

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### New Year Patches

"No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment; for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse." Matt. 9:16.

Making resolutions,  
Starting life anew—  
Enthusiastic menders  
Toil the whole night thru  
Patching up old garments  
In the past they've torn;  
Then with well-meant patches  
Greet the New Year Morn.

Holes are then all mended  
Perfectly—they think;  
But ere the first day passes,  
Hopes begin to sink;  
For they soon discover  
That their garments old  
Have been worn so thread-bare  
Patches will not hold.

Vain are human efforts  
Good lives to begin—  
Self-created righteousness  
Only makes more sin.  
Mending up the old life  
Ne'er will make it right—  
Such is naught but filthy rags  
In the Savior's sight.

Jesus has new garments,  
Free from spot or rent,  
Which He gives to sinners  
If they will repent.  
Patch no more the old one,  
Start the New Year right—  
Ask Him for a new one  
Free from sinful blight.

—Geneva (Bailey) Ray

(The above poem appeared on the front page of this paper twenty-eight years ago—January, 1940.)

### The Fear of God

In Romans 3:10-18 the writer lists from the sacred writings a descriptive account of the state of fallen mankind. One of the things here mentioned is this: "There is no fear of God before their eyes" (ver. 18). When the fear of God is not before one's reckoning and aspect of life and existence, the heart of man will know no bounds of wickedness. The fear of God will restrain a person from entering the paths of sin and transgression, if it is given a proper place in his or her thought and consideration of heart.

What is the fear of God? It can be defined as respect, reverence, and sincere regard, belief and persuasion concerning the existence of God united with light and understanding concerning His nature, person, and law. The Bible reveals Jehovah's intense and wise effort to bring mankind to this condition of heart. He has ordained and set forth many witnesses before men, portraying in them vivid and infallible proofs of His reality and worthiness of faith and trust. From the holy lives and lips of these witnesses have flowed out the wonders and praise of the living God, beseeching those who behold to share with them the glorious blessings of their Lord. And surely the heart of man is deemed in His holy sight as most blind and hard to disregard such convincing testimonies.

"There is no fear of God before their eyes." What an awful state for mortals to be in! Yes, how sad that the inhabitants of the earth who live, move, and have their being through the goodness and favor of the most High God have not His fear before their eyes! While man gropes unceasingly in the earth for wisdom of this world, the lips of divinely inspired men of God proclaim that "the fear of God is the beginning [or foundation] of wisdom." Man's endeavor for wisdom apart from the fear of God is a fruitless, wasted endeavor. And Satan, the great Adversary to God in His workings with men for salvation, yes, Satan knows that as long as he can keep the fear of God away from man's perspective, he secures that soul for himself. Therefore he (Satan) has estab-

lished himself as the god of this world, producing in every fashion crafty devices to decoy man's heart away from godly fear.

"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." Prov. 8:13. This is a part of Wisdom's utterance in her appeal to the souls of men. "By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil." Prov. 16:6 "And unto man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." These scriptures teach us that the fear of God is to hate and depart from evil, pride, arrogancy, etc. "Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it." Ps. 34:11-14.

The fear of God must be restored to man's vision. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:11. In the preceding chapter he mentioned God's promises to dwell with men if they will separate themselves from all uncleanness and iniquity. Thus having these promises, we are urged to cleanse ourselves. This is something that is on our part to do. We must have light and knowledge as to what is unclean and clean, impure and pure, unholy and holy. In the law of Moses is revealed the standard of God's holiness. Paul testified that he had not known sin except the law had made known what sin was. "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law said, Thou shalt not covet." Rom. 7:7. This knowledge coupled with the fear of God is what led him to the cross of Christ. In his own strength he was not able to master his sin, but through the grace of the Lord Jesus the fear of God was triumphant in his heart to lay hold of perfect holiness.

"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever." Oh, the depth and sacred content of these words! All else beside the fear of the Lord will merit eternal destruction. This applies to us, and determines the surety of our hope in God. The fear of the Lord builds one up in the virtues of honesty and truth, the lack of which disquiets the earth today. If all that is done to escape the eye of man would reckon that Almighty God takes full notice and holds such for judgment, the earth and its inhabitants would right themselves. If all would but take to heart the final conclusion of a man who viewed life and existence at every angle! "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."

"Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord." Prov. 1:28, 29. The

fear of God must be chosen by each individual. It can be spurned and denied. The fear of God promises blessings, life, health, happiness, hope, victory over sin and death, peace, and prosperity. This will be the blessed lot of all who love her and accept her ways. But to the rebellious who will not choose the fear of God there will be sorrow, trouble, frustration, grief, disappointment, and destruction.

"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:39-43. One of these men turned his back on the fear of God even though he was face to face with death. Instead of imploring the blessed One for mercy as the other humbly did, he railed on Him. "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?" We can apply these words to us today. We all as mortals are in the same condemnation. "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27. The scriptures present mankind in the aspect of prisoners and those who are appointed unto death. Ps. 102:20. Regardless of how much we condemn and rail upon our fellow-man, remember, we are all under the same condemnation. We should rather fear God, and make our calling and election sure with Him.

—Leslie Busbee

## What is the Cost?

Jesus says, "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple." (Luke 14:33).

As long as your heart and affections are on what you have, you cannot learn of the Lord for they take your time and attention. When you really forsake all; then, and then only will Jesus have your time and attention. Other things will become secondary matters, and you will learn of Him and follow.

I often hear people talking about counting the cost. Let us do some counting and see just what it will cost to be a real follower of Jesus. You can buy salvation, but not with money. Read Isaiah 55:1. What is it going to cost you to buy salvation? First, you have godly sorrow because you have sinned against a loving and just God; then you repent and forever forsake all sin. When you do that, it will cost the fellowship of all your sinful friends; which no doubt, are very many, including many professors of religion. If you go to dances, give them up; if you go to card parties and picture shows, give them up; if you gamble or play pool or any other games of revelry, give them up; if you use tobacco or strong drinks, give them up; if you have stolen anything, confess that and take it back or pay for same; if you cheat, swindle, or lie, give all that up; then begin

to walk honestly with God and with your fellowmen; in fact, you become a righteous, sober, and godly person in this world.

You may say, the cost is too great, I cannot pay it. But listen just a moment, friend, did you ever stop to think what the cost will be if you do not repent and serve God in this short time world? It will cost you the eternal bliss of heaven, and it will mean severe punishment and torment in eternity in a devil's hell. We read of a man in the 16th chapter of Luke who would not pay the price while in this short life, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment. He prayed for a drop of water to cool his tongue, for he said, "I am tormented in this flame." (It was real to him.) He was even denied a drop of water. Then he prayed for one to be sent from the dead to tell his brothers so they would repent, pay the price, and not go to that awful place of torture, but he was denied that, for they had Moses and the prophets. You can get your prayers answered in this life, but never after you go into the regions of the lost. You will then always be paying on the cost and never get it paid.

The cost of not serving God in this short life is ten thousand times greater than it is to give up this world and serve Him your few short days that you have in this swiftly passing time.

God says, "Come, let us reason together." Dear reader, let your better judgment prevail. Hasten to the Saviour's bleeding side, bear the reproach of the cross and receive righteousness, peace, and joy in this present kingdom of God (Rom. 14:17) and the comfort of eternal bliss in the future abode.

—By the late Fred Pruitt

## Which Church Saves?

Must we become Protestants in order to be saved?

Not at all, my friend. I wouldn't waste any time trying to convert you to Protestantism.

But you do not believe that either the Roman or the Greek Catholic Church can save, do you?

Certainly not.

Well then, I am a Roman Catholic and my friend here is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, neither of which, you say, can save. And you, you are a Protestant. Do you not want us also to turn Protestant?

I do not. I have never asked any Catholic, Greek or Roman, to turn Protestant.

You haven't! I don't understand. Do you not believe that Protestantism can save?

No, I do not.

You don't! I am amazed. What then—Protestantism has no more power to save than has Catholicism, my friends.

What then! How can a man be saved? There are only the three great Christian Churches, are there not?

I repeat, my friends, that neither the Roman Catholic, the Greek Orthodox, nor the Protestant Church can in any way save your souls.

Wait a minute. No Church can save, but—JESUS CHRIST can!

JESUS!

Yes, my friends, you are saved, not by the Church, either Catholic or Protestant, but through a Person, and that Person—the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son.

Can it be possible! And to think that we have never heard this before!

It would do you no good to become Protestants, for there are thousands of Protestants who are not saved, thousands who have embraced Christianity who have never accepted the Christ of Christianity.

Is that why we have not found peace? Is there no peace in Catholicism?

No, friend, and none in Protestantism, either. Peace is only found in Jesus. Religion cannot save; but Christ can.

But are you sure of this, Sir?

Neither is there salvation in any other (Protestant or Catholic). God says: "For there is none other name [Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, or Protestant] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

"Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He [not the Catholic priest nor the Protestant minister, but He—Jesus Christ] shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

What then, must we do?

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," for "as many as received HIM to them gave He power to become the sons of God" (Acts 16:31 and John 1:12).

And will He receive us?

"Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37).

He loves you. Yea, He died for you. Your sins He bore as He hung on Calvary. Then come, repent and trust His atoning death. Take Him now as your Saviour, for He will "have mercy" and "abundantly pardon."

We thought we were saved because we were good church members; but you have opened our eyes, and we know now that Jesus is the only Saviour, and the only One who can forgive sins. —Sel.

## Prayer Answered

I asked for strength that I might achieve;

He made me weak that I might obey.

I asked for health that I might do greater things;

I was given grace that I might do better things.

I asked for riches that I might be happy;

I was given poverty that I might be wise.

I asked for power that I might have the praise of men;

I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.

I asked for all things that I might enjoy life;

I was given life that I might enjoy all things.

I received nothing that I asked for, all that I hoped for, My prayer was answered.

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

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

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

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**EDITORIALS**

As we cross the threshold of the brand new year of 1968, we extend Christian greetings of holy love to all our readers who, with this issue, include several thousand who are receiving this full gospel paper for their first time and will also receive it for the months of February and March. If you are a new reader, it is likely that a kind friend of yours has subscribed for you for these three months with the hope and earnest prayer that the contents of these issues will prove a special spiritual benefit to you and your family. (These trial issues are coming to you without charge, and you will not receive a bill or statement.) Please read these copies carefully with an open heart and mind, and compare the teachings with the Bible. We hope you will subscribe for it at the end of the trial offer.

For more than forty years the editors of this paper have endeavored to present the plain positive truths of the gospel of Christ as revealed by the Spirit and Word of God—the same gospel which Jesus and the apostles taught and practiced. This paper has continued to lift up the same standard of Bible truth which ushered in the "evening light" (Zech. 7:14) restoration movement in its original power, purity, and simplicity. Principles of truth and moral laws are as unchanging and eternal as God Himself. And He still has a visible body of people who are walking in the "old paths" and the "good way" and they are finding sweet rest to their souls. Over the years God has used these columns to edify and unify the spiritual Body of Christ, which is the Church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth. The Church includes all who have been born again and made new creatures in Christ. We reach our hands in fellowship to every true believer in Jesus—one who is walking in the light as He is in the light. (1 John 1:7.)

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The continuing response of our readers in sending more names for the special three-months offer is very much appreciated. Though some lists have been received after the expiration date of December 8, they are being added to the many others with the prayer that these readers also will be benefited thereby.

We are sorry that some persons, for whom this paper was intended, will not receive their copies because the addresses were not correct, complete, or legible, or perhaps they moved in the meantime. The postoffice charges us ten cents for each notification of a change of address. If you move, please advise us at once, giving your old and new address.

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Now available are heavy paperbound books of the eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1967 at one dollar each, postpaid. Ready also are the 1967 "Beautiful Way" books for juniors (52 papers for the year) at one dollar each, postpaid.

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Bro. Ira Stover, former pastor at Guthrie, accompanied this writer and his wife to the Hammond, La. assembly meeting which was held November 19 to 26 on the General Southern campground. It has always

been a pleasure over the years to meet with the saints in the South, and this time was no exception. Our two sons and their families live in that area, and, of course, we enjoyed our visit with them.

A number of out-of-state and in-state ministers and many saints were present at the recent meeting at Hammond where Bro. T. H. Coffey is the pastor. The Word was preached with rich anointing, setting forth the truth clear and definite. The convicting Spirit of God accompanied the Word and a number of souls sought the Lord for spiritual help at the altar of prayer. In answer to prayer a number testified to physical healing. The ordinances of the Lord's House—feet-washing and the Lord's supper—were observed by a group of happy saints. In several services the chapel was filled to capacity, and it appears that they will eventually have to enlarge the building. May the Lord continue to prosper His work in the South.

In stock at this office are more than 300 different titles of gospel tracts to be sent out free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. Where prices are quoted, it is at cost or below. Write for a FREE sample to read and pass on, or enclose in your letters. One tract may result in the salvation of many souls.

Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the various campmeetings of the Church of God for 1968 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information please send in the campmeeting dates by February 1, 1968 so we can publish the entire list in the March issue.

Word was received of the passing of Sister Katie Freeman, of Magnolia, Miss. on Dec. 9 after an extended illness. Some of the ministers attending the recent Hammond, La. meeting visited her on Nov. 19. In response to their entreaty and the dealings of the Holy Spirit, she prayed through to victory in her soul and kept the joy of salvation until the end. In her times of suffering prayer would always bring relief. May God comfort the entire family in their sorrow.

Sister Ruby Marken, our co-worker in the subscription department, left by bus on November 22 for Twin Falls, Idaho where she helped her parents move to another home in the same area. The Lord blessed her during the time she was with her parents, and gave her a safe return trip to the office on Dec. 14.

Sister Opal Kelly, now helping here in the office work, is also translating more English gospel literature into Spanish in preparation for publishing literature for distribution in the Spanish-speaking areas. Pray for this phase of the Lord's work.

Sister Lillian Meek, a faithful co-worker here in the Lord's Printshop, suffered a stroke at her home on November 5. In answer to prayer she is continuing

to recover. Though her strength is returning slowly, her faith is firm in the unfailing promises of God. Continue to pray for her healing. She is confined to her home and Sister Frances Perkins of Tulsa, Oklahoma is caring for her. May the Lord bless both of them.

Bro. and Sister Gene Beisly and daughters, office co-workers whom the Lord recently added to our number, were called to Myrtle, Mo. on account of the sickness and death on December 2 of Sister Dora Lela Beisly's mother, Sister Alsia J. (Bessie) Sorrell. Through her extended illness, her faith and trust was fully in God, and in answer to prayer the Lord touched her many times. He was with her all the way. The entire staff extend their sincere sympathy to the family in their loss, praying that the "God of all comfort" will be their portion. Her obituary appears in this issue.

The proposed new book on "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present" is still in the compilation and type-setting process. It will set forth the Bible doctrine of divine healing, as well as contain a large number of definite testimonies of healing over the years down to the present time. No doubt it will be a large book when completed for distribution some time in the first part of 1968. Such a book should fill a definite need, inspire active living faith and convince the gainsayers.

As this issue goes to press, word was received of the recent decease of Sister Bobbie Edwards of Okmulgee, Okla. who had been sincerely interested in the distribution of gospel literature for some years.

In stock at this office are a few copies of the excellent book, "Shadows of Good Things, or the Gospel in Type" by R. R. Byrum. It is illustrated by several full-page drawings of the Jewish tabernacle and its furniture. Containing 141 pages, paperbound, the price is \$1.00 each, postpaid.

Just off the press is a reprint edition of an excellent book first published in 1919, entitled "The Poorhouse Waif and His Divine Teacher" by Isabel C. Byrum. You will appreciate this touching true story. 223 pages in heavy paper cover, and ready for prompt delivery. Price, \$1.00 per copy, postpaid.

As we come to the end of the old year, we set up another "Ebenezer" stone which proclaims: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" in the publication of the gospel literature. God, whom we serve, has been faithful to lead and direct, and supply the spiritual and temporal needs of His work. More gospel literature in the form of tracts, papers, and books than ever before has been mailed out in all directions, yet the demand for more is urgent. Thousands of new people have read the gospel invitation this past year, yet the millions remain unreached in "the regions beyond." All the thousands of pages of

English, Spanish, and African gospel literature going to foreign lands are mailed free and postpaid, made possible by the sacrificial financial support of saints with Christ's missionary spirit, as well as the consecrated volunteer service of the co-workers at this publishing plant. Our vision is for a greater outreach this year.

By the grace of God we face the future with confidence, though the obstacles loom large on the horizon. The world must have the gospel regardless of the cost or sacrifice. With your continued prayers and co-operation we mean to hold up the shield of faith and move forward.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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## OBITUARIES

Samuel Robert Miles was born January 10, 1919 in Johnson City, Tennessee, and departed this life at the age of 48 years, and 10 months. He had been in poor health for several years prior to his death.

Sam was the son of James D. and Jessie B. Miles. His father preceded him in death several years ago.

He was united in marriage to Sarah Loretta Wattenbarger December 15, 1944 in Rossville, Ga. They moved to Oregon in 1947 where two sons were born to them. They moved to Orland, California over five years ago.

Sam attended services with the family only a few times but came in contact with many saints and had many friends. He gave his heart to the Lord before he died.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah Loretta; two sons, James C. and Samuel P. Miles at home; his mother, Mrs. R. W. Chambers, Salem, Oregon; one sister, and other relatives and friends.

Services were held in the Jacobson Family Chapel, Portland, Oregon, conducted by Bro. R. F. Wilson, assisted by Bro. H. P. Huskey. Text: Job 14:14. Interment was in the Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon.

Sister Mabel Doolittle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Nichols, was born April 19, 1904 at Howard, Kansas, and departed this life on November 17, 1967 at Kernville, Calif. at the age of 63 years, 6 months, and 28 days.

In 1912 she heard the teachings of the Church of God under Bro. Willis M. Brown and was converted at the age of eight years, and had served the Lord for over 50 years.

She was united in holy matrimony to Bro. Francis Doolittle on December 29, 1922 at Texico, New Mexico. To this union seven children were born—four boys and three girls. Two sons, Earl and Melvin, preceded her in death.

Sister Mabel lived an exemplary life, and through her illness of many months she was very patient and kind, with her faith and trust firmly in the Lord. Bro. Ostis Wilson, who had known her many years, wrote: "She was a precious woman and lived a victorious life and died a victorious death and I feel confident she has now received the crown of life."

Survivors include: a faithful husband, Bro. Francis Doolittle, Kernville, Calif.; three daughters, Ruby Williamson, Jena, La., Edith Huskey, Reseda, Calif., and Nelda Sorrell, Whittier, Calif.; two sons, Dale of Hammond, La.; and Glen of Phoenix, Ariz.; two brothers, Edgar Nichols, Yucaipa, Calif. and Charles Nichols, Glendale, Calif.; four sisters, Grace Hardey, St. Louis, Mo., Mrs. Cara Brown, Clawson, Mich., Mrs. Pearl Maples, Lakewood, Calif., and Mrs. Gladys Hale, Sand Springs, Okla.; 14 grandchildren, one great grandchild, many other relatives, saints and friends.

A funeral was held at the Pacoima, Calif. chapel, conducted by Bro. I. C. Chandler and Bro. Ostis Wilson. Then the body was flown to Louisiana where a service was held at Hammond, conducted by Bro. Ira D. Stover, assisted by Bro. T. H. Coffey and Bro. Herbert Probst. Interment was near Loranger, La. at the Oak Grove chapel cemetery where their oldest son, Melvin, is buried. There they await the general resurrection.

Bessie Mabel (Reynolds) Sorrell, daughter of the late Irvin and Dora Reynolds, was born March 21, 1902 at Dalton, Arkansas, and departed this life December 2, 1967 at the age of 65 years, eight months, and 11 days.

On November 25, 1923 she was united in marriage to Alsia J. Sorrell. To this union were born four sons and two daughters. Those who survive besides her husband are: Lillian Eck, Goltry, Okla., Lehman Earl Sorrell, Newton, Kansas; Dora Lela Beisly, Guthrie, Okla.; Clifford Sorrell, Colorado City, Colo.; Fred Sorrell, Mesa, Arizona; Thurman Sorrell, Myrtle, Mo.; 15 grandchildren, three sisters, Versie Hall, Ulysses, Kansas; Clara Westfall, Perkins, Oklahoma; Leta Sorrell, Myrtle, Mo.; two brothers, Jake Reynolds, Granite City, Ill.; and Lehman Reynolds, Myrtle, Mo., a number of nieces and nephews, besides other relatives and many friends.

As a young lady, she was born into the Church of God, and lived a consistent Christian life until her death.

She was a devoted wife and faithful mother. The Scripture says, "... her children arise up and call her blessed." Her labor of love in the church was outstanding, as she filled her place, laboring with her hands, caring for others. Her works will follow on.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. S. E. Abbott and Bro. Murphy Allen at the Church of God chapel near Myrtle, Mo., where also the interment was made in the Church of God cemetery to await the resurrection. Text was St. John 14:1.

#### Note of Appreciation

Dear Saints: We wish to extend our sincere thanks to each one, far and near, for your prayers, comforting letters, cards, offerings, flowers, telephone calls, all acts of kindness and love shown to us during the sickness and death of our wife and mother. Those who prayed for her and took time to send cards and letters for her encouragement had a part in the victory gained in her behalf.

Your Brother in the Lord, Alsia J. Sorrell and children

My son, Edwin George Senti, passed on to his reward on November 12, 1967. He surely made it to that Heavenly Home after suffering for 94 days. He requested prayer, and prayed, "God, be merciful to me a sinner and save my soul for Christ's sake." He also said he was under the shed blood of our Lord Jesus. His passing was a shock to us all, as he was the youngest of my five children. God always knows what is best, so I do not mourn as others who are without Christ. —Bro. Andrew Senti

(Editor's note: Our prayer is that our heavenly Father will continue to comfort Bro. Senti in his loss and bereavement. His fervent prayer and desire was answered in the fact that his dear son made peace with God, even at the "eleventh" hour. It pays to pray on for our unsaved loved ones. Bro. Senti is aged, yet he has been a gospel worker and active tract distributor for many years in Minneapolis, Minnesota. May God bless and reward his faithful efforts.)

#### OREGON STATE ASSEMBLY REPORT

We are still thanking the dear Lord for the precious meeting we had here in Jefferson, Oregon on November 3 to 12, 1967. It was not a large gathering, but the presence of the Lord was very near and He blessed in the preaching of His Word, as the precious truth went forth with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Some were at the altar for spiritual help or healing in almost every service. In one special service the Spirit was so precious that one sister received the grace of sanctification while sitting in her seat. She testified how the Lord had blessed her. Others had bright testimonies as the messages went forth from time to time. It surely was a time of refreshing for the church. Our souls were edified and we are encouraged to press on for the promised prize.

Saints came from Washington and California, as well as different parts of Oregon. Some came from other movements and rejoiced to hear the gospel preached as they had heard it preached in former years. Our God is gathering His people out of the places where they have been scattered. The ones who are hungry for the truth are coming to Zion. Our hearts rejoice to see them come.

And then our hearts are grieved to see some departing from the truth. We need to keep on the whole armor of God and hold up the Bible truths which will set people free. May we exhort each one to be faithful to God, and to live a careful, sober, and ready life in His sight.

—Beatrice Spaur

"As eagerly as the ancient Jews searched the Old Testament writings for prophecies of the Messiah's first coming, we, the Christians of today, search for the New Testament prophecies of His return."

#### LATEST LETTER FROM NIGERIA

Midwestern Nigeria (Nov. 27)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, I greet you in the precious name of Jesus our Saviour:

I am writing you from Kwale, having been driven out of Benin City by the civil war in Nigeria. On the 9th of August, 1967, we woke up one fine morning to find ourselves—the entire Midwestern State—in the hands of Biafra, through an organized lightning coup which surprised us all. I wrote you of this through a member of the American Peace Corps who agreed to have the letter posted for me in any of the African countries on his way home, because Midwestern Nigeria was thus blockaded by Biafra and the Federal Government. In the letter I requested a stop to further remittances of support. Hope you got the letter and that nothing was further remitted to help spread the work of our Master.

On the 20th of September, 1967, Federal troops recaptured Benin City. The civilian population was hard hit, especially those having language similarity with the Ibos who were then making their way out of Benin. My wife and I narrowly escaped. We lost all our belongings and left the city with nakedness, more or less, to Kwale, which is my area. We have been notified that all our age-long properties and those of the church have been looted completely. My area or division speaks a tongue very similar to that of Ibos of the East and so can hardly be identified. But there is a difference, even though a similar tongue, because historically we are from Benin. God Himself came for evacuation of my children from Benin City on the 19th of September, 1967. They left on this date to spend just a week of their holidays in my hometown and on the 20th was witnessed the greatest stampede ever seen in my life history. Satan is actively engaged in the work of life destruction in Nigeria. Churches have been adversely attacked, even our own. The Church of God Mission is dominated in population by the Benins and Urhobos. These two tribes are thickly populated in the Midwest, but are not as educated and progressive as the Midwestern Ibos who dominate all Governmental Agencies.

I became an object of hate when I preached, appealed, and warned in our congregation at Benin City that children of God have no part to play in the wars of the world, but should remain prayerful, neutral, and love generally, because the Church of God is the church universal. But had I condemned Ibos, I could have earned their praises and acclaim as the best pastor ever attached to the Church of God. Is there any offense worse than that a tribe should be pushed out of the Church of God? We are not going to be judged by tribes, but by individual conduct. A true child of God must welcome all without limitation to special locality.

... You must surely send Bro. Carver to work with us when the war ends. Soul-winning would appear to be easier this way.

I am looking forward to our brethren at Asana being free from total blockade to join hands with me in the work. What I need badly are books and a good Holy Bible—World Bible. All the books sent to me for the congregation and my Holy Bible were looted along with my properties at Benin City. Tracts are needed in large quantity, also "Faith and Victory."

We are not weakened (my family and I) by our present condition of having nothing to wear and not too much to eat. God will surely take care of us.

Asana brethren are still within the area under total economic blockade. Their sufferings are much and many. True Christians are under serious persecutions in Nigeria. The Church, I must confess, is threatened by Satan and

Communism. I am, however, optimistic that David and not Goliath is to win the day. Praise God!

My family joins with me in sending you, your children, and the entire members of the Church of God in U. S. A. our sincere Christian greetings.

Sincerely yours in Him,

—Titus U. E. Enu

(Editor's note: The foregoing letter from Bro. Enu, formerly the pastor of the now scattered mission at Benin City, is the last word from him since his report dated August 18 and printed in the October paper, at which time he advised us not to try to communicate with him again until we received word from him. This letter was eagerly awaited and gladly received, as we thanked the Lord that they escaped with their lives, although their personal possessions were lost. No further word has been received from the 20 mission stations in the rebel Eastern section of Nigeria since last May when the Federal troops blockaded that area and cut off communications. The newscasts report that the Eastern section is practically defeated and ready to surrender. We pray and trust that the blockade will be lifted, peace restored, and the means of communication restored in the very near future.)

### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Nov. 23)—My dear Brother Lawrence Pruitt: Greetings of brotherly love and Christian joy in the precious name of Jesus, our great High Priest in heaven.

Thank you very much for your letter and the contents dated Nov. 7. I have gone through the latest "Faith and Victory" you sent along with it, the November issue, with much interest. The two articles, "Singleness of Heart" and "Manna For Our Day," caused me much searching of my heart.

Yes, manna came every day, early in the morning. There is a beautiful lesson for us. How invigorated and refreshed we are when we wake up early in the morning to gather the manna for the day, the healing Word, the sustaining Word, the strengthening Word. Manna fell upon the dew (Num. 11:9). The dew-filled life of the Christian gives fragrance. In the stillness and quietness of the dawn we can eat the angel's food and store up renewed strength by waiting on the Lord in the morning watch. Praise the dear Lord for victory through faith.

I rejoice to reflect on what Caleb said to Joshua, "Lo, I am this day four score and five years old; as yet I am as strong this day, as I was in the day that Moses sent me." He requested Joshua to give him the mountain to fight out the giant Arba of the Anakims. Yes, we are given such a marvelous renewed strength by eating the bread that comes down from heaven. Praise the Lord!

These are the days of giant sinners whom we have to try to turn to saints. It is the King's business entrusted to our charge and the King's business requires haste. We are hastening to our mid-summer conventions. We are sorry to hear from Bro. C. C. Carver that visa to come to India is refused. Hence, we are arranging our conventions without putting his name in the notices. We request the fervent prayers of all the saints in America for God's blessings to be poured down over the valuable souls attending the conventions.

The little tract, "The Christian Confession," has become very helpful to me. I am preaching that message of faith, "hold fast our confession," and I find everywhere I preach that souls are awakened and revived. Praise the Lord! Without faith it is impossible to please God.

I am very much delighted to note in the "Faith and Victory" that you are venturing on a new book, "Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present." I believe you are

thereby endeavoring to restore and bring to light all the living truth to which our old-time saints held fast. I am anxiously looking forward to the completion of this work. May God richly bless you and help all involved in the work. May He provide you with means. You have our prayers.

Yes, my three sons are saved by God's grace, and some other young men are also regularly attending our Bible classes. Please pray for them. I am these days praying for our conventions to be held in December, January, and February. I am burdened for souls. I am trusting in the Lord because I am fully convinced of my nothingness. Unless and until the Spirit of God works in the hearts of sinners, real repentance and conversion will not be effected. He has promised to be with us. He is our co-worker. Praise the Lord, He is faithful.

I am finishing this letter and then going to bow down at His feet to pray for some time before I start for meetings in one congregation. Please pray for the hungry souls who are praying in singleness of heart. I feel like striving for power and strength and embracing the Lord wholeheartedly and holding fast to the Lord like Jacob of old who wrestled with the angel, saying, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me." I am nearing the year ending, and new year is fast approaching. Hence, I have to take part in the meetings arranged.

India is facing a terrible crisis. Missionaries are not allowed to have free access into our land. I feel the burden is resting heavily on us to cling to the Lord and carry on His work. It is high time for us to be prepared for labor for the Lord. Kindly pray, pray, pray!

These days I am thinking deeply about our Nigerian brethren. May God keep them and protect them. Night is fast approaching when no man can work.

Please do not bear the impression that I am full of forebodings and pessimism. No, certainly not! Only I am hoping for the best and preparing for the worst. I want to have increasing faith. May I close and go to prayer before I set off to a distant place.

Your saved Brother in Christ, —C. M. Verghese

### Prayer Requests

Tenn.—To all the Saints: I desire earnest prayer for nervousness, confused mind, and accusations. I trust God fully and desire to be patient and submissive in all things. —W. M. S.

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints at the Publishing House, greetings in the Lord: As I have trouble in my head and throat that is called catarrh and hard of hearing, I would like for you to remember me in prayer that the Lord will heal me of these afflictions in His name and for His glory. I am thanking the Lord for past blessings.

Yours truly,

—Walter Worley

Okla.—Remember dear Sister Poulos who has several afflictions, but is firmly trusting God.

Okla.—"My daughter has colon trouble." —R. McClelland.

Ark.—Sister Wall and Sister V. Dotson have varicose veins and need prayer.

Ky.—"High blood pressure and liver or colon trouble." Mrs. F. Dunaway.

Ill.—Dizzy spells, other afflictions. —Mrs. T. Pitts Ga.—Light stroke. —Mrs. Ada Smith

Texas—"I was healed of hemorrhaging, but now am suffering with arthritis." —Mrs. E. L. Sandles

La.—"Ernest needs prayer badly. His face is not healing as we want it to." —Sister J. E. Mitchell

Arkansas—Thyroid trouble. —Sister Lou Bray.

Pa.—"I am hard of hearing and my heart is bothering me." —B. M. King

Ark.—Dizziness, heart condition, rash. —Sister Opal McMurrin.

Mo.—"I still need more healing since God has promised it to us in His Word." —Goldie Knapp.

Mo.—"Pray for my nerves and bladder trouble." Lilly Mae Glass.

Ark.—"I am not well and my husband has cancer of the throat." —Mrs. Amanda Leitgabel

Wash.—"Please remember my husband in prayer. He is not well, has heart trouble. We know God can heal." —Sister O. V. Koehler.

Mo.—"I have some problems, also some afflictions." Mack Sanders.

Fla.—"I have shingles, no rest day nor night." Marie Lindner.

Ohio.—"For more than a year I have been afflicted in my back and legs so that I am unable to stand or walk without aid. . . . If it is His blessed will, I do believe He will heal me completely. I am a child of God and pray that I may continue in His name." —Ella H. Clark.

Still remember Sister Jessie Taylor, Sister Lillie Miller, Sister Hilda Coffey, Bro. and Sister Barton. As we pray, we can ask the Lord to bless all the dear saints who are looking to the Lord for healing and other problems. The Bible tells us, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good [or pray for] unto all men, especially unto them [or for them] who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10.

I have, for a couple of months, been getting material together for our book on divine healing. I have read a couple of books on healing by pioneer ministers and also a book of instances of healings and gone through a number of our back annuals of the "Faith and Victory" papers. Oh, my soul has been blessed, and with tears at times I just had to praise the Lord for all of His greatness and love shown to His trusting children in healing their bodies. When active faith reaches God, He just quietly, with the absence of anything sensational, and with such ease, works His miracles. What a mighty God we serve! It is precious to stand in His presence and see Him work. God is healing today. With confidence let us seek Him to just "speak the word" and we will be healed. My soul magnifies the Lord today for His greatness and mercy to His weak creatures. We can only ask for mercy because we have nothing to offer. Be encouraged, dear ones.

—Sister Marie Miles

### NEW YEAR'S GREETING

Oklahoma—To all the household of God that are far and near, a happy New Year's greeting to everyone. May the God of heaven, who has so richly blessed us through the past year, abide in our hearts throughout the new year with love, and with a desire and determination to do more than we did in the past year. By working and praying and giving, we pay but the debt that we owe.

To the Faith Publishing House, Bro. Pruitt, Sister Marie and co-workers: May the love and grace of God continue to abide with you. May you ever be blessed with strength for body and soul to continue in the wonderful work of God. Thank God for the many souls that have been blessed and born into the Kingdom of God through the effects of the "Faith and Victory" paper.

To the "Mission Trail"—Bro. Willie, Sister Frances, and family: A happy New Year's greeting to all of you. Thank the dear Lord for your effort of love and faith, which has reached a long way in a short time. Every

sermon has been inspiring to the hearts of many. May God's richest blessings be yours all through the new year, and may you be blessed with strength for body and soul, to carry on the good work of faith is my prayer.

To all the Homes where the dear elderly saints are cared for: I am glad and thankful to the dear Lord for providing these dear saints a home, who down through the years have trusted God for soul and body, worked hard, gone through many oppositions, but are still looking up to God. Thank the Lord that they have been blessed with a sweet, quiet home of faith and love. Yes, feet that have carried the gospel glad, tidings of peace as the Savior said, hands that have strengthened the weak and sad, feet that have, and are now traveling the narrow way, will be welcomed to the heavenly Home. Praise His dear name!

May the comfort and love of God be around you by day and by night throughout the new year is my prayer. Thank the Lord for all the dear ones who had a burden for these Homes. May God ever bless you with courage and strength, and provide in every needed way is my prayer.

With love,

—Carrie Woods

### Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—To the dear Saints, greetings to you in the precious name of Jesus.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the dear Lord for what He is to me, for how He has been with me in the severe afflictions and tests the past months, and for all the prayers, letters and cards of encouragement I have received. I am not able to answer each one individually, but want to thank each one and let you know they have meant much to me.

In answer to prayer, the Lord would give me relief, then another attack would come, and so on. But I am still trusting and praising Him for what He has done.

In answer to prayer the dear Lord touched the condition hindering my swallowing to the extent that I could swallow and retain more liquid and strained food. We are real happy about this, then later I have been able to swallow some soft solids. Please pray on. I am looking to the Lord to move the obstruction or growth, of whatever nature it is, so I can swallow and retain food without choking and suffering.

I gained strength enough to be able to be rolled in a wheelchair to the car and attend prayer meeting on Oct. 25, the first time I was able to go to meeting since March. I was real glad to be in service again and went three times.

There has been another attack, chest-bleeding, vomiting, and a bad heart for more than a week now. I am very weak in body. I can be up but little, so I still need prayer and am expecting greater things from the hand of God.

Yours in the Master's service,

—Nellie Poulos

Mich.—Greetings in Jesus' precious name to all God's dear children everywhere: I am thankful and happy to be able to tell of His goodness and mercy to me, and how He touched my body and healed me of an affliction which looked serious. The affliction started in May of this year and I was healed in September. I felt very bad in my body, so I had a handkerchief sent to be anointed at the National campmeeting at Neosho, Mo. The letter was taken by some good saint to Sister Marie Miles who was there, and she had the handkerchief anointed by a group of ministers. They prayed for my healing and the good Lord answered their prayers, touched me,

and completely healed me. How I thank and praise His blessed name! Jesus is still the same today and forever. What would we do without Him?

I deeply appreciate your prayers in my behalf during my affliction. May God bless you is my prayer.

—Sister Theresa Gettersen

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Mo.—Dear Saints everywhere, I send greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am much encouraged to press on for the Lord. He has done so much for me. I do thank and praise Him for all His blessings to me and for His healing power.

Perhaps many of you know about the place that was on my face. No doubt it was cancer. Through prayer and faith in God, it is all gone. Praise His dear name forever! I thank everyone for your prayers, and may the Lord bless you.

Pray for me that I will always do the will of the Lord.  
A Sister in Christ,

—Dollie Gentry

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La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all: We here at Hammond are still enjoying the blessings received during the good Assembly meeting and the fellowship of the saints of God who came to help bring good and receive good in the meeting.

I do thank the Lord for leading me to this one true way. Truly it makes us to rejoice in the Lord to be able to assemble with all the family of God and be in fellowship together. It is a closeness that we do not feel with our friends of the world.

The Lord is very good to me. I want to live for Him and have His approval upon my life. I can never thank and praise Him enough for all His goodness to me.

Please remember me in your prayers. Also pray for my unsaved children.

—Sister Ada Short

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Mo.—Dear Saints: We have so much to thank the Lord for. First of all, we thank Him for the wonderful plan of salvation, and next, His healing power. If Jesus had suffered and died only for our salvation, it would have been enough. But He also suffered for our healing. Praise the Lord! In 1 Peter 3:24 it says, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

The Lord has permitted us to go through a time of testing. Just before school started this fall, our 5-year-old son who attends kindergarten, seemed to have a hearing defect. We took him to have his hearing checked. While he had a hearing aid in his ear, it seemed to make him more aware of the noises around him. We were advised to get him a hearing-aid. We told them we wanted some time to think it over. We wanted to do the best thing for our child. My father, Bro. H. P. Huskey, came to visit us at that time. We talked it over with him. He encouraged us to believe that the Lord could heal Jimmy's ears. We decided to fast and pray for his healing the next day, Tuesday. My father also fasted with us. We already had an appointment with an ear specialist on Wednesday. Wednesday morning Bro. Murphy Allen came over and anointed and prayed for our boy. It seemed that we could feel the presence of the Lord there with us. My husband then took Jimmy to the ear specialist and they couldn't find one thing wrong with his hearing. Praise the Lord! He definitely healed him.

The last of September and first of October the children and I became ill with some kind of virus. The Lord wonderfully helped us in our sickness. But our baby seemed to have taken it pretty hard. The Lord helped and gave him back his strength, but it left him with both ears

draining. We would pray and request prayer at meeting and the condition seemed to get better, then worse again. The first part of November Bro. Mart Samons came to Webb City and held a week's meeting. The last night of the meeting, my husband had Bro. Allen and Bro. Samons come to our house after services. (I had to stay at home with another child who had chickenpox.) The ministers anointed and prayed for the baby and his ears cleared up and never drained again. Praise the Lord! He was instantly healed.

Recently I have been having trouble with a kidney infection. The Lord helped me, but it seemed to come back again. Last night I went to bed with a terrible backache. Then I started chilling and shaking real hard. I was here alone with the children as my husband works nights. I prayed and called on the Lord for help, but it seemed to get worse. My hands and lips were numb and my feet cold, but my head was real hot. I shook real hard for about an hour. But after about 45 minutes I realized I was going to have to get up and call for help. I called Bro. and Sister Allen for prayer, and also called my husband. He came right home, but by the time he got here the Lord had heard prayer and stopped the chilling. I was still cold but not shaking. After Jim saw that the Lord had touched me, he returned to work as he had duties to perform. Then about an hour later I got real warm all over and started sweating. Oh, how I do thank the Lord for touching me.

This may not be the end of the testing time, but I have a determination to trust the Lord even unto death. Our God is such a great God that I fear not to trust Him.

Pray for us that we will benefit by each lesson He gives us.

—Sister Esther Hightower

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California—Dear Saints, greetings in the love of Jesus, our Saviour. I feel I should write at this time to express our love and appreciation to all who carried my husband's name in prayer to the throne of God and for us in our sorrow. We had prayed for Sam for over fifteen years. God gave us faith that He would save him. That faith held firm until the answer came. Praise the Lord! The Lord enabled me to say from the heart, "Thy will be done." Dear ones, we must make this kind of consecration so God can have a free hand with them. He knows what it will take to save a soul.

Sam was in and out of the hospital for over five years, and a little over two months this time. He didn't recover this time as he had in times past. He steadily grew worse and became despondent. His mother and I went to stay with him the week before he died. It was such a comfort to him, knowing we were there. We were glad God permitted us to be with him unto the end.

I had felt impressed to write him and to send him some tracts. When we went down to stay with him, I asked him if he had asked the Lord to forgive him. He said he had and believed He had forgiven him. We could see a change in him.

After having been there for a week, we felt we needed to return home for a couple of days. We didn't like to leave him, but felt we must go. As I left, I began to talk to the Lord about his being saved. I felt I needed a definite witness, and as his mother and I were riding along in the car, the blessing came down and took my burden. The blessing left such a wonderful peace in knowing he was accepted. I can't describe it, but I had perfect peace. I knew God was going to do something, but I didn't know what. I knew He could heal him or take him, but I was satisfied with the Lord's will, whichever He did. I believe His will was done. God knows the future.

When we got home, we felt we must hurry back to be with Sam. We stayed one day and went back. We took the boys with us. In the meantime, I was praying that their father would be clear in his mind (as he became confused at times) so they would have a good visit with him. Praise the Lord, when we got to the hospital to see him, he was unusually clear in his mind, with no suffering that we could tell. We had a good visit. His mother and I remained with him to the end. He looked so peaceful, just went to sleep, when he passed. He said he loved Jesus just a few hours before he died. He didn't seem to suffer much at the last. I feel a great victory has been won and his soul is in Paradise awaiting the resurrection.

We do thank all of the dear saints and friends for the prayers, love offerings, and cards of sympathy at this time of sorrow. May God richly bless all is our prayer.

God is manifesting Himself to us in a wonderful way to comfort and heal the pain in our hearts. Continue to pray for your own loved ones in sin, with courage until God answers prayer.

Much Christian love, —Sister Sarah L. Miles

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, greetings: This leaves us doing very well. We just returned from the Los Angeles meeting which was owned and blessed of God. It was very well attended. The gospel was expounded and made plain by the unction and inspiration of the Spirit of God, and souls were enlightened, edified, and made to rejoice in the Lord. . . .

Continue to pray for us. —Ulysses Phillips

Oregon—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: Some weeks ago I asked for prayer for my good wife who had a stroke. Thank the Lord, she came home from Illinois well and happy in the Lord. Thanks be to God for answering prayer.

I am asking prayer of the saints again for the healing of my son, Herman Moore. He has real bad pains in his bowels. I have faith in you good folks in the Church of God and I know God will heal him when we pray together.

I am still going strong for my Lord. I will soon be 73, on February 18, 1968, but I am standing on the good old Book of Truth. I hope to be back in some of the campmeetings this coming year, the Lord willing.

May God bless all of you.

Your Brother in Him, —James H. Moore

Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Maybelle, greetings of love in Jesus' name: I want to testify that the Lord healed me recently of an affliction. I was unable to get off my knees when I knelt to pray. One Saturday night I got on my knees by faith and was able to get right up after prayer. I have been doing so ever since, and I can walk much better. I surely do thank the good Lord for being so merciful to me.

We want all of you to pray earnestly for my husband, Michael, who has a bad rupture. He has just about lost his hearing and can see out of only one eye. We need one another's prayers.

May God bless all of you is our prayer.

—Sister Michael Koehler

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: I want to tell how the Lord answered prayer. One night recently I had a bad cold. My throat and head hurt, and I was sick all night. The next morning my husband said he was going to get me some medicine as he doesn't believe in trusting the Lord. I told him I wouldn't take it. I lay down on the couch as I was very nervous, not having had much sleep

that night. I thought I would call some of the saints if I did not get better. I prayed and asked God to heal me so people around here could see that the Lord does hear and answer prayer. The Lord touched me and I got better right away. I got up, combed my hair and made my bed. Thank the dear Lord! I am now able to sleep and eat well. I want to give all honor and praise to God for this blessing.

Pray for me and my loved ones.

With Christian love, —Myrtle Niswonger

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers, greetings in Jesus' precious name: I trust this finds all of you rejoicing in the Saviour's love, with his blessings of kindness and grace being showered down upon you. David said His tender mercies are over all His works. Psalms 145:9. I know that would include His Publishing work. Yes, thank the Lord, it includes all, and especially all of His children—"the household of faith."

I can say that His tender mercy has been extended to me in a special way over the last few months. He has worked out problems for me and given me grace to submit to Him those that He didn't see fit to work out or remove. That blessed my soul greater than if He had worked them out my way. During one of these trials the song was given to me quite forcefully, "Abiding and Confiding." Then another song was given, "Jesus Is Good to Me." I especially rejoiced where it says, "Safely keeps me from the wrong and in the conflict makes me strong." Truly, I was rejoicing and safely hiding in the bosom of His love. Then all of a sudden, to my surprise, the Lord worked it out so I could get off from my work, go down south and visit my kinpeople. The Lord blessed and helped in a very precious way in giving me a safe and profitable trip. I was privileged to visit in many of their homes and enjoyed it. I was also privileged to hold one service at Birmingham, Alabama in my sister's trailer house and my older brother was there with my other sisters. Several of their relatives came, also. I surely felt my inability and leaned upon the Lord that night. The dear Lord blessed me with comfort. The first song they sang was "Leaning on the Arms of Jesus." That was a source of encouragement to me. I was surely leaning on His loving and mighty arms. I was especially glad for this meeting because one of my sisters and my older brother, who haven't been saved for a good while, were there. Pearlina (Mrs. Silas Whitson) my youngest sister, and her husband were there. She has corresponded with you. All my folks seemed to enjoy the service. I also got to visit my sister and her family at Chattanooga, Tenn. She is the one that Bro. and Sister Kenneth Probst take with them sometimes when they hold services at Athens, Tenn. She is very precious and has a sweet family. I was also privileged to visit Bro. and Sister Probst.

Before I went on this trip further south I was privileged to meet with the saints at Myrtle, Mo. and also at Grubbs, Ark. where Bro. and Sister Albert Eck are pastoring. I requested prayer of them that I would have a safe trip and that I might be a blessing. I feel the Lord answered their prayers. I thank the Lord for everything.

Bro. Lawrence, I am sending in a few names for the paper. I surely do appreciate you and your labors and all the dear workers there. I trust the dear Lord to bless you richly. I am glad that Bro. and Sister Gene Beisly have consecrated themselves to the work there. We appreciated visiting them at her mother and father's home at Myrtle, Mo.

We have a new minister up our way now. Jim, our younger son, feels his call to preach the gospel. He has moved out some. He has been going down to Pea Ridge,

Arkansas while I was gone. We appreciate his efforts and desire your prayers for him. We desire the Lord to raise up more young men and women to preach His glorious gospel. Truly, the harvest is great but the laborers are few, too few.

I desire a continued interest in your prayers.

In Christian love and devotion, —T. V. McMillian

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

Oklahoma.—Dear consecrated Workers at the office and saints scattered abroad, greetings in the dear Lord's name, by whom we are saved, the sweetest of all names: I am pressing on in that Name. I am now living at Oklahoma City with my daughter, Jessie A. Douglas, who has moved here to care for me. I am still suffering much discomfort and pain from the burn received July 31, 1967. It was also the cause of many former afflictions flaring up at this time.

I surely desire your earnest prayers. My constant prayer is, "Oh blessed Lord, my faith increase."

My sister, Bessie L. Gordon, has also become a resident of this city. She is very sorely afflicted and is in need of the prayers of God's faithful saints scattered everywhere, even our brothers and sisters in the foreign lands—Africa, India, and elsewhere—wherever there is a stronghold for our great Almighty God.

Your Sister in the Lord, —Ethel K. Miles

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

Ky.—I am sending 35c to renew the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1968.

Ten months ago you sent an anointed cloth to me. The last time I had my blood checked at a hospital they said it was all right. I had sugar and high blood pressure. Pray that I will live close to the Lord. I thank Him for all He has done for me. Thank you for your prayers.

—Mrs. Stanley C. Winkler

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

Ind.—Dear Sister Marie and all: I thank the Lord for saving my soul many years ago. I am now almost 74 years old and still enjoy the old-time religion. I was healed of a stroke nearly 40 years ago and had a growth on my arm taken away by prayer about 42 years ago. I have been healed many times through prayer and God's wonderful love to me.

I love the "Faith and Victory" magazine. It brings back to my memory when I first knew the saints of God over fifty years ago. I wish I could say the [so-called] Churches of God were the same today as then. There was real power from above then. Now many call the doctor instead of leaving all in God's hands as they used to do. I think God should still always be first. . . . I am a firm believer in Divine healing and full gospel preaching.

A Sister in Christ, —Dolores Dietrichson

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

Florida.—Dear Sister Marie and staff of workers, greetings to you and all the saints scattered abroad: I promised the Lord if He would heal me of an awful itching and burning I had on the lower part of my legs and tops of my feet that I would send my testimony to the paper. On November 16 at night this itched and burned as if fire were in the midst. The enemy of souls suggested that I call my son and let him take me to a doctor to find out what it was. I lay there trusting in God and said in my heart that the Lord knows what it is and will heal me; I know He will. I held on to His promises. In Exodus 15:26 it says, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." He fully healed my legs and all my pains. Praise His name! His promise is true, and He will heal us if only we trust and obey His Word. In Isaiah 53:5 we read, "With his stripes we are healed," and truly the stripes were applied to His body there in Pilate's hall until his back

streamed with blood. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivereth him out of them all;" not some of them, but all. (Psa. 34:19) . . . I'm so glad I learned to trust Him for both soul and body.

Saints and friends, since God made these bodies of ours and understands how to take care of them better than we do, let us submit our whole lives into His care and keeping, for He loves and cares for us. Let us not put the doctor or a dose of medicine between us and God and then say the Lord, through the doctor healed us. Let us give God all the glory and praise that rightfully belongs to Him. I'm glad I can say with David, "Oh, magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Glory to His precious name forever!

We read in Jeremiah 17:5, "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man." Just think of how many people trust in doctors for their healing! Dear ones, remember the doctor is only a man, and when we are cursed of God we are cursed by the only One who has power to save.

Now may He ever bless and keep each of you is my prayer. Pray that I prove true to Him to the end.

Yours in the One Body, —Sister Mattie B. Savage

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all, greetings in the name of our dear Savior and Lord. We trust this finds all of you well.

We truly thank God for His love and mercy unto us. We are so grateful for how He has blessed and strengthened Virginia recently. She is now doing her housework again. But she tires easily and suffers much yet with her limbs and feet. We are trusting God to complete the work.

I am thankful for how the Lord helped me to get a job doing maintenance work at a school. My work had been slack for the past two years as I was self-employed in building trades and the building business dropped off so much that I was out of work much of the time. I had numerous opportunities to go to work on defense jobs, but felt that was not God's will for me. How can we love our enemies and earn our livelihood forming weapons for their destruction? I praise God that in answer to prayer He provided a job that I can do and not go against my convictions.

I would like a copy of "The Cleansing of the Sanctuary," and also "The Poorhouse Waif and His Divine Teacher" when available. Also I wish to renew my subscription.

May God bless you in your efforts to get the gospel to the lost.

Christian love, —Barney and Virginia Wittenborn

## THE WAFTED LEAF

A pilgrim was wandering thirsty, almost famished, in the desert. He had lost his bearings. He had a compass in his hand, but knew not whether its needle pointed toward a place of rest and refreshment or to a spot on which he must lie down and die. He was utterly in despair. Turn which way he would, he seemed to be wandering farther and farther away from hope. He had sunk down in the sand, resolved to meet his fate, when a little green leaf came, wafted by a passing breeze, and fell at his feet. He picked it up, and a new hope took possession of his heart. The leaf could not have come far, for it was still fresh. Where it came from there was water, with shade and food. He knew the direction, too, for the breeze had borne it to his feet. So with the little leaf

in his feverish hand, he arose and hurried away toward the spot whence it had come. Soon he was resting in the shelter of wide-spreading branches and quenching his thirst at the spring which flowed at the tree's roots.

There are times when our hearts are in spiritual unrest, their joy all gone. We are almost in despair, not knowing whither to turn or what to do to find rest. Then a little leaf flutters down to us from the Word of God. It is green and fresh. The dews of life are on it. It has not come far, and it tells of life, rest, and joy where it grew. We have but to rise out of our weariness and faintness, and hasten a little way to find a glad resting place and a shelter in the bosom of God's love. —Anon

### The Blood of the Lamb

"There is a fountain filled with blood, DRAWN from Emmanuel's veins." This fountain of blood never ceases to flow. We can come daily, continuously, and dip in its healthful and purifying stream. It is inexhaustible. God honors the blood that was DRAWN from the body of His dear Son, as every drop was spilled for us. (Luke 24:31) See Him in Gethsemane, where in great agony, His sweat was as drops of blood! Luke 22:44.

See the blood as it flowed, while infuriated Roman soldiers laid many cruel lashes on His bare body. See Him as the blood streams down His face, as the crown of thorns is unmercifully beaten into His temples. See Him as they beat His sorrowful face with a reed until it bleeds, and it is so marred that no one could recognize him. (Isaiah 52:14.)

See the blood as it flows from His hands torn by the piercing nails; those hands that had ministered to every need. See the blood as the nails are driven into His feet, often weary from walking over the rocky hills of Judea, as He healed the sick and fed the multitude, and comforted the sorrowful, and taught the people, and raised the dead. See the blood as it flowed from His pierced side.

"See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Mingled sorrow and love flow down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?"

We need to magnify the blood of the Lamb, for the devil and his army of demons and men are arrayed against it, seeking to hinder faith for its efficiency in the pardon of sin, in the cleansing of sin, the healing of sickness, the removal of infirmities, and the sanctification of the Spirit. Satan, in these last days, is seeking to destroy the bodies of the saints.

Beloved, let us be true to the shed blood of the Lamb. Let us apply it to every part of our being and keep under its shelter, in the secret place, so that no evil dart from the enemy can touch us. Read Psalm 91:1-10.

If pain or fever touches us, let us declare in a mighty faith, that the blood is our cure NOW. God's remedy cannot fail. Jesus' blood does now destroy

the works of the devil. As we hold steadily to this testimony of faith the pain will go.

"Behold the Saviour of mankind  
Nailed to the shameful tree,  
How vast the love that He inclined,  
To bleed and die for me!"

—Helen D. Bagby

### LOST—A BOY

LOST—A BOY; not kidnapped by bandits and hidden in a cave to weep and starve and raise a nation to frenzied searching. Were that the case, one hundred thousand men would rise to the rescue if need be. Unfortunately, the losing of this boy is without excitement, though very sad and very real.

The fact is, his father lost him. Being too busy to sit with him at the fireside and answer his trivial questions during the years when fathers are the only great heroes of the boys, he let go his hold.

Yes, his mother lost him. Being too engrossed in her teas, dinners and club programs, she let the maid hear the boy say his prayers, and thus her grip slipped and the boy was lost to his home.

The church lost him, too. Being so much occupied with sermons for the wise and elderly who pay the bills, and having good care for dignity, the minister and the elders were unmindful of the human feelings of the boy in the pew and made no provision in sermon or song for his boyishness. And so the church and many sad-hearted parents are now looking earnestly for the lost boy. —Unknown

### BIBLE STUDY

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

January 7, 1968

### THE WORD MADE FLESH

Printed Portion ..... John 1:1-14; John 20:30, 31

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

9 That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

11 He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name;

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Memory Verse: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth. John 1:14.

Central Thought: We can safely trust our souls to Jesus because he has lived not only on this earth, but also in eternity where we go after death.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Our lessons this quarter are taken from the book of John. We notice that John does not use his own name in the book. One time he referred to himself as "that other disciple," and another time he said, "one who leaned upon the Master's breast." (John 13:23; 21:20.) Verse six in the lesson refers to John the Baptist, however, and not to the writer of the book of John.

There are many precious thoughts in our lesson today. As we think that Jesus, the Son of God, was with God when he created the world and made man, we know that in Jesus is everything our souls long for. The Word is Creator of all. In Jesus is eternal life, which is light to the darkened soul that is far from God in sin. The disciples beheld his glory while he was here on earth and are witnesses to His being the Son of God and to the power that he manifested. Verse 14 tells us that the Word, or Jesus, the Son of God, was "made flesh, and dwelt among us." All who will come to him, confess their sins, forsake them with godly sorrow and turn to Jesus with all of their hearts will be "born again," not according to flesh and blood, but by the "will of God." It is a spiritual birth. Our souls magnify God when we see the change that takes place in the lives of those who are truly born again. They are new creatures in Christ Jesus, old things have passed away and all things become new. God puts a new song in their mouth, even praises unto our God who has redeemed us from sin and written our names in the Book of Life.

January 14, 1968

### THE BEGINNING OF MIRACLES

Printed Portion ..... John 2:1-11

John 2:1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there:

2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage.

3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine.

4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come.

5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

6 And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece.

7 Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.

8 And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it.

9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom.

10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

Memory Verse: This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him. John 2:11.

Central Thought: If we will obey Jesus he will take care of every need in our life.

### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Weddings, in Jesus' day, sometimes lasted two or three days. People did not have the transportation we have and could not go and come in one day if it was any distance from where they lived to the wedding. Since Jesus did attend the wedding, we know His approval is upon marriage and that it is ordained of God. His teachings showed his approval.

The word "woman" is used by the Greek writers as a title of the very highest respect.

The word "wine" as used in our lesson is translated from the word which is used in the Greek language called "oinos." This can mean the fermented wine or the unfermented wine. We cannot feel that Jesus created anything that caused any ill effect on a person's body. Jesus came to heal diseased bodies and he surely would not add to anyone's troubles.

A firkin is about nine gallons, so some held 18 gallons and others 27 gallons.

We should not forget the wise counsel that the mother of Jesus gave to the servants. She said, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." Today we will find true and lasting joy if we will do as Jesus has told us. Jesus has told us just how to live in this life to receive everlasting life. If we will obey his words it will work a miracle in our souls and take us to heaven after death.

January 21, 1968

### THE MEANING OF THE NEW BIRTH

Printed Portion ..... John 3:1-15

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth; so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up.

15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Memory Verse: For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16.

Central Thought: The new birth causes one to act and live differently.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews. He was one of the 70 who took care of the law of Moses. Most of these men did not accept Jesus as the promised Saviour of the world who was to come according to the prophecies of the old prophets in the old Bible. Nicodemus was puzzled, so he came by night to talk to Jesus. When Jesus told him that a man must be born again to see the kingdom of God, he was more puzzled than ever. Jesus then explained to him that he was speaking of a spiritual birth. We can't see the wind, but we can see the effects of the wind. How wonderful it is to see the change in a person who has been born again and has become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Water here refers to the Word, and not baptism as some might teach. In Ephesians 5:26 we read, "washing of water by the word." "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 15:3. It is through the Spirit and through the Word, Christ, that we come to salvation.

God told Moses to put a brass serpent on a pole when the people were being bitten by fiery serpents in the wilderness. Jesus referred to that and told them that He was to be lifted up on the cross so that everyone who is bitten by sin can be saved from eternal death if he will look to Him as the people were saved from literal death when they looked at the brass serpent lifted up on the pole.

January 28, 1968

#### THE SAVIOUR OF THE LOST

Printed Portion ..... John 4:7-14; 31-35

John 4:7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him aught to eat?

34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Memory Verse: And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy sayings: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. John 4:42.

Central Thought: After we find Jesus, it is our duty and desire to help others find him, also.

#### COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We notice that Jesus did not recognize the barrier existing between the Jews and Samaritans. Today we must not allow prejudice to be in our hearts. We thank God that the church of God has taught this down through the years, and practiced it, even though at times some of the saints have been persecuted greatly for doing so. God loves every soul and died on the cross for all. He will give to everyone who asks for it that everlasting life which "shall be in him a well of water." This living water that Jesus speaks of is that which will satisfy the inner being or soul of every man, woman, or child who forsakes sin and confesses with godly sorrow to Jesus. Just as natural water satisfies the natural body, so the water of life satisfies the inner man.

Through Jesus bringing this woman to the knowledge of salvation, many others, through her testimony, believed him to be the Messiah, the Christ, who was to come to die on the cross for our sins.

When the disciples returned they were surprised that he was not interested in natural food. Bringing a soul to God is a greater joy and of more importance than anything else in this world. Jesus was about his father's business and he realized his time was short. He knew that many souls needed to be brought in. Our time is short also and we need to be busy for the Master.

—Sister Marie Miles