, Calif., and twin sisters, Mrs. Julia Wahl, Paris, Ark., and Mrs. Lillie Choate, Newton, Tex., a host of saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in Oklahoma City by Bro. Charles R. Smith and interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery.
—Charles R. Smith

Daniel Henry Wheeler was born in Dublin, Arkansas on February 7, 1881 and departed this life at his home at Bristow, Okla. on October 29, 1967 at the age of 86 years.

Bro. Wheeler was a retired farmer, having lived in this area since 1913, coming here from Ripley, Oklahoma.

Bro. Wheeler was a member of the Church of God, having served the Lord faithfully for many years, and had the confidence of all who knew him.

In the year of 1960 his wife preceded him in death. Left to mourn their loss are four daughters: Mrs. Virgie Cunningham, Mannford, Okla., Mrs. Martha Moore, Bristow, Okla., Mrs. Mary Meade, Sapulpa, Okla., Gertie Wheeler, Bristow, Okla.; three sons, Oscar Wheeler, Bristow, Okla., Ferrill Wheeler, Claremore, Okla., Flounroy Wheeler, Mannford, Okla., 11 grandchildren, 21 great

grandchildren, 3 great great grandchildren, other relatives, and a host of friends and saints.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Charles Smith and Bro. Richard Madden at Bristow, Okla. Interment was in "44" Cemetery.

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 61st annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla. on Dec. 22 to 31, inclusive, during the holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and West Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by free-will offerings.

We are praying and expecting the Lord to send in Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word with heaven's anointing. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come. Jesus Christ is just the same today as when He walked the shores of Galilee. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and all who need help in soul or body. These are perilous times and we need to be about our Father's business.

Special notice to Oklahoma saints: It was suggested in the business meeting of the Okla. State Campmeeting at Guthrie last August that each congregation of this State contribute its proportionate share of the indebtedness on the new addition to the chapel which is used for the State meetings. The present debt is \$4,084.64 and the estimated cost to finish the building is \$415.36, making a total of \$4,500.00. This amount divided equally among the 13 congregations of the State over a period of two years would be an average of \$15.00 per month for each congregation. This is a nominal sum and no doubt some larger congregations could give more than the average. Please contact your congregation and let the state secretary, Bro. Stanley Lounds, 2136 N. Rhode Island, Okla. City, 73111 know as soon as possible how much your congregation will contribute each month. Perhaps there are isolated saints in Oklahoma or elsewhere who would like to give a free-will offering to this worthy cause. Your concern and support will certainly be appreciated.

Please send all contributions to retire the debt on the chapel or to support the coming State Assembly meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Frances Porter, Route 5, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

—Lawrence Pruitt, Trustee

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will be held on the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California, beginning December 22, and continuing through December 31, 1967, Lord willing.

Pacoima is a suburb of Los Angeles in the northwest part of the city and joins the city of San Fernando on the south. Any who come in from the south or east of Los Angeles by car may take the Golden State Freeway toward Bakersfield and follow it to the Osborne Street off-ramp. Go right on Osborne St. to the "Y" and continue straight ahead on Osborne Place about the distance of two city blocks and watch for our sign "Church of God Camp Ground" over our entrance. It will be on your right. If you come in from the north, take the Golden

State Freeway toward Los Angeles and follow it to Osborne Street and turn left going under the freeway and continue as outlined above.

If you come by bus from the north, get off at San Fernando and phone 899-2022 and someone will pick you up. If you come from the north by train, get off at Glendale and call this number and you will be picked up at the station. Those coming from east or south into Los Angeles by bus or train, call for someone to get you at the Los Angeles station.

Let us all pray much for this meeting and for God to visit this place as He has in former years and pour out His Spirit and power and anointing and grace upon this meeting that it may accomplish all that He would have it to.

We are expecting Holy Spirit-filled ministers to be present to preach the Word of God in its fulness and are expecting God to confirm His Word with signs following and that souls may be saved and believers sanctified and the sick healed and the church edified and that mighty signs and wonders may be done in the name of His holy Child, Jesus. Let us all pray and believe to this end.

All who come to do good or to get good will find a welcome at this meeting and will find God waiting to be gracious and to bless you.

We hope to see you at the Assembly Meeting.

Yours and His in the Master's Service, —Ostis Wilson

Prayer Requests

La.—"Maurice, our son, was in an accident while at the hospital in Gulfport, Miss. His stomach was severed from his intestines. The doctors operated on him. It seems he is more aware of his need of God. Pray for him for soul, mind and body." —Bro. and Sis. H. Probst

Okla.—"Our four-year-old son has several decayed teeth and he needs them to chew with, so pray that they will be restored." —Bonnie and Elbert Johnson.

W. Va.—"Stomach trouble and other afflictions at the age of 80." —A. L. Bright.

Ark.—"My dear friend has multiple sclerosis, also an urgent request." —Stella Steele.

Mo.—"Pray for me, soul and body; my daughter's healing and her father-in-law who is in serious condition, also my niece." —Thelma Holbrook.

Oregon—"My wife, who is in Illinois, had a stroke. I know God can answer prayer." —James Moore.

Kansas—"I have an affliction on my body." —Mamie Noreutt.

Minn.—Bro. Andrew Senti's son is in the hospital and they think he has cancer. He needs prayer for soul and body.

Pa.—"My neighbor has high blood pressure." —Twila Campbell.

Ind.—"Head and neck pains." —Sister Hill.

Calif.—"The growth on my arm seems to be enlarging. I know the Lord can heal." —Edith Wittenborn.

Ill.—"My ears and nose have improved very much, except now the bone aches and my throat; also I have other afflictions. My son has an eye injury." —Mrs. N. Champion.

Pa.—"I am sorely afflicted." —Avis Tinsley.

W. Va.—"I have some problems in my home." —Betty Lawrence.

Calif.—"I have some afflictions on my body that I would like for you to pray for." —Neill Austin.

There are many others for whom we are looking to God to bless and heal.

I do thank the Lord for all He has done for my body. It's just wonderful, but I still need another touch and my faith is holding firm. The Lord gave me a precious thought the other day. I had been reading the 15th chapter of John. Jesus said, "I am the vine; ye are the branches." I just thought how that God sends the healing power down through the vine right into the branch. That just inspired my faith and I took hold of it. I had a weak spell in the office and the co-workers prayed for me, and that truth came to me and helped me to put my faith with theirs and God undertook. I continued my work after the Lord relieved me. Praise the Lord! I have not had any more of those nervous chills since the five I had in the second week of October and I do thank the Lord. I do thank you dear saints for your prayers, also the beautiful thoughts you sent me in the get-well cards. I appreciate those who called on the phone. I love all the saints dearly, but it seems I fail utterly to show the love that is in my heart. I do pray the Lord to bless each of you.

—Sister Marie Miles

MEXICO MISSION REPORTS

Dear readers of "Faith and Victory:" Greetings once again in the wonderful name of Jesus who has saved and washed us in His own blood.

It is with joy that we send this report from the mission field in Mexico. God is blessing everywhere the Word is preached. Conviction is heavy upon many souls. Some react by signs of hatred and malice. Others respond with tenderness and request prayer to be saved. Love and more prayer is applied to all alike.

Two weeks ago this writer was privileged to be in Sunday service in Rosarito where Sister Carrie Shepherd is laboring. More than 50 were in attendance. The sweet Spirit of God was prevalent. A fine group of children sang in almost perfect unison and harmony as Sister Carrie directed them. God is giving her rich messages each week. Different ones help her in translating them into Spanish so she can read parts of the message as needed. However, God is giving her more and more knowledge of the language each week. We are so grateful for Sister Carrie and Sister Esquer, the native sister who lives in one part of the building with her family. The oldest Esquer girl, Ramona, is soundly saved and a real help in many ways. Also the youngest girl, Chachita, is real helpful and attentive to Sister Carrie. Recently, the Lord sent a Mexican brother, Manuel, who is being used to preach. He has an humble spirit, and so far has preached clear, straight doctrine. Pray that the work in Rosarito will prosper to God's glory.

Sister Edith Cole is as happy as ever in Ejido Patzcuaro, near Mexicali, as the Lord continues to work with the people.

Bro. Tomas and family are well and encouraged in Valle De La Trinidad. He has been making weekly visits to an Indian tribe high in the mountains. They can only be reached by foot or mule back. Recently a young man in the tribe was real sick unto death. Bro. Tomas had an urge to go sooner than his regular appointment. Upon arrival he found the young man very low. He dealt with him about his soul and led him to the Lord. The next day the young man went to meet the Lord.

David Rosas, the native preacher whom the Lord raised up recently, is conducting services in El Alamo and other villages close around.

The Huskeys are building a new house in La Mission where they have lived the past year. James has been asked to conduct services in the orphanage on Sunday

nights. Afternoon services are held in the Huskey home. Charlotte and children are doing fine.

The Hites are looking and praying for another house in Ensenada to enable them to spend time with the people there. Continue to hold that work up in prayer, along with Bro. and Sister Hite and Rebecca.

At last the building site in Ojos Negros is staked out so we can proceed with the chapel construction. One really learns much patience in Mexico. Some things take so much time to get done. God is blessing the Word in La Huerto also. Several are desiring to be saved. Pray for them.

We see great things ahead in Mexico. Pray on and believe God. We are so grateful to all for their prayers and finances. May God richly bless each one.

Your servant in God's vineyard, —Bro. Harland Smith
317 E. Cucamonga St., Claremont, Calif. 91711

(Nov. 3)—Greetings of love to you in the mighty name of Jesus, whom we love to serve. We are much encouraged in the way that the Lord is blessing here in Rosarito Beach. Some are deepening down in the Lord and prayer meetings are held here nearly every night and fervent prayers are offered.

Our Sister Christina Esquer is a faithful worker with the children. There were around forty children in her class last Sunday. It would do your heart good to hear them sing!

We were all happy that our Brother Manuel was back in services after the Lord healed him of his illness. He is a promising brother and takes interest in teaching the Bible truths.

Brother and Sister Esteven were made happy with a new son whom they named Seth. The other boy is named Noah. Elodia, the little daughter, also has a Bible name. This family of five were all sleeping in the same bed until Brother and Sister Woodhull brought them a baby bed.

Before Brother Ruben and Sister LeElnore left, they testified with many tears. LeElnore asked for prayer that the Lord would help her establish a house of prayer in their new location.

I am very thankful the Lord helps me bring a message to the people in Spanish.

Everyone enjoys the regular visits of our Brother Harland Smith, and we are praying for his healing. Bro. Bill Hite's visit was appreciated.

We are glad that the food poison scare seems to be over. It was reported that 17 died in Tijuana and a number here due to poison in the bread. The border was closed for a while. We are having a dust storm now. The high wind is blowing much dust into the houses and has covered everything. It is very difficult to walk against the wind.

Rosarito has good weather. It never gets very cold, and in the summer months we always have a cool breeze from the ocean.

Please keep praying for the work here.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Carrie Sheppard

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

—
"Since the priesthood of the law has been abolished Christ is the only immortal and eternal Priest, and He does not (like men) need a successor. Neither the Bishop of Rome, nor any other person in the world is His successor here below, but all Christians, since the beginning of the church, have been and are participants in His priesthood."
—Lambert

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Oct. 27)—My dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt, greetings and brotherly love are once again extended to all of our brethren in America in the name of our beloved Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ:

Thank you for your very good letter dated Oct. 7. We appreciate your concern and compassion for the unsaved. Now I often reflect on these three expressions with regard to the Lord's work—Agonize, Organize, and Evangelize. We ardently plead the Lord to rescue the souls who are chained by Satan in his concentration camp. Just as the Church at Jerusalem made instant and earnest prayer for the deliverance of Peter, so also we have to cling to the Lord and plead to Him to deliver precious souls.

Now the rains are still pouring and we hope to have our fair weather very soon, when our conventions will commence. We receive inquiries from different brethren whether or not Bro. Carver will be available for preaching in their conventions. As it is, I cannot give them a definite answer. I have written to Bro. Carver and am waiting to hear from him some time in the near future. I am submitting this in the hands of God and praying about it. You will also please pray about it and let me know at your earliest convenience whether the Lord is leading somebody to us at this season of our conventions. Convention season will start from the latter part of November to the end of February.

Praise the Lord who is keeping you all safe in His mighty hands and using you abundantly in His work of winning precious souls. It is a great privilege for us to be in the King's business. Though we are unworthy, God has graciously chosen us. He is wonderfully and miraculously leading us and providing us with His abundant supplies, spiritually and physically. We are convinced of our obligations for salvation. How much we owe to Him who has done so much for us!

In these days of severe famine, our gracious Lord has given us some wetland, where we can grow some paddy. We have discovered a very good spring of pure water, a good fountain. We are praying for a fund to construct a baptistry to baptize our converts. This spring is a blessing for us, as there is no river or stream in our local area, nor in our suburbs. Hence, I add this prayer request also that you all may pray for us.

May God bless all of our brethren in America and elsewhere. We are very much burdened about our Nigerian brethren. May God take care of them we pray.

With prayers and best wishes, and much concern for perishing souls, I am

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

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Missouri—Dear Saints everywhere: Greetings to you in Jesus' dear name. He means so much to me.

I would like to testify to the way He has blessed and healed me. Not long ago I became very sick and was ill for over a week. We didn't know what it was, but trusted in God, and He saw me through. After most of the sickness left me, my skin and eyes became very yellow. But as I was feeling much better, I went to school before this condition cleared up completely. The school nurse asked that I be checked by a doctor before I entered school again to be sure that I had nothing that was contagious. I was examined by a doctor that same afternoon. He told us that I had

hepatitis and that it was contagious. He wanted to treat me, but we told him that our trust was in the Lord.

After returning home, I was reading and God gave me the Scripture in Psalms 125: "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about His people from henceforth even forever." It really was an encouragement to me. We sent out for prayer then, and since that day I have not felt bad at all, except for minor things not seemingly connected with the hepatitis. The yellow color started to leave and is almost entirely gone now. Praise God!

I am supposed to stay out of school for another week, but the Lord has made it so that I can do much of my work here at home. I thank all the saints for their prayers.

Thank God for His saving, healing, keeping power. Let us always be firm, and keep our trust in Him.

Your Sister in Christ, Emily McMillian

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

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and all: Greetings in the name of our Lord. I want to thank all of you for your prayers in behalf of Anna's baby after she drank some clorox. The Lord soon granted relief after I called. She probably took only one swallow of it, but it was enough to give her considerable trouble. We give thanks to the dear Lord.

—Sister Fern Stubblefield

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: This leaves me saved and more determined than ever to trust the Lord. He is doing so much for me, for which I am glad. He keeps me each day free from sin and heals me when I am ill. I cannot thank and praise Him enough. My last days are truly my best days. I soon will be 82 years old, and I am still able to carry on for the dear Lord, for which I am grateful.

Please pray that I keep in the center of God's will. Your Sister, —Melissa Greer

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Calif.—Dear Saints and Readers of the "Faith and Victory," greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, and our Healer in Zion. "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Yes, and He has been so good to me. I'm very thankful for all His blessings, also that He has faithful helpers in His family—which is the Church of God—those who love one another with pure hearts fervently—the righteous who pray effectual, fervent prayers that avail much, which bring from above the divine healing touch, or other help that is needed.

I am daily thanking the dear Lord for healing me of the heart trouble. I also want to thank each of you who prayed those fervent prayers for me and had a part in my healing since the request for me came out in the October paper. May God bless and reward each one.

My trust has been fully in the Lord for 53 years and I'm glad for this privilege to testify to His wonderful healing power that He has so bountifully bestowed upon my family and me through the years.

A few years ago in time of an accident I had opportunity to testify to a doctor that I had had the same Physician for nearly 50 years and that He had been faithful to heal me of all my afflictions and I could not and would not change to another doctor.

Now, I'm not boasting of unworthy me, but with deep gratitude in my heart I want to magnify and glorify the precious, matchless name of Jesus. I truly praise Him for His wonderful love that has brought salvation

and sanctification to my soul as well as healing to my body, and for all the joy and happiness those glorious blessings have brought into my life.

Realizing that heaven is not far away, my decision is to faithfully serve and trust God to the end. I do appreciate your prayers.

Your Sister in the Body of Christ, —Vera Forbes

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

Kentucky—Dear Saints everywhere: I send greetings in Jesus' dear and most precious name. We are told in the Word of God to "Declare his doings among the people." I want to do just that.

About two years ago last February I got an ingrown toenail. It gave me much pain and misery. I want to tell you how the Lord has undertaken for it. In August while we were here in Kentucky in a tent meeting, Mart and I had to go home to Ohio to pick up one of our sons. While there, my toe got to hurting me real bad. I started once again to try and cut it out. It was just getting worse all the time. I felt like I had gone about as far with it as I could. Mart came into the room when I was crying. He wanted to know if he could help me. I told him no, just pray. I couldn't stand for anyone to bother it but myself, and I would only make it worse. It seemed the Lord spoke to me and said, "Leave it alone and let me heal it." A burden was lifted. I told different ones after that that I believed the Lord was going to undertake for it. I didn't try to cut on it any more after that, except to trim the toe nail.

About three weeks ago I had taken a bath, come into the living room, and sat down. I looked at my toe and the Lord had opened up a slit in the side of it, and there was the stray toe nail. I asked Mart to get me the tweezers. He said I had better leave it alone. I reached down with my fingers and just lifted it out. Saints, that was a real encouragement to me. I thought of how many times I had tried to get it out and had it bleeding terribly. But when the Lord brought it out, it didn't even bleed. I truly do thank and praise the Lord for this!

I want to thank each of the saints who prayed for my toe. I know many knew about it, as we traveled about six or seven thousand miles this summer across the country and I would ask for prayer for it. Your prayers in my behalf have been answered. Thank the Lord! I would like to encourage others who have ingrown toenails to be encouraged to look up to the Lord. He can do all things if we will believe Him for it.

I love the Lord this morning above everything else, and want to please Him with my life. I was saved ten years ago on the 2nd of November and I can say from the bottom of my heart I've never wanted to go back to a life of sin. I have a greater determination to live for Him now than I ever did. I desire your prayers that I will always lift up the standard and live according to the Word of God.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sister Verna Samons

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

Pa.—Dear Saints at the Printshop and scattered abroad, greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus. I am 81 years old. The blessed Lord has given me His great salvation and healing virtue and power. I have suffered many years with a terrible skin disease. I have been prayed for many times and got some relief. I could not wear anything tight about my waist. I am living an obedient and surrendered life to my Lord. I began praying to the Lord for help. In communion with Him I told Him if He would heal my body I would testify in the "Faith and Victory" paper. So He healed me.

I trust this will help some sick or afflicted one who is trusting the Lord for soul and body to hold on for

healing. I am resting on His promises. "Bless the Lord oh my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities and healeth all thy diseases."

—Sister O. Harris

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Marie and all, greetings in Jesus' precious name. We want to thank the Lord for the blessings and the help He has been to us while we were out in the work of the Lord. I thank Him for the healings He has performed. Last month Sister Biddix in North Carolina was real sick. We were there at that time. We anointed her and prayed for her and she improved a little each day. The Lord is still in the healing business. We went from there to Holly Hill, S. Car. for a few nights' meeting, and while we were there our baby got sick. We didn't know what it was, but the Lord came to our rescue. His body was very hot and food wouldn't stay on his stomach. That was a real test for us. He acted like he was hurting, too. He was sick for two or three days. The Lord touched his body and now he is as normal as ever. Thank the Lord! The Lord has not failed us at any time. I have trusted Him ever since I got saved. I hear people say that they do not see healing as it used to be, but the Bible tells us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If they only look, they will see that God is still healing today. If we have faith and are willing to trust Him, He will manifest His power. All power was given to Jesus in heaven and earth.

We need your prayers that we will stay in the center of God's will and be what He would have us to be in this life. I truly want to hold up the standard of God. I need God's help and the saints' prayers.

At present we are down at Sister Miller's home at Loranger, La. We are visiting for awhile.

Christian love, —Bro. and Sister Gordon Humphrey

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

Texas—Greetings to "Faith and Victory" readers: I hope everyone is still encouraged to press on for our Lord.

I'm still saved and sanctified. The Lord is blessing me and supplying my every need. . . .

I have some thoughts from the good Lord that I hope will be encouraging and helpful to those going through trials, or who are sick and afflicted. First, we must examine ourselves. Do we find glory in tribulations or the trying times that come our way? Job said the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh, blessed be the name of the Lord. The Word exhorts us to thank the Lord for everything. All things work together for good to them that love the Lord and who are the called according to His purpose. He allows these things to come to give us more wisdom and understanding. There is a lesson to be learned in every trial. Are we walking in the light which He has shown us? He corrects and chastens those whom He loves. . . . Heaven is a holy place and we need all the cross taken out of our lives. If we were not tried, we'd never know whether our consecration was any good or not. God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above that we can ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. God wants us to know ourselves, and He wants us to know Him better. We need to seek God and see if we have done what He has shown us. If he sends light to us, we must walk in it—do what He says or we will go into darkness. We can't stand still, for He says to grow in grace and the knowledge of God.

"We never can prove the delight of His love until all on the altar we lay, for the favor He shows and the joy He bestows are for those who will trust and obey."

May God bless and keep all of you in the center of His will. Christian love, —Nellie Lovell

Let Us Please God Rather Than Men

For some time I have felt impressed to write to all the young people through this paper. I trust the few thoughts I have on my heart will be helpful to someone on life's road.

School is now in progress with many of our young people attending. Also, many are working at public jobs, while others may be at home tending to the duties there. Whatever our occupation in life is, the devil is right there to bring in temptations and trials to cast us down or do everything he can to drag our souls down to a devil's hell. Young people, we must be on guard at all times. To be on guard means to read the Bible and pray, and lift up the banner of holiness wherever we go.

One way the devil has of defeating a soul is to cause that one to choose to please men or this world, rather than God. Does not the Bible teach us to fear God rather than men? Think of Pontius Pilate. He did not want to condemn Jesus to death. In fact, he told the Jews, after questioning Jesus, "I find no fault in this man." But on the other hand, he wanted to please the crowd and they were putting political pressure on Pilate by saying, "If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend." Pilate showed himself to be a man of weak character, who was willing to allow an innocent man to be killed rather than run the risk of losing his office and authority. So when the crowd shouted, "Crucify him, crucify him," Pilate turned Jesus over to the soldiers to be beaten and crucified.

Can you see how trying to please man will lead you down to destruction? The devil starts with little children when one will say, "If you don't play my way, I won't play with you." And for fear he will not play, the other child does as he says.

The worldly crowd has many things to offer as pleasure. For the girls, others may tell her she would be much prettier if she would cut her hair or wear make-up. Naturally, a girl wants to be beautiful, so she begins to please the world, allowing pride to grow in her heart and losing her salvation, with which God beautifies the meek. Soon the devil has other things to bring up—pleasures of this world, frolicking and running around, having a big time with a crowd of worldly friends. It has often happened that while a young girl was in sin, she met a young man out in the world. Without properly considering the matter, they got married. Then, too often, it is not long until they find unhappiness, and sometimes the home is broken up, all because she pleased man rather than God.

For the boys, it works the same way. First, just a "puff" on a cigarette, or just a "little drink" from the bottle. The crowd tells him, "Your family will never find it out. Come on, it makes you feel big." And for fear he will be called a chicken, or a coward, he plunges into sin. Before he knows it, the devil has him bound and is dragging his precious soul down to a disgraceful life. Then some night, he may be out with a crowd. He will get in a car and race down the

road, having an accident and losing his precious soul in torment, only because he would rather please the crowd than God.

Oh, may this wake up some precious reader to the fact that pleasing man means destruction to the soul. My soul is burdened when I look around and see too many who are weak-kneed when it comes to living for the Lord. Anyone can go along with the crowd, but it takes a real young lady and a strong young man to stand before their faces and say, "NO!" Get your mind off having a good time, and get it on the Lord, and you will find you will have a precious life—one without remorse in eternity.

May God bless each one. I love each one of the young people and desire to see you established and strong in the ways of God. You pray that I will stay true to our loving Saviour. I want to be able to hold up the same standard that our fathers and mothers in Zion have held through the years.

Your Sister in Christ, —DeLoris (Eck) Bradley

Stewardship's Responsibility

Stewardship recognizes not only a tenth, but all as belonging to God.

Christian, where did you get the idea that you should give one-tenth of your money to the Lord? Do you not know that that was an Old Testament commandment, given under the Law, and to the Jews alone? Is there such a command in the New Testament? Did God tell the Church that only one-tenth belonged to Him?

"Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:33). That, my friend, is the Word of Jesus to the Christian—ALL! Note, He does not tell you to give all, but to forsake all. Relinquish all claim. Reckon it no longer yours, but His. Ask Him how He wants you to use it. Remember, she who gave the widow's mite gave all, for she gave all the living that she had.

Think not, "how much of my money will I give to God," but "how much of God's money will I keep for myself?"

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." (Luke 6:38). Do you see? Give, and you receive. To give is to get. But oh, the abundance!

Did you ever read such a description of God's giving? First, a good measure. Now press it down and put in more. Next shake it well together, and put in more yet. Then let it be heaped up until it runs over. Oh, what a God is ours! And now follows the unchangeable, irrevocable law. The measure that you use is the measure that God uses. This, beloved, is the secret of prosperity. God's secret: "Give, and it shall be given unto you." You get as you give. Will you not begin at once? Practice it now, and see what will happen.

Whatever is to be done must be done quickly, for the Lord is at hand. This is Saturday night in the history of the Church. The day is almost ended, night is at hand. The sand-hour of life will soon run out. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). Make haste! Delay not! "The Lord is at hand." —Oswald Smith

"By the gates of the treasury still He sits,
And watches the gifts we bring—
And he measures the gold that we give to Him
By the gold to which we cling.

"How much to revive a starving world?
How much for our pampered plates?
How much to extend the King's frontiers?
How much for our own estates?"

—Selected by H. P. Huskey

Egyptian Bondage or Canaan's Freedom?

MOSES OR AARON, WHICH SHALL IT BE?

Moses, the chosen leader of men, went up above the world and its influence, to be alone with God. Aaron, when left in charge, failed because he was influenced by the worldly-minded host. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." John 2:15. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit of God; that we might know the things that are freely given us of God" 1 Cor. 2:12. Some have received the spirit of the world, but still profess to be saints.

The man, Moses, was not to be found. "We wot not what is become of him." One who feared men, and was easily influenced by them was in charge. The rebellion developed. Aaron fell under its power and made the golden calf. If Moses had not returned, the worldly-minded host would have turned toward Egypt, being led by the weak Aaron.

Whom are we following, Moses or Aaron? Are we headed for the freedom of Canaan, to a richer experience in Christ in order to be ready at His coming, or are we on the way back to Egyptian bondage?

About the year 1910 many who were traveling heavenward stopped following leaders of the spirit of Moses; imbibed the spirit of the world, and were encouraged by the Aaron-type ministers who were afraid to cry out against the innovations that were coming in. Today finds them deep in Egyptian bondage, slaves to the fads and fashions of the world.

Do we have Aaron-type ministers among us today, afraid to cry out against the innovations that are taking root among us? As a rule, such ministers will give sympathy to those who become offended when the truth goes forth uncovering their compromise. Yes, we compromise when we cater to that which saps spirituality.

When Israel sinned, the commandments were broken. Before repentance, there must be a knowledge

of the awfulness of sin. When we acknowledge our sins, they are bitter to us—we drink of them. Moses "made the children of Israel drink of it," (the golden calf). Exodus 32:20.

"Moses saw that the people were naked." He saw their sins and the lack of grace in their hearts, and called for a separation: "Who is on the Lord's side?" The ones who had kept themselves pure must now take the sword (the Word of God) and slay the rebels; even if it is a brother or a companion (in the flesh). This is where the Aaron-type fails. When we fail to "lay judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet," God is displeased, and we must suffer with the transgressors. Here is where many have failed, and whole movements are on their way back to Egyptian bondage. Are we to be one of them? Most of the fallen movements have reached the land of Egypt already.

God gives space for repentance. The Lord said "I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee." . . . "And when the people heard these evil tidings, they mourned: and no man put on his ornaments." In other words, they laid aside everything that had displeased God, and repented of the evil. After doing this, "every one that sought the Lord went out into the tabernacle of the congregation."

If we are to be the people of God today, we must be led by the Moses-type, and separate ourselves from those who follow the Aaron-type ministers. Or must we say, "As for this Moses, . . . we wot not what is become of him"?

Yours for the truth,

—H. P. Huskey

"Give, and It Shall Be Given"

Imagine a rose that would say to itself: "I cannot afford to give away all my beauty and sweetness; I must keep it for myself. I will roll up my petals and withhold my fragrance."

But, behold, the moment the rose tries to store up its colors and treasures of fragrance, to withhold them from others, they vanish. The colors and fragrance do not exist in the unopened bud. It is only when the rose begins to open itself, to give out its sweetness, its life, to others that its beauty and fragrance are developed.

So human selfishness defeats its own ends. He who refuses to give himself for others, who closes the petals of his charity and withholds the fragrance of his sympathy and love, finds that he loses the very thing that he tries to keep. The springs of his manhood dry up. His finer nature becomes atrophied. He grows deaf to the cries of help from his fellowmen. Tears that never are shed for others' woes sour to stinging acids in his own heart.

Refuse to open your purse, and soon you cannot open your sympathy. Refuse to give, and soon you will cease to enjoy that which you have. Refuse to love, and you lose the power to love and be loved. Withhold your affections, and you become a moral

paralytic. But the moment you open wider the door of your life, and, like the rose, send out without stint your fragrance and beauty, you let the sunshine of life into your own soul. —Selected

ALCOHOL DOES NOT CURE DISEASE

Dr. Howard A. Kelly, writing on the nature of alcohol, says:

"There is no disease in the world for which alcohol is a cure . . . More to the point is the fact that while it cannot be said to cure any disease, it does undeniably cause thousands of cases of disease, all of them fatal in the long run. Its use is ruinous to kidneys, liver, heart, and the smaller blood vessels, and gives rise to that most common fatality, high blood pressure.

"It has been shown that one spoonful of liquor lessens the ability to form quick judgment and to act on that judgment. Giving a driver alcohol endangers life.

"Alcohol is a habit-forming drug. Its high potency as a dangerous drug is a million times more hurtful than any conceivable accruing advantage. It has no place in medical practice."

BIBLE STUDY

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

December 3, 1967

WHAT GOD REQUIRES OF MAN

Printed Portion Micah 6:1-8

Micah 6:1 Hear ye now what the Lord saith: Arise, contend thou before the mountains, and let the hills hear thy voice.

2 Hear ye, O mountains, the Lord's controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the Lord hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

3 O my people, what have I done unto thee? and wherein have I wearied thee? testify against me.

4 For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

5 O my people, remember now what Balak king of Moab consulted, and what Balaam, the son of Beor answered him from Shittim unto Gilgal; that ye may know the righteousness of the Lord.

6 Wherewith shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before the high God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old?

7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil? shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Memory Verse: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Micah 6:8.

Practical Truth: God requires loyal devotion and love for Him and His Word at all times.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The prophet Micah prophesied to the southern kingdom, Judah. He prophesied about the same time that Hosea and Isaiah were sent to the people from God.

Micah starts out in our lessons as if in court. The case is opened and mountains are called to be witnesses in the case as well as the foundations of the earth. God had a controversy, or indictment. Elsewhere in the chapters of Micah the charge was concerning the many sins of the people and the corrupt leaders, as well as the judges and priests who served only for pay.

Verse 2 reveals the love of God and his entreaty to the people. I am sure today God is asking the same question. Facts are facts. God has proved his love, yet why is it being spurned?

In verse 4, God brings to their minds how he had brought them from Egypt when they were under hard taskmasters and brought them to a land of Canaan. He also in verse 5 brings to their minds how he delivered them from the designs of Balak, king of Moab. (Numbers 22-24). In verses 6, 7 the prophet Micah is asking the question of the nation and then answers it in verse 8. God has made known the way he wants us to live. We cannot walk humbly with our God until we do justly and love mercy. Nothing can be brought to God to pay for salvation. We can only ask for mercy and then walk humbly, realizing we are nothing and can do nothing worthwhile unless God works through us.

December 10, 1967

THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

Printed Portion Micah 4:1-7

Micah 4:1 But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

2 And many nations shall come; and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

3 And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

4 But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

5 For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever.

6 In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted;

7 And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever.

Memory Verse: And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Micah 4:3.

Practical Truth: When we have given our hearts to God we can have peace in the midst of trouble.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The words "last days" mean when Jesus came to this world and set up his kingdom. After his resurrection and ascension, he filled the church on the day of Pentecost with the Holy Spirit. That was the beginning of the "house of the Lord" which he established in the "top of the mountain" and he "exalted" it "above the hills," which represents sectism. "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18). "And many nations shall come" which are the people flowing into it through the spirit working in each heart. Jesus told the disciples to go into "all the world and preach the gospel." (Mark 16:15) Before Jesus came, it was just the Israelites who were God's people, but now it is "whosoever will may come." In the "mountain of the Lord" or "the house of the God of Jacob" they are taught the ways of the Lord and can walk in his paths because they will know the laws that shall go forth out of Zion. Those who will accept the Lord shall live in peace and not learn war. They love everyone, even their enemies around about them. All can sit under the vine which is Christ and not be afraid because they are trusting in the Lord. The god of this world will not be their god but they will walk in the name of our Lord and Saviour. He will be our Healer and Keeper. The Lord will reign in our hearts and over his people. Only a remnant of the Jewish people chose Jesus as their Saviour and were willing to follow Him. We are born into the kingdom of God and our names are written in heaven. Sin is the only thing that can take our names off that book.

December 17, 1967

JEALOUSY BRINGS CRUELTY

Printed Portion 1 Samuel 19:9-20

1 Sam. 19:9 And the evil spirit from the Lord was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

13 And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth.

14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick.

15 And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him.

16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster.

17 And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

18 So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.

19 And it was told Saul, saying, Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.

20 And Saul sent messengers to take David: and when they saw the company of prophets prophesying, and Samuel standing as appointed over them, the Spirit of God was upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.

Memory Verse: Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers? Malachi 2:10.

Practical Truth: Wrong thoughts like weeds will grow and should be plucked up when they are small.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The women came out from the city and sang before David when he came from the battle, "Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands." King Saul was very unhappy and let jealousy come into his heart. King Saul did not try to get rid of those bad feelings but he nursed them and thought about ways to get rid of the one who seemed to be standing in his way and keeping him from being honored. We should never overlook feelings like these. Don't feel satisfied with yourself when such thoughts of jealousy come to you. Pray for God to take away every trace of them, even to the point of you honoring the one whom the devil would try to tempt you to be jealous of.

The wise man has told us that jealousy is as cruel as the grave. Jealousy has caused homes to be broken up and men to kill one another. Jealousy has brought many an innocent one down in tears and heartache. Truly it is a green-eyed monster, ready to crush every innocent person it can find.

King Saul had thought to get rid of David and he told him and others who were sent to battle against the Philistines that he would give his daughter in marriage to the one who killed 100 of his enemies. David killed 200. King Saul was unhappy, but was afraid not to keep his promise. While David played before him he tried to kill him but God took care of David many times although David knew he had been anointed to be king after Saul. David never did one thing to try to get rid of Saul but waited upon God to take care of it all. When the time came, God did give David the throne.

December 24, 1967

ONE GREATER THAN THE PROPHETS

Printed Portion Malachi 3:1-4; 4:2a, Micah 5:2-4

Mal. 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come in his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap:

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

4 Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

4:2a But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings.

Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem, Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler of Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

Memory Verse: But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. Malachi 4:2.

Practical Truth: John the Baptist, the messenger, came as Malachi said he would, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as Micah said he would be.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Malachi was the last prophet sent from God to the people of Israel for over 400 years. His book closes the Old Testament and prepares the way for the New Testament. In the year of 450 B. C. Malachi appeared on the scene. The people were corrupt and careless in their religious duties and their worship of God. That is the way Jesus found them when he came to this world.

The messenger spoken of in the first verse of our lesson is the prophesy of John the Baptist. Malachi looked into the future by the Spirit and saw that Jesus would come here in the flesh as our Saviour. He came to purify those who were his people so they could offer an offering in righteousness to God. Only through Christ living in our hearts can we live an acceptable life before God. We must have our natures cleansed by the Holy Spirit and be pure in His sight, walking daily according to His laws.

The last part of our lesson is in Micah. When the wise men came looking for the king, after seeing the star, Herod did not know how to answer them. They asked where the king of the Jews was to be born. (Matt. 2:1-22). Herod asked the scribes and others to tell him. They got the scrolls, which was the Old Testament writings, and looked in Micah 5:2 which is in our lesson and there they found that Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem. There the wise men found that "bundle from heaven." Much was wrapped in that bundle and today we rejoice in a Saviour's love because we have accepted the plan of salvation sent from God.

December 31, 1967

MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD

Printed Portion Mal. 3:5-10; Matt. 6:19-21; Mal. 3:16, 17

Mal. 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts.

6 For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Matt. 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.

Mal. 3:16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Memory Verse: Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Malachi 3:10.

Practical Truth: We rob God when we do not give ourselves and all we have to Him.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God created us for his glory. God did not make machines of us. He does not push a button and we move at his command, but he made us free moral agents. We can serve him and bring honor to His great name by keeping his commandments, worshipping him and letting him work through us. In all of this we can respond to the high calling God has for each of us.

God has given us life and our desire should be to make of it so God will be pleased and others will be blessed through our lives. To do this, Jesus has told us, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." (Mark 8:35) God has given us our life and it is in our power to give it to him. By so doing we can have eternal life, thereby saving our life.

The first verses of our lesson make us know that God will not change but all sin must be brought into judgment. Those who commit those sins must repent here and be forgiven or they will face it at the judgment in the last day. God calls for the people to return to him and he will return to them. He asks them to bring their offerings to him and prove him. He will open the windows of heaven and pour out upon them a blessing that they will not have enough room to contain it. The last verse is precious. A book of remembrance is kept of those who feared his name.

(Mrs.) Marie Miles