

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Before It Is Too Late

If you have a gray-haired mother
In the old home near or far away,
Go see her or write that letter
You put off day by day.
Don't wait until her tired steps
Reach heaven's royal gate,
Just show her that you think of her
Before it is too late.

If you've a tender message
Or a loving word to say,
Don't wait till you forget it,
But whisper it today.
Who knows what bitter memories
May haunt you if you wait?
So make your mother happy
Before it is too late.

The tender word unspoken,
The letter never sent,
The long forgotten message,
The wealth of love unspent,
For these some hearts are breaking,
For these some mothers wait,
Oh, show them that you love them
Before it is too late!

—Adapted

In His dying hour Jesus made provision for the care of His mother. "When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith to his mother, Woman, behold thy son! Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple [John] took her unto his own home." John 19:26, 27.

Thank God for the saintly mothers who have and are standing by the cross of Jesus—the emblem of suffering, shame, reproach, self-denial, humility, holiness and purity. This world would be a much better place if we had many more true mothers. At mother's knee characters are formed, good or bad, which will last a lifetime.

"Sin Is a Reproach to Any People"

In Proverbs 14:34 we read, "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." When we behold the conditions the world is in today it makes our very soul cry to God to have mercy on a lost and perishing world. Sin is a transgression of God's law, and, oh, how we see God's law broken today! Sin breaks down good morals, causes shame and suffering, regret and remorse.

Look yonder at that young man bound by its fetters. See him behind the prison bars, looking out to a dark future in this life and without hope of eternal life. See him suffering from guilt, shame, and sorrow. Look at that dear mother weeping in sorrow that will bring her down to the grave. Look at that dear father who had fond hopes of a prosperous life for his son, but now is disappointed with shame and sorrow. Oh, my friends, sin is the cause!

See that young lady bound by the fetters of sin. See her young tender life blighted with sorrow. See her when she was in a state of purity, but alas, as she ventured out into sin, step by step, she went along with the worldly crowd. She bloomed out with pride and fashion. See her, step by step, going away from the shores of modesty. See her virtue gone, her life wrecked, and her health gone. See her now weeping in sorrow because of a life of sin, for surely God is not mocked, for whatsoever we sow, we shall also reap.

Look at that once-true father going away from pure love into a lustful career which leads down to eternal destruction. See his children torn with sorrow, suffering from lack of parental love and care. See him out with someone who never gave birth to his children. See him with the mark of sin on his face. See him suffering from a sin-torn life with no bright spot in the future. See him breaking down in health, facing eternity. See him and hear those sobs and groans as he faces the eternal world. See him look back on his life and weep in sorrow for the steps he has taken.

Oh, my friends, sin is real! It will crush a life and blight it forever. Look at that once-true wife

and mother, now all blighted by sin's forces. See her going down to the lowest depth of sin, far away from true motherhood. See natural affection gone, no love for her husband, when once the bond of love was perfect. True happiness was enjoyed. But now sin has turned all joy into the deepest of woe and misery; no satisfaction, no peace, for God has said there is no peace to the wicked. See those once-loved children all blighted with grief and sorrow, no one to call their true mother. Where is she? She's gone.

Oh, dear friends, will you listen to God's voice? Will you turn to Him? He is pleading for you. Can you see your children going in the way of sin? Who will be to blame? After we have done the best we can, sometimes our children will go in sin, but if we train them right, their blood will not be required at our hands. We are duty-bound to train our children in the way of the Lord. Sin has a mighty force which broadens out. Its influence reaches far, and its power brings down the well-trained child many times. But we have the promise, "Train up a child in the way it should go, and when it is old, it will not depart from it."

Look at the youth today. See them bold and daring. See and hear of the crimes they commit. See them drifting, drifting into a life darkened by sin. See the smokers, the gamblers, the murderers, the drunkards, and the adulterers. See the pleasure-seeking crowd. See the great crowd of religious professors. See the pomp and show. See them seeking popularity and fame. See the great number of false shepherds leading people down the gateway to hell.

Oh, dear people, sin is abroad in our land in many forms, and God will be a revenger of every sin committed. Sin has brought our nation down. Real true spirituality is low today. People have drifted so far from the true standard. See the many broken vows today. Just take a look at the high rate of divorce in our land. Look at the double marriages, and some are tangled up with three or half a dozen marriages, which proves that people are without natural affection. The Word of God is being fulfilled. The sin-committing crowds are facing the Judgment which will bring to light every hidden thing, and no foul spirit will find a hiding place.

Among the great multitudes who are going down the broad way to hell are some of our loved ones. Oh, how our hearts cry to God to save them before too late!

Listen, my friend, there is hope for a sin-perishing world only in God, but God is able to lift you out of the ditch of sin. He is able to set you free from all its bondage if you will plunge into the cleansing stream of the blood. Righteousness will exalt you. God will lift you up from the horrible pit of sin, will place your feet on a rock, put a new song in your mouth, and establish your going. The blood of Christ will wash you white. It will cleanse every stain of sin. It will bring you back to life and communion with God. It will brighten your hope. Eternal life will be sweet to your soul. God will help you to make your wrongs

right when you turn your back on sin, repent and ask forgiveness. "If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die." Ezek. 33:15. Righteousness will cause us to walk right and deal with our fellowmen justly and fairly. It will cause us to pay our debts as quickly as possible. If we can't pay, righteousness will lead us to our creditors to assure them that we will pay as soon as we are able. Righteousness will exalt us to a plane of purity of soul and mind. It will make us love every soul—love our neighbor as ourselves. It will cause us to be tender toward all men. Righteousness will lift that dear father out of sin and bring him back to a blessed state where love-cords that had been broken can be knitted back. Yea, I say righteousness will exalt that dear mother that went astray. It will bring back the true virtue. She will love and care for her children. She will keep them clean, and the home tidy and liveable. Salvation works on the inside and outside. Righteousness will make new creatures out of us. We will act right, live right, and talk right. Righteousness will bring us into the church of God. There we will live and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. There we will love each other. Righteousness is the only thing that will lead us to heaven and prepare us for the hour of death.

Oh, dear souls, look to God! He is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think. If you will yield into His loving hands, He will lift you from the grave of sin and give you new hope in this life and a hope in death. If you are in sin today, remember Jesus died for you and will save you from sin if you will come repenting. And as you look out into eternity, you can rejoice that God loved you enough to save you from your sins and give you a home in heaven where all tears are wiped away. May God bless you is my prayer.

—Sister Lottie (Joiner) Porter

A FRIEND IS A GIFT OF GOD

Among the great and glorious gifts our heavenly Father sends is the gift of understanding that we find in loving friends. In this world of trouble, filled with anxious care, everyone needs a friend with whom they are free to share the little secret heartaches that lie heavy on their minds—not just a mere acquaintance, but someone who is "just our kind." Somehow, into the generous heart of loving, faithful friends, God, in His charity and wisdom, always sends a sense of understanding and the power of perception, and mixes these fine qualities with kindness and affection. Then when we need some sympathy or a friendly hand to touch, or an ear that listens tenderly and speaks words that mean so much, we seek our true and trusted friend in the knowledge that we'll find a heart that's sympathetic and an understanding mind. And often, just without a word, there seems to be a union of thoughts and kindred feeling, for God gives true friends communion.

—Helen Stienner Rice

YOUR HEART

What organ is so faithful as the human heart? Every day, including Sundays, Christmas, and other holidays, this little organ continues its function uninterrupted. It beats during the hours in which we remain awake, also beating when we are asleep. It makes no difference in the time, it doesn't solicit "social security" and never asks for vacations. It works better when it receives good treatment, but it strengthens itself to render good service, even when working conditions require more courage.

The heart is indispensable. If we should lose the vision of one eye, we could see through the other one; if one ear becomes deaf, we can turn our head and hear with the good ear; if we should lose one limb, an artificial limb will suffice us the rest of our lives, but as we all know, our very earthly life depends on our heart.

This interesting organ is about the size of a fist and weighs about one-half pound. It is divided into four chambers and is enclosed in a sack called the pericardium. It beats 70 palpitations per minute, 4,200 per hour, 100,800 per day, and 36,792,000 per year. The heart of a person who has reached the age of 70 years has produced 2,575,444,000 palpitations. The volume of blood pumped through the heart during a year is almost 650,000 gallons, which would be enough to fill 81 tank cars each one of which has the capacity of 8,000 gallons. In 12 hours the heart generates enough energy to elevate a tank car of 65 tons one foot in the air.

It is said that a person who rests for 24 hours saves the energy of 20,000 heart palpitations.

We endorse a prominent American encyclopedia which affirms that the blood is circulated through 12,000 miles of veins or approximately the distance between New York and Hong Kong via the Panama Canal.

While this organ which maintains our blood in constant circulation can become weak through illness or abuse, if we permit it to function regularly, it will give excellent service until the end, and though tired through the years of incessant work, always will render a span of life.

This induces us to ask the reader a very personal and very important question which follows: In case, in the next five minutes your heart should cease to beat and your soul would enter eternity, where would it be? In heaven with the redeemed, or in hell with the lost?

It would be good if with divine certainty you could say, "Yes, I know where I would be in eternity. The moment of my life came when I turned to God, repented, and received Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. There, I trusted in the wonderful power of His blood which was poured out on Calvary's cross for my sins. In doing so, I received the gift of God which is eternal life. For that reason I know I would be in heaven if my heart would cease to function." On the other hand, can it be that you might say, "No, I don't

know where I would be in eternity if my heart would stop within the next five minutes, but I would like very much to know." Have the kindness of reading further.

The Word of God, the Bible, declares: "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23. The word all includes you. Because you have sinned, you have "come short of the glory of God."

But "Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures." 1 Cor. 15:3. Wherefore, Christ died for your sins. The fact of Christ dying for our sins does not save anyone unless we receive it and believe in Him as our personal Saviour. Read with care the following verses: "He came unto his own [the Jews] and his own received him not. 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." St. John 1:11, 12. Would you plead right now with the Lord Jesus Christ that He might pardon your sins through His precious blood, take possession of your life and help you to live daily for Him?

In doing this you will be saved, and if in the next minute your heart should stop beating, you would be in the glorious paradise of God. —F. C.

"Who Will Go For Me?"

Dear Readers of the "Faith and Victory": The Lord has laid a burden on my heart through a letter I received from Bro. Tomas Mendoza and family who are faithful native missionaries in Mexico.

I have opened my heart to the Lord concerning it, and after you read the following excerpt from his letter, if you have it fully in your heart to do all the will of God, I hope that you will also open your heart.

"Sister Opal, the chapel at Ojos Negros is almost finished. We put in the doors and windows this week. I am looking to God to send a pastor for that place. Bro. Harland Smith intended to occupy it, but now he has gone away [to be with the Lord]. I only ask that you pray that God will give us a worker."

Recently I heard a minister telling that he so desired the gift of healing. God spoke to him while he was praying, and asked, "Would you be just as glad if I gave the gift to someone else?" Within the last few days, I have been so desirous of going to Ojos Negros to work, and while in prayer the Lord brought this same thought to my mind, asking me a similar question, "Are you just as willing for someone else to go as for you to go?" It took me aback, but I could soon say from my heart, "Yes, Lord. They need a worker so badly. Send anyone you choose."

We trust that no one in Ojos Negros who has an honest heart, will have to say, "the summer is ended, and we are not saved" for the reason that you or I lacked consecration to the will of God. Let's open our hearts and listen for the voice of God. Who will say, "Here am I; send me"?

Christian love, —Sister Opal Kelly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EDITORIALS

Greetings to all our readers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore; and have the keys of hell and death." Rev. 1:18.

According to God's plan the seasons come and go, and now we are rapidly approaching the campmeeting season—a time when God's people make special efforts to extend the soul-saving gospel of Christ to the unsaved world and meet together in the various campmeetings for spiritual edification and holy fellowship. (Note the campmeeting dates elsewhere in this issue.)

For more than forty years the annual Oklahoma State campmeeting has always started on the first Friday in August. However, at the last business session the dates were set for May 30 to June 8, 1969 as the time for the Oklahoma State campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. This is the first campmeeting of the season, which puts it ahead of the real hot weather, and should be an ideal time weather-wise. Everyone is urged to come praying with a burden for souls and start the campmeeting season here at Guthrie.

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The Bible experience of the new birth or conversion is one and the same spiritual process which also inducts the believer into the church—the spiritual Body of Christ. Formal church-joining was not practiced by the apostolic church of the first century, neither is it practiced today in the church to which Jesus is adding members. Many folk consider water baptism as the door or means of induction into the church, but Jesus said, "I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved . . ." John 10:9. Of the early church we read that "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47. Again St. Luke writes that "believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women." Acts 5:14. Being added to the church and added to the Lord is one and the same experience.

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Our hearts are grateful to the Lord for giving my wife, Maybelle, and my sister, Marie Miles, and this writer a safe and profitable round trip (about 2,000 miles) to Dayton, Ohio for four precious services with the saints in that area on Easter week-end. We are certainly thankful for the warm welcome, the rich fellowship of the Spirit, and the refreshing Word of God which we enjoyed during the short time we were there. May God continue to bless His church in the East with all spiritual and temporal benefits. Leaving Guthrie on Thursday, April 3, we made contacts with readers in Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, and wish we could have made many more. Returning by way of Kentucky, we visited some of the saints at Senath, in southeastern Missouri. Our sincere thanks are extended to everyone for their kindness and hospitality. Arriving home safely on April 8, we praised our loving Lord whose mighty hand of mercy protected us from the many dangers seen and unseen on the dangerous highways.

We need to lift up our eyes and not only look on the fields, but also be moved with compassion to get the soul-saving gospel of Christ to the perishing multitudes. Believing the gospel is their only hope.

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Good reports are coming from the revival meeting being held April 11 to 20 in the new field at Goulds, Fla. Sister Katherine Williams, minister of Okla. City, arrived there the week prior to the starting date, and on Sunday, April 6, the presence of the Holy Spirit came down in the services and a number of souls sought help at the altar of prayer. Then on Monday a lady came to Bro. Hargrave's home and prayed through to victory in her soul. Sister Williams wrote: "We consider the revival meeting already started." Bro. Lewis Williams and company from Kansas and Bro. Isaac Chandler and company from California are also there engaged in the battle for precious souls. About 55 lbs. of tracts, papers and books were sent from this office with Sister Williams for free distribution in this new field. May many souls open their hearts to the gospel messages.

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A supply of Spanish tracts on the subject of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection for Easter time was recently printed and mailed from this office to the gospel workers in Mexico for distribution. Sisters Opal Kelly and Virginia Wittenborn, and Bro. Gene Beisly had an active part in producing it.

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Through the foreign missionary fund a number of our English tracts have been translated by native gospel workers in India and Nigeria to their native languages and the tracts printed in their respective countries for free distribution to their people. Jesus said: "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." Mark 13:10. This is a "must," so let us publish the gospel worldwide.

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In the book, "How John Became a Man," written by Isabel Byrum and published in 1917, the true name of the boy called John in the book is J. Frank Shaw who recently departed this life on March 26, 1969 at Tacoma, Washington in his 84th year. He had been a missionary in the West Indies and to the American Indians. A short time before his passing, Sister Beatrice Spaur, pastor at Jefferson, Ore., visited him at Tacoma, and with reference to the proposed reprinting of his early life story he said, "I hope God will bless that book and the publishers, and make it a blessing again." This excellent book for children and young people has been reprinted in 64 pages with paper binding. Now in stock at this office for prompt mailing, it is reasonably priced at 40c each, or three copies for \$1.00, postpaid.

Other excellent reprint books just off the press are: "Stories of Home Folks" by Mabel Hale. These are actual incidents and experiences from real life—sound instruction for all ages. Paperbound, 160 pages. Price, \$1.00 per copy, postpaid.

"Steps Heavenward" by R. L. Berry. Clear Biblical instructions to the new convert on how to gain

and keep the victory amid temptations, doubts and emotions on his journey to heaven. Paperbound, 123 pages. Price, 60c each, or two for \$1.00, postpaid.

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Divisional and schismatic spirits, determined to rule or ruin, are abroad in the land working through agents posing as "angels of light" who were born in error and nurtured in falsehoods. The Apostle Paul warned the church that "grievous wolves" would "enter in among you, not sparing the flock." They have no regard or concern for the unity of God's people, but are those who "separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Jude 19.

This writer again makes a special appeal to the saints of all races, white and colored, to band together in closer Christian love and fellowship, and present a solid, unified front against the evil forces of suspicion, distrust and confusion. Christ is not divided, neither is His church. Let us all continue to demonstrate heaven's love and unity to this world. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:35.

The only safe place for your soul in this world of atheism, materialism and false religions is in "the camp of the saints." Rev. 20:9. The church that Jesus built is the only institution that will survive the final onslaught of Satanic forces. The spiritual Body of Christ is of divine origin, and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Thank God!

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The Lord has added another needed piece of printing equipment to His Print Shop. A rebuilt Challenge Reproduction Proof Press was recently purchased in Kansas City, Mo. Wife and I went in the Ford Van truck to Kansas City, spent the evening and night with Bro. and Sister Roy Harmon, and brought the press back to Guthrie on Saturday, March 29. This press is now set up in the shop, ready to make master copies from type forms for reproduction work by the lithographic or offset printing process. More of our reproduction printing of tracts and books are being put on the offset presses which run more impressions per hour than the letter presses. We appreciate this additional equipment which the Lord has provided through His consecrated saints who hear and obey His voice. May God bless all those who are so faithfully co-operating with this gospel literature ministry. Even with faster presses and the faithful consecrated service of our co-workers, we are still not able to keep abreast of the great demand for more and more good gospel literature which this sin-sick world so desperately needs. But all of us are bending every effort to reach as many souls as possible with the soul-saving gospel before the door of mercy is closed. Pray for us as we labor on for Christ and precious souls.

—L. D. Pruitt

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Just the same as Elisha's servant couldn't see the chariots of God around them to fight their battles, neither can we see the angels of God all around us. We need our spiritual eyes opened and then we will know God and His angels are always with us.

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

OBITUARIES



Esther Dott Henry was born August 9, 1885 at Winterset, Iowa, and departed this life to live with Jesus April 3, 1969, at Torrance, California, at the age of 83 years, 7 months, and 25 days.

On Oct. 25, 1911, she was united in marriage to Lee Henry. To this union six children were born, two daughters and four sons. They made their home at Port Arthur, Texas, and reared their family there. Mr. Henry preceded her in death on July 4, 1940, also one daughter, Esther, in November, 1968.

She was converted to Christ many years ago and spent a good number of years in His service. She was regular in attendance at church services, active in prayer and song, and was song leader in her congregation for several years. She nearly always had a good testimony of some of the Lord's doings with her in the mid-week prayer meetings of the church.

She came to California in 1942. Then about 1944 or 1945 she moved to Los Angeles and located on Perlita Ave., just about a block from the Church of God chapel and worshipped in that congregation at that location until the congregation removed its place of worship to Pacoima.

Then she moved to Pacoima and continued worshipping at the chapel at this location until the time of her death. She will be much missed in our church because of the service she rendered and the place she filled and her regular attendance—always being there.

She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Dean Wilson, DeRidder, La.; four sons, Stephen, Baton Rouge, La., George Vance, Gretna, La., Joe, Santa Ana, Calif., and Julius of San Pedro, Calif.; one sister, Vera M. Forbes, of Pacoima, Calif.; one brother, Warner Hasler, Port Neches, Texas; thirteen grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Church of God chapel in Pacoima, Calif., on April 7, with Ostis B. Wilson officiating. Scripture reading was St. John 14:1-18, which was Sister Henry's special request. Sermon text was Rev. 7:9-17. Interment was in Grandview Cemetery in Glendale, Calif., where a number of the saints who have gone on are awaiting the resurrection at the last trump.

—O. B. Wilson

Melvina (Green) McNeely, oldest daughter of Frank and Alice Green, was born March 12, 1888, near Granby, Mo., and departed this life April 5, 1969, at the age of 81 years and 23 days.

On March 24, 1904, she was united in marriage to Albert McNeely, also of Granby, Mo., and to this union eight children were born, three of whom died in infancy. Her husband preceded her in death in January, 1964.

Those who survive are five daughters: Mrs. Bessie Doyle of Madera, Calif., Mrs. Nellie Doyle, Riverside, Calif., Mrs. Edna Williams, Mrs. Ruth Murphey, and Mrs. Dorothea Linton, all of Neosho, Mo.; two sisters, Mrs. Madge Myers, Granby, Mo., and Mrs. Eula Thau, Alameda, Calif.; two brothers, Vernon Green, Tulsa, Okla., and Thad Green, Roseburg, Oregon; four granddaughters and 14 great grandchildren, besides other relatives and friends.

She lived in the Monark Springs, Mo., community sixty years and then moved to Neosho, Mo., three years ago.

She was a faithful wife, a wonderful mother, a good neighbor and friend, always thinking of others. She was a great flower lover and many hearts were cheered by flowers from her own garden.

Funeral services were conducted in Granby, Mo., by Charles R. Smith and Joe Johnson. Interment was in the Granby Cemetery.

James Earl Martin was born Nov. 22, 1888, and departed this life to be with the Lord on April 8, 1969 at the age of 80 years, four months and 16 days.

Bro. Martin visited at this office a few days last autumn, and since he returned to his home at Jonesville, Mich., he had been in regular attendance at the Church of God chapel on Third St. and G. Avenue, Kalamazoo, Mich. He will be greatly missed by the congregation, as he was a real encouragement to the work, doing all he could to help.

His passing was rather sudden, having attended the Easter Sunday services before he passed on the following Tuesday morning. Interment was in the Mosherville Cemetery at Mosherville, Mich., to await the general resurrection of all the dead.

Sister Tempie Crisp was born at Charles, Texas, on Jan. 24, 1885, and departed this life on March 17, 1969.

The funeral services were held at the Church of God chapel in Hoffman, Okla., on March 30.

—Her daughter, Vera M. Hawkins

Finley Alfred Joiner was born on January 20, 1890, to Alfred and Minnie Joiner, near Loranger, Louisiana. He spent his entire life as a native of this community, and departed this life at his home on March 25, 1969, at the age of 79 years.

He was married in October, 1922, to Eunice Bailey, and to this union six children were born. He is survived by his four sons, Clinton, Huey, and Roy, all of Loranger, La., and Kelley, of Baton Rouge, La., and two daughters, Mrs. Monnie Perrilloux, and Mrs. Verlie Gomez, both of Hammond, La. He also leaves twenty grandchildren. Five sisters surviving are Mrs. Etta Williamson, Mrs. Mamie Flynn, Miss Geneva and Miss Elva Joiner, all of the Loranger, La. congregation, and Mrs. Della Perry, of the Golden Rule Home, at Shawnee, Okla. Three brothers preceded him in death. Many other relatives and friends will mourn his passing.

Bro. Finley was a humble man, showing a deep love for God and truth. As he approached the end of life's journey, his greatest concern was to be ready to meet the Lord with peace in his soul. His testimony was clear and his anticipation bright. . . . He was much loved by his family and friends and will be long remembered for his meekness and his gentle smile.

He was a veteran of World War I, having been seriously wounded overseas. His family, among the original saints of this area, suffered sorrow and hardship as they prayed and waited for his return. . . .

The funeral was conducted in the Loranger, La., chapel with messages by Bros. Merrill Williamson and Herbert Probst. Burial was in the nearby Saints' Cemetery.

—Herbert V. Probst

WICHITA, KANSAS, MEETING REPORT

Another spring meeting at Wichita, Kansas, is now history, and we do thank the Lord that it was a good one. The Lord blessed and provided us with a visiting minister throughout the meeting, except the last night. We were privileged to have Bro. Kenneth Probst, Bro. Willie Murphey, Bro. Murphy Allen, Sister Katherine Williams, and Bro. and Sister O. C. Porter with us at various times during the meeting to bring us the Bread of Life.

A few adults were at the altar for spiritual help and a few children for salvation. We had hoped more would be seeking God because the times are so perilous. The main warning brought out by several ministers was that these are the last days and the coming of the Lord is near. We were admonished to search and be watchful, and be sure we stay prepared to meet our God in peace.

We are thankful for everyone who came to be with us in the meeting and are sure they received a blessing, as we all did.

—Sister Shirley Knight

NEW LOCATION FOR TEXAS SERVICES

The Church of God worship services formerly held on East Third Street in Ft. Worth will now be held in the new location at the YMCA Building at 5408 Davis Blvd., Hurst, Texas, on the second and fourth Sundays of each month with morning and afternoon services, the morning service beginning at 10 A. M. April 27 is the next date for all-day services. Everyone in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area are urged to attend.

For further information, contact Bro. Edwin Wilson, 513 N. W. 88th Street, Okla. City, Okla. 73114. Phone (405) 842-2989.

—“What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee.” Psalms 56:3.

Campmeeting Dates for 1969

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates which have been received up to press time. Others will be added to the list in later issues as they come in:

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—May 30 to June 8.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 6 to 15.

Tulsa, Okla.—June 13 to 22.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 27 to July 6.

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 27 to July 6.

Akron, Ohio—July 5 to 13.

National Campmeeting at Monark Springs, (Neosho) Mo.—July 18 to 27.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—Aug. 1 to 10.

Fresno, Calif.—August 8 to 17.

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—Aug. 22 to 31.

OKLAHOMA CAMPMEETING AT GUTHRIE, OKLA.

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting will be held, Lord willing, May 30 to June 8, 1969, on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner Streets, Guthrie, Okla.

This will be the 35th annual State campmeeting on these grounds. A hearty welcome is extended to all, and provisions will be made to care for those who come. A dining hall and dormitories are on the grounds. Expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting—the salvation of souls, sanctification of believers, and the divine healing of bodies.

Contributions of money and food may be sent directly to the treasurer, Sister Frances Porter, Route 5, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044. —L. D. Pruitt, Trustee

HOLLY HILL, S. C. CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the Church of God at Holly Hill, S. C., will be held, Lord willing, on June 6 to 15, 1969. Everyone is invited.

For further information, write or call Bro. Hutson Crummie, Rt. 1, Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059. Phone (803) 496-5231.

PROPOSED CHAPEL IN OAKLAND, CALIF.

The saints in Oakland Calif., and Bay Area are still working toward the construction of a chapel there. Sister Dorothy Stubblefield writes that the few there are mostly women, and that they would certainly appreciate the financial support of the saints abroad. As you feel led, you may send your free-will offerings for this purpose directly to Sister Velma Smith, 2066 81st Ave., Oakland, California 94605.

MISSION REPORT FROM MIDWEST NIGERIA

Midwest Nigeria (April 4)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I greet you once again in the name of Jesus. I have now received your expected letter. Thank you for the contents. Work on the chapel was temporarily suspended due to high cost of cement which is at \$3.25 per bag. The war is affecting everything. We shall start to buy benches with part of the remittance.

I entirely agree with you that many who gather to hear us preaching the gospel are not all for the truth. A great many are mere professors of Christianity. They are not possessors of Christ. At Obiogo, a village of several thousands of people, only three men and three faithful women embraced the gospel of Christ seriously. They attend services at Abbi from eight miles away. But this is indeed a good number, for it is better to have six men who are led in the Spirit and work with God than five hundred men at whose piety the devil laughs. There are times when we are laughed to scorn by those who are satisfied with false religion. Never shall we expect to be accepted by those on the broad way who hate a congregation such as ours where sermons are preached against adultery, fornication, drinking, and smoking. We shall always tell them the truth boldly.

Yours in Him,

—Titus U. E. Ema

PASTOR REPORTS FROM BIAFRA, NIGERIA

Nigeria (March 18)—Dear Christians: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. I wrote you many brotherly letters and could not hear from you. . . . The teachings of the Church of God continue in Uyo District. Praise God!

Postal transaction is normal at Etinan. Mail us many copies of "Faith and Victory" at the above address. [Here follows report of dates and places of special meetings so far this year.]

You must have received the annual reports registered by air. The above short reports show that the truth is taught in this District of Uyo.

Lives are gone and those living need rehabilitation help. . . . Under this Civil War, I lost my young daughter, sisters, brothers, step-father, and monies. Help to feed the orphan children. We need a station missionary from the home missions to help in campmeeting at Ikot Ofon Ikomo on 25th to 27th of April, 1969. God bless you.

—Pastor M. U. Ekpene

MISSION REPORT FROM MEXICO

Mexico (April 16)—My dear fellow-laborers in Christ, greetings to you in the holy name of Jesus: I am grateful to have come to know this great Name and what it does for a person born in sin and with sin dominating the life. I can say I love my Lord and desire to love Him more and serve Him better with the life He gives me.

Since the revival we had here the last of February, the interest in the services continues good, although some who came to the altar at that time show little interest in their souls or in coming to meeting. But some are growing well in the Lord, drinking in the good rich milk, the Word of God.

I would like to tell you about a couple who were saved during the meeting. Bro. Raul and his wife Lupe are parents of eleven children. Bro. Raul told me how, about seven years ago, his eyes began to fail him, and one day all of a sudden, he was in the dark, completely blind. This lasted for months with not a ray of light, but just as his vision left, so it came back. He can see now, but cannot recognize people until he is close to them. He can read some. He and his wife had a little store because he could not work other places. He couldn't see well enough to pick cotton. This year, due to the poor cotton crop and poverty in general, they were forced to close the store.

Raul was a man who enjoyed gambling, as do the majority of the men here. He even helped build the little shack where they did their gambling. But the day came when he began to be discontented at this, and would leave

the gambling and go to the house, but wasn't contented there, either. He would go to his brother in Mexicali and beg for money to feed his family. And so went his life, day by day, until it seemed more than he could bear. When we had the services, he and his wife came to the meeting, and his already heavy and convicted heart sought relief. One night he met Christ at an altar of prayer where the Lord saved his soul. His wife came the next night, I believe, to be saved, too. There still isn't any work for him, but the great burden is gone and he feels that the Lord is helping his vision. The Lord has been real to this dear couple and their family. He testified that he felt this all came about for their salvation. They testify to a new and different life, and of real joy in their souls. They have come several times at night, when the children are asleep, to read and pray together or ask questions about the Bible. I just wish more were as interested as they are. They are precious and need our prayers. They, like all saints, are precious, just men and women saved from sin by grace divine. Praise God!

The flu has hit this part of the country hard. It seems like it has been two Sundays that our song service hasn't been much because of the colds.

We had an ordinance meeting here—the first and only one with the home folks. There were four men and eight women who took part. The Lord blessed us so much. There was something special about the service.

Please continue to hold us up before the Lord. May God bless and keep you in His love is my prayer.

In Christian love,

—Edith Cole

P. O. Box 1425, Calexico, Calif. 92231

Prayer Requests



Calif.—“Healing for a grave affliction on my body which appears to be cancer . . . Have been healed many times.” —Anita Daniel.

Ky.—High blood pressure. —Mabel Dunaway.

Miss.—Eyes, problems, unsaved loved ones. —Rosa Davis.

Pa.—Need spiritual help. —Pearl Leonard.

Mo.—Daughter not well, unsaved loved ones. —Mary J. Adams.

Neb.—“Daughter has a severe bronchial defect.” —Mittie Sultzbaugh.

Calif.—“I am still battling the devil for my entire healing. The dear Lord touched my body yesterday and eased me. I feel better, but I mean to keep looking to Him for entire healing.” —Mary Worley.

Wis.—“I had the flu and it left me with a bad cough. I do know God is able to heal as He has healed me many times before. . . .” —Mrs. Sylvester Burzynski.

Calif.—Sister Evelyn Wilson has a great responsibility in helping to care for the dear ones in the Home for the aged. This has been hard on her body and nerves. She has high blood pressure and needs healing. We need to pray earnestly for her. She said that Bro. Ostis Wilson is feeling better, for which we do thank the Lord, but continue to pray the Lord to give them both extra strength and complete healing. They both are consecrated to do the work of the Lord.

Calif.—“Wife and I both have afflictions on our bodies that we want the Lord to heal.” —Bro. Pat Huskey.

Mo. (April 14)—Bro. “Louie [Marler] has shown signs of improvement. . . . He is getting back to normal. We give God all the praise, as his nerves were pretty bad Friday and Saturday. . . . Clayton Gaines still needs

help in his body. . . . Troy and Chris Gentry and their daughter need prayer.” —Sister Evodna Marler.

Mo.—Sister Thelma Holbrook needs healing of high blood pressure.

Ark.—Sister Worrell has two foster girls in her home. She desires wisdom in training them. Sister Lou Bray has some problems she desires the Lord to work out, and prayer for unsaved loved ones, also other requests.

Mo.—“I still am bothered with a goiter, . . . I am trusting in God . . . suffering with pain in my side.” —Nellie Huston.

La.—Sister Mamie Flynn fell and hurt both wrists. The left one is yet giving her trouble. She needs healing to her body; so does Bro. Dallas Flynn. They both keep good courage.

Ky.—Remember Sister Sam Abbott in prayer. She had an attack while at the Dayton, Ohio, meeting, and it has been hard for her to get her strength back. She is up and around some. Bro. Abbott needs healing, also.

We do want to continue to remember Bro. and Sister Sam Barton. The last time (April 3) we visited them we could see they are failing, especially Bro. Barton. He still has a good testimony of victory in his soul. His “inner man” is alive and quick with healthy spiritual vigor, even though the outer man is weak. Thank God for this.

My heart was touched when we were in Dayton, Ohio, as I looked at our dear Sister Wm. McCoy. She surely needs prayer for the healing of her body. And do remember dear Sister Dovie Abbott. She is in great need of a definite healing. We stayed in their home, and even in her suffering, she would do for us, and also for others. We do pray God to bless her for her great efforts of love. We were glad to see the great improvement in Bro. Curtis Williams. He and his family were at Dayton. He is still looking for complete healing of his lungs. Sister Williams is thankful for all the Lord has done for her in her body, but is still looking for a complete healing and for the Lord to work out some other problems for her. We also want the Lord to bless Bro. and Sister John Gutwein's baby. He had gone for a number of months without any spells, but had one recently. We know the Lord is able to keep him from ever having another one.

It was wonderful to hear dear Sister Jessie Taylor testify last night that she felt better this time since the Lord touched her than ever before. She is expecting a complete deliverance from this tumor. She expressed a beautiful thought in her testimony in prayer meeting. She said a number of years ago she helped her husband truck watermelons. They would be unloading a load of them, and when her husband would get the last melon off the truck he would say, “That is the one we have been looking for.” She compared this to the last mile of the way here in this life. That last day is the one we are looking for. We are living each day so we will be ready to meet the Lord on that last day of our life. We are living today for the time when we draw that last breath and our soul is taken by the Lord. We will be blessed if we have kept the faith unto the end.

Are we looking too much at the promises of God and not at the Promiser? God is a God of all power. He is our King, eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, who has set our course and we are sailing with sealed orders. Can we trust Him? He knows no fear, and He expects us to fear nothing as long as He is with us. There is no time limit with God. We count time, but God does not. He is a God of compassion, love, and tenderness toward His trusting child. Do we believe it? “God, that cannot lie, promised.” Titus 1:2. He will stand behind His promises, so take courage.

—Sister Marie Miles

From The Mail Box . . .

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Lawrence, and all the dear consecrated workers in the precious work you are doing in sending out the good paper, also tracts, and other literature: This is a precious work for our dear Lord.

I remember many years ago telling dear Bro. Fred Pruitt, "I am counting on this work always being a good work, standing for the whole truth," and thank the dear Lord I have never been disappointed. I remember many happy days I spent in that home years ago. The love and sweet fellowship were comforting and serene. How welcome I felt to come any hour, day or night. I have gone there when passing through Guthrie late at night with other sisters, and just went in and spent the rest of the night. No one even knew we were there until they would get up and find us. It has always been and still is a refuge for God's children.

I am far away from there now, and just passed my 85th birthday on April 1, but will never forget the sweet memories of that place. The good part is that the work is still going on. I remember seeing Bro. Lawrence as a little boy sitting at one of the machines working, and the other children. I am still counting on this work for the dear Lord. I am happy to see our young folks working for Jesus.

We have some very precious young folks out here, also. On my birthday, our dear pastor and his dear wife, Brother and Sister Ostis Wilson, and others came to see us. It made us happy and in the evening a group of precious young folks came and sang for us. We prayed together. How precious God's children are! How I do love them all! Oh, I want to be in that number when the saints go marching in.

It seems the "Faith and Victory" is more precious all the time. Use the little offering where you see it is needed.

Your Sister in the Lord, —Sister Essie Wilson
419 W. California, Glendale, Calif. 91206

(Editor's Note: It is not too late to cheer our dear Sister Essie Wilson with a birthday card or letter.)

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Lawrence, and Sister Maybelle, our greetings of love to each of you in the name of our dear Savior, Jesus: The blessings of His great salvation are most precious, and we love God and His truth above all else in this world. Our greatest desire and burden is that we may always abound in His great love, and that we may have a part in His blessed kingdom of righteousness, not only in this world, but throughout eternity as well.

We do often pray the Lord to continue to bless you in all your labor for Him in the work there. We know that it is constant and ever-increasing in all the many burdens and responsibilities that come before you, and that it really takes added strength from the Lord to keep you able to accomplish things to the glory of God.

We are now in our fourth year here in Louisiana, and surely the Lord has been wonderful to us in every way. We have learned to love and appreciate all the saints in this area, and the Lord has given us many precious experiences that have drawn us just a little closer to Him.

Since we have been here we have seen quite a number of the precious older saints laid to rest in the cemetery by the chapel. This makes us to realize more and more how near we are all coming to the very borders of eternity. Not only have we seen the saints going to their reward, but also a number of our own families have gone on to eternity during the three short years that we have been

here. Among them were my own dear parents, William and Luella Bracken, near Effingham, Ill. My father was buried three weeks ago, on March 29, which lacked four days of two years from the time of my mother's burial. It has been a time of sorrow, but the Lord has been faithful to comfort our hearts to know that all is in His hands and that He is just and good. Also during these three years I have lost two dear aunts, and Herbert has lost three of his uncles in Illinois who were very close to him. Besides this, many other lifelong friends, neighbors and saints have gone on, and I am sure that each of you and all others have the same things to remember from year to year. "Ever keep heaven in view," must be our challenge as we see the end of our lives fast approaching.

It would be impossible to express in words here just how much and how precious to us have been the past eleven years of our lives in experiencing the love and fellowship among the dear saints of God. It was eleven years last December when we first attended the Guthrie, Okla., assembly meeting, and our hearts were melted by the sweetness of the Spirit of the Lord in the singing and preaching of the Word and in the love shown toward us. It seems we keep coming back for more at each time of opportunity. We love the unity of God's people, and our greatest desire is to see the standard of truth preserved until the coming of the Lord.

It would take much space to relate the many blessings of the Lord through the years. Many times the Lord has come upon the scene with mercy in behalf of our needs. In sickness, sorrow, disappointments, problems, burdens, He has taken notice of them all, and it means so much to be able to cast them humbly at His blessed feet. He is our Burden-Bearer and we must tread softly after Him.

There are a number of the elderly saints here lacking physical strength to carry on in the normal duties of life, but their faith toward God holds steady as they are looking forward to the reward of eternal life. . . .

We look forward to all the times of special meetings when you and many others of the saints come to be with us in the deep South. It will not be long now until camp-meeting time is upon us. We know that many will be praying for a special time of blessing in the Lord. We earnestly desire the prayers of the saints that we may be all that He would have us to be in His service.

In Christian love, —Herbert and Eva Probst

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Miles, and all the rest of my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I am still holding on to my Lord and Saviour for my need for soul, mind, and body. Hold on to God with me for my need. I love Him. Don't forget to pray for me, please.

Your Brother in Christian love, —E. J. Kirchner

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

Colo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere, greetings in the name of our blessed Saviour who saved us from sin and gives us victory through His name: On Easter morning I received a surprise when two young men, entire strangers, knocked at my door. I invited them in and they sat about an hour and a half and we discussed the Bible. When they departed, they left a small book with me, and they expect to return about Sunday, April 20. They are Jehovah's Witnesses, and I desire that God through me will give them some truth that will show them the falsity of their belief. They don't believe man has an immortal soul. If that could be true, I don't see any reason for a religious profession at all.

Please join me in praying for these two nice-appearing young men. I am also burdened for our young people. I feel both the home and church (so-called) have neglected them.

Yours in Christ's service, —Fred B. Allen

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

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. Pruitt, the helpers in the Print Shop and the Saints of God everywhere: Sister Marie, thanks for the good letter you sent to me. I certainly did get much good out of it. Thanks for the lovely tracts you sent me in the letter. That was a sad story about the girl you wrote to me about in your letter. Thanks to you for mailing the December issue of "Faith and Victory" paper to the names and addresses I mailed to you.

I want to thank you for the prayers you sent up to the Lord, in agreement with my daughter and me, for the healing of my granddaughter's body, also for my little grandson. He is not completely healed, but the good Lord is healing him. Praise His name. He is such a wonderful God.

—Sister P. R. Bowers

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

Ohio—Dear Friends at the Faith Publishing House: Thanks for reminding me that my subscription had expired. I was just wondering how long it had been since I had renewed it. I don't ever want to miss getting the "Faith and Victory," for it is the best paper that comes into our home. I am renewing it for three years and enclosing \$1.00.

Thanks again, —Sister Ida M. Hartley

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and workers, greetings in the Lord: We are all well and saved, appreciating the goodness of the Lord. He has been so good to us. When we look around and see so much sin, violence, and evil, we are reminded that the end is coming, but feel so thankful that the mighty God searched us out and found us in the big world and saved us. When we think of the Scripture in John 15:16 which says, "Ye have not chosen me but I have chosen you and ordained you that you should go and bring forth fruit . . ." how blessed we are to be chosen of the Lord. To think that the Almighty would choose insignificant man to do something for Him! How faithful we must be to Him, much more than we would be to an earthly employer whom we strive to satisfy.

For some time I have wanted to let you know how much we have appreciated the literature from Faith Publishing House. The Sunday-school Bible Lessons are so good and inspiring. They seem to have added new meaning to our Sunday-school class. We used the books, "The Pilot's Voice" and "Bible Chain of Truth" for our devotional hour. "The Pilot's Voice" brought tears to my eyes, and I don't think the children will soon forget the story.

Do you have any more of the book by your father, "God's Gracious Dealings"? I should like to have one.

Mother and Father [Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips] are well at this time. The Lord surely blessed Mother in her recent illness. She will be 88 years old on April 4 and can read and do her sewing without glasses.

Remember us in your prayers.

—Olive A. Davenport

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

Ohio—Dear Friends: I received my Testament this morning. Thanks for sending it. . . . Send my friend the paper for one year. The rest is for the Testament.

I was born on July 17, 1875. I was 30 years old before I ever heard of the Church of God. A man came in our neighborhood preaching the Church of God and I did not like it. I got mad and didn't go for awhile. He said I would have to take my necktie off, give up my coffee

and my pipe. I thought that was too much for me, but I did, and it has been 64 years since I had a smoke or a cup of coffee. Thank the Lord, I am feeling fine. Pray for me that I keep saved.

Your Brother in Christ, 94 years young in July,

—A. B. Moul

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

Ky.—Dear Folks: I just received notice that my subscription had expired for the wonderful "Faith and Victory." I don't feel I can do without it, as I always look forward each month to receiving it. I usually read it through before I sleep and it is food to my soul. Cash is enclosed for a three-year subscription.

Thank you. —Mrs. R. C. Pennington

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

Calif.—Holy greetings to those at the Print Shop: May the blessings from God in heaven be your great portion is our sincere prayer. Amen. Having received your birthday cards on the 4th day of April, it awakened my soul to the serious thought—When and what have I done to create such showers of blessings? I thank each one. On the morning of the 5th of April I received 15 more birthday cards with greater showers of blessings. When I read the contents of all of them, my heart was overwhelmed with joy, and tears flowed. . . .

During my meditation on these conditions and the evil of the times, also the few days I have to live, I felt a deep seriousness come over me. How shall I show appreciation and love to those whom I have known for years? My confidence is that you are of God's family. What can I say, or do, to return the blessing? I am so thankful that our lives can be the means of blessing our fellow-travelers on life's journey. . . . So I am sending . . . and send a part of it to some field where the literature is so badly needed.

May the dear Lord reward each of you with spiritual and temporal blessings.

Yours for the work of the Lord, —Sis. Ella V. Phillips
1240 Orange St., San Bernardino, Calif. 92410

(Editor's Note: Sister Phillips, wife of Bro. Ulysses Phillips, was 88 years old on April 4. Please cheer her more by sending a belated birthday card or letter.)

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

Texas—Greetings of Christian love: Our soul is refreshed through the reading of the Word. We are thankful we can report victory over sin and the devil, rejoicing in the hope we have in a resurrected Christ and as heirs and joint heirs with Him, willing to suffer with Him that we may be glorified together. Praise His holy name!

Our heart is heavy as we look out and see souls bound in sin and wickedness, and feel we have so little power and influence among the mass of people. We are made to cry mightily unto the Lord for words of wisdom and power to walk as He walked here on earth.

We have been greatly burdened for our ministry. What a great responsibility rests upon their shoulders! Jesus told Peter to "FEED his lambs," to "FEED his sheep." A child that is fed inferior food is sickly, undernourished, and as we look on that one, our hearts are full of pity and long to see it restored to health. So it is with the spiritual Body of Christ. Unless they are fed on good spiritual food, they will become weak and sickly. As we observe a congregation, we can tell just about what they have been fed upon. Our ministers need to be melted together in love and harmony, seeing eye to eye, teaching the same things; not afraid to put sin where it belongs, and not shunning to declare the whole gospel of Christ in these evil days. They are to watch for our souls. We pray the God of heaven to reign righteousness

on them, and so fill them with the Holy Ghost that the remnant will be preserved and souls yet added to the flock.

Now, if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." If we all have the same spirit, there will be no division. The Spirit of Christ is peaceable, easy to be entreated. We would all do well to follow Paul's example in teaching—he bold in uncovering sin, not pat people on the back and give reason for them to feel they are doing all right when we know, by God's Holy Word, they are not measuring to His standard. May the Lord help us to be bold and not shun persecution to please people.

One who is burdened for souls and a closer walk with Christ,
—Edith Wall

Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

Healing of Native Missionary in Mexico

Mexico—(March 20) My dear brethren: May the peace of God bless each one of you in the way you desire and need.

I feel impressed of the Lord to tell you of an experience I had. On a Monday, early in the morning, I was attempting to take the camper off the pickup alone, and as I was raising it, somehow I twisted, sprained or broke my lower spine. I do not know which, but I fell and was unable to move. Two men came and carried me to the house and to bed. I suffered very, very much. We called the saints to pray and relief came, but in a little while the pain came back. Again they prayed, and the Lord was merciful and gave another touch. I had some "Job's comforters" to come visit me. Some of them said I would never walk again. There on my bed and in the midst of suffering, I had an opportunity to witness for God. I told them my whole confidence was in God and that He would raise me up again. If not, I would stay right there and glorify God. The brethren stood right by me in praying without ceasing. Dear ones, God raised me up, giving me my health without the use of crutches or anything else. Within four days I was going again.

I believe this healing has been a real blessing to the church here, because some were weak in faith and have expressed their need of a closer walk with God and a greater trust in Him. On Friday, I went to our little town here in the Valley and some who had heard and others who had seen me before couldn't believe that I was up and walking. Dear ones, we are serving a living God who heals all our sicknesses and who delivers us in trials and tests.

Pray for us that God may use us in the way He wants to in His vineyard.

Your Brother in Christ,
—Tomas Mendoza

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' dear name! We do love the Lord and want to do all His will for our lives. When things look dark around us, underneath are the Everlasting Arms holding us, and how we do praise Him for His wonderful love, goodness, and mercy daily.

Last Saturday we thought we were losing Mother. She just slept all the time and breathed hard and didn't seem to know that we were in the room. My sister called for the two sisters who live in Florida and one brother who was vacationing down there. . . . After they came she rallied and has been so much better. Her knee was so bad she couldn't stand us to touch it or move it at all.

The swelling went down after I wrote to you for prayer and she has been up with two helping her. God is good, as He always is to those who put their trust in Him.

Our offering is enclosed for the work there where it is needed most. Oh, to help the lost find our dear Lord and Saviour! Our world is surely waxing worse and worse, as the Scriptures tell us.

Today is rainy and dark, but thank God for the sunshine of God's love in our hearts that we can praise Him when trials come and know He doeth all things well. Praise His Name! We have a hope beyond this life if we hold true. Sometimes the devil tries so hard, and we know he won't give up until our last breath, but thank God, we have a Keeper who helps in every time of need.

May God bless all you do for Him, and give you wisdom to print the truth, as it is needed by all who will read and accept it. Your Sisters in His service,

—Dona Campbell and Eva Cox

Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers, greetings in Jesus' precious name: . . . Our son [for whom Bro. Hines had requested prayer] came up from Indiana to see us on March 24. He had gained back 10 pounds and could eat all right. He said he was feeling so much better now. . . . We certainly do thank God for everyone that prayed for our son, and also for Wife. We are still trusting the dear Lord for Wife's complete healing. She is getting up in years—77 years old.

We do remember you dear ones at the Print Shop every day, so may the good Lord bless and keep you is our prayer. Yours in Him,
—Floyd Hines

Oklahoma.—Dear Ones: I hope all my brothers and sisters are well and enroute to heaven the Bible way. All who do the will of my Father in heaven are my brothers and sisters.

I am glad I am in the Church of God. I got into the Church when God blessed me and I stopped the sinning business. Your Brother,
—R. Walters

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Marie, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I am thankful for what the dear Lord is doing for me. He keeps me saved and encouraged to trust Him. I am not so well in body, but I am encouraged to trust Him unto the end of my journey.

It is wonderful to be saved and know it for myself. I want to please God in every walk of life. I am not tired of my journey. I am nearing my 83rd birthday, but I am happy in my soul to know Jesus saves, heals, and keeps if we let Him. Bless His dear name! I need your prayers for my body. I know I am declining, but I am encouraged.

May God ever bless the work there. Enclosed is a little donation.

Your Sister in Christ Jesus,
—Melissa Greer

Md.—In the spring of 1968 I suffered some from hay fever. I had asked the Lord to heal me, also had my pastor to anoint and pray for me. This done, I determined to trust the Lord. It seemed to be working down to my chest. Then one morning I tried to get out of bed and couldn't even get one foot out. My chest seemed to be very tight and swollen. It was hard to breathe. I said, "Lord, now what shall I do?" The answer came, "Come boldly to the throne of grace, that you may find help and mercy in every time of trouble." (This answer is not exactly as it is written in the Bible, but this is the way I got it.) Immediately I was able to get out of bed and

go to the opposite side of the bedroom where there was a plastic container. I began to cough, and every time I coughed, a lump of yellow substance came out of my lungs. There were about twelve of these, about the size of the end of my thumb. The pain was as if a scab had been pulled off a sore. When the last one was removed, I got scared and said to myself, "Oh, my lungs must be full of holes!" but bless God, He reminded me, "You are still breathing." So I praised and thanked Him who is able to do more than we can ask or think. That has been eight or nine months ago, and I haven't had a chest cold or pain in my chest since.

I don't know what to call my trouble, but He knows, and that is more the reason I praise Him.

Thanking Him for His care and protection, I am ever yours in Him,

—Guy I. Reynolds

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of much love in Jesus' precious name. I just had a most wonderful time in prayer early this beautiful morning. Our loving Lord can surely make us happy as we rejoice in His holy presence. I surely want to please Him.

I am trying to tell others of Him in my daily walk, in rest homes, and also in teaching a little Sunday-school class. I carry a burden for so many lost in sin. I believe God is going to save them. Praise His holy name!

I do appreciate the saints. They have been wonderful to me, especially you, Sister Marie. I do appreciate your most encouraging letters.

I am still doing house work and helping with the children for my niece. This is a big help to me to be able to work. I know God knows best. He led me into this work while I am gaining strength.

The "Bible Lessons" booklets are just wonderful. I am ordering five so I will have some to give to others to read. . . .

Your Sister in Christ,

—Carrie Sheppard

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the dear ones at the Lord's Print Shop: We send greetings of love in His most precious name.

May this find all of you with victory in your souls, pressing on to Glory. Surely, it won't be long now until we all shall be gathered home to Glory.

The Lord is blessing us here, adding one once in a while to the fold. Pray with us that the Lord will send a minister or ministers of His choice here to be with us in a meeting. We feel that the time is ripe, and there are hopes of reaching a few precious souls before too late.

I am enclosing a little offering to help get the printed page out to the sin-sick world.

Wife and I both need prayer as we both have afflictions in our bodies.

May the grace of God and the blessings of heaven ever be with all of you.

—Your Brother and Sister H. P. Huskey

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt: In the name of Jesus we greet you this 14th day of April. Surely the Lord has been so good to us through the years of our life, and many of these years were wasted years, yet He had mercy and spared us when we could have been cut off. But God in His great love and mercy has set us free from our past life of sin. My greatest desire is to ever be faithful the remaining days of my life here on earth. I want to do as Paul said, forgetting those things which are behind and press toward that mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. . . . I surely desire you dear saints to keep under me with your prayers.

We surely had a wonderful meeting in Dayton, and God certainly did bless in sending His Word forth. We did appreciate you dear ones coming to be with us in the meeting and the good fellowship and love manifested. May God continue to bless the truth as it goes forth from the Publishing House. . . . May God bless your labors in His service.

Much Christian love,

—Bro. Earl L. Sharp

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

N. Carolina—Dear Saints at the Print Shop, I greet you in Jesus' precious name: I am so thankful to the Lord for salvation that delivers my soul from sin.

I wrote for prayer and an anointed cloth, which I received some time ago, and I want to tell you the Lord wonderfully healed my body. I had such a terrible back-ache and stomach trouble. I don't know what caused it as I didn't go to the doctor. I just put my trust in God and was completely healed. I praise God for His goodness to me.

I have a little grandson who will be four years old in July, and he has started having asthma attacks. I want you to pray for him. I believe the Lord is able to heal him, as I have been healed of asthma some time ago.

I am enjoying the paper, also the tracts which I have been giving out. I sent some to my son in service overseas. He said he enjoyed them. I also sent some to my children in New York. I want you to remember them in prayer that they may get saved before it is too late.

Yours in Christ,

—Bunice Hope

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

Ala.—Dear Christian Friends: I want to thank the Lord for healing me. Recently, I had a severe pain in my chest. I began to pray and to ask others to pray, also. I was healed, and I thank the Lord for it.

I have been reading your paper for several years, and enjoy it very much.

In Christian love,

—Mrs. Roy Herron

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

THE DOCTRINE OF FATALISM

Question: Today in Sunday-school a Sister said, "When we die, our time is up and we can do nothing about it. Some people are total believers in fatalism. Is this doctrine true?"

Answer: Fatalism defined is "the doctrine that all things are subject to fate, or that they take place by inevitable necessity." —Webster.

That life and death both are in the hands of our Creator is a factor we cannot overlook. The Word tells us that it is appointed unto man once to die, but I don't see this as implying that every man's moment is set in which he will die. It simply means that every man will die some time. There is strong evidence in the Word that man's life span can be governed somewhat by himself by the choices he makes through life. 1 Kings 3:14 says, "And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days." Fatalism says things take place of "inevitable necessity," but this text indicates that Solomon had power to prolong or cut short his life span by his conduct. The text also makes clear that the power to lengthen or shorten is invested in God.

Genesis 15:16 says, "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." The story of Jonah and Nineveh teaches us that even groups of people who will humble down before God and seek His mercy need not perish. The Amorites did not humble themselves and consequently at the appointed time God sent the children of Israel to destroy

them, which they did. God had already appointed Nineveh's time, but because they repented, He spared the city. He has the power to do this.

Hezekiah did not need to repent, for he was walking uprightly before God, but simply because he asked, God prolonged his life at the last minute.

Life and death both are in God's hands, but He does delegate some choice to us. If we completely despair of life and choose of ourselves to abandon it, He will not stop us, even though He commanded us not to destroy human life and even though He might have been willing for us to have lived longer.

Psalms 36:9 says, "For with thee is the fountain of life." When He stops the fountain, we are done, for we have no power to retain life of ourselves, nor is there any way that we can achieve death outside of self destruction. Life and death are in His hands if we leave ourselves in His hands. We are not the victims of fate, but the subjects of a pure, holy, upright, and loving Creator who wills that we be saved and ready at any time for death, which is the entrance into eternal bliss. —C. W. Wilson

Overcome With Good

(The following is a letter written by a friend to a saved girl three weeks before her marriage. —M. M.)

"My dearest ———: I greet you in Jesus' holy name.

"I heard only today that you are planning to be married. I do hope, ———, that you have sought the Lord for His mind concerning the matter.

"I speak as a voice of experience when I say, if a person makes a mistake in the choosing of a companion, life is the next thing to unbearable. I have been married just a few years and have had more trouble and heartache than I thought possible in a lifetime. Different ones of the saints talked to me and cried and begged me not to marry as I did. I went against the teachings of the saints and the Bible. . . . I have reaped and am reaping and very possibly will continue to reap for the remainder of my life for the mistake I made. I have wondered why God did not allow me to die rather than let me go ahead and marry, but I've thought perhaps it was because that I, in the circumstances I am, could help someone keep from making the same mistake I made.

"Please, ———, do not feel hurt at me for writing to you in this way. What I'm trying to get you to see and understand is to be sure it is the Lord's will for you and this one to be companions through life. Perhaps you have the mind of the Lord on the matter. I hope you do. I'm trying to say please, please, please be sure God is in it. I am trying to show you what to expect if He isn't.

"I believe every promise that was made to me before I was married has been broken, . . . and my very heart seemingly torn apart. I have cried time and time again and begged God for mercy and help in my troubles. There have been times when I have thought of taking my own life, (and only the thought that I would be sinning against God prevented it.)

"There is some happiness, of course, mostly from the little children God has seen fit to give me. At times they seem to be all that I have. God is helping

me. I feel discouraged at times, but then the Lord gives me courage and strength and I pick up and plod on again. Remember, I love you and only desire what will make you happy, and that is God's will."

In reading this letter you possibly placed yourself in the position as it relates to you. If you are not married, you might feel afraid you will make a mistake, and therefore shun marriage. We know that marriage is in God's plan and He can make you know if true love and compatibility are between you and the one of your choice. Remember and consider well that it is for life—"till death do us part." If you both are saved, you need to pray earnestly to be sure it is God's will.

If you are married and read the above letter, you might feel that it describes your case too, as you feel that you made a mistake in marriage. My advice to you is to forget about your mistake now and try to forget that you were warned not to marry this one. You are married and you must accept that fact. You will have some reaping to do, but God has grace for that reaping. You can never have any peace of mind nor any victory until you are willing to face your life with the one who has, as the above letter stated, "broken every promise that was made to me before I was married." The first thing you will have to do is to forgive your companion from your heart. Pick up the threads that you can find and weave them together with love. Ask God to help you to obey the Scripture, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath, for it is written, Vengeance is mine: I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Rom. 12:18-21. Oh, yes, you can find happiness to your soul and your home will change if you will obey these Scriptures. Write them down, memorize them, obey them and I am sure that you will find a change in your home. If there have been hurtful words and actions, it might take a few years for those to heal, but it will work. I have seen it work and God will help you. Love will conquer. Divine love has power in it. Die out to your own hurt feelings, strive to make the best of your marriage. Be happy, because it will affect your children if you are not. Theirs are little lives that you both are responsible for. Be sure that you guard them with a godly jealousy from feeling any insecurity because Mother and Daddy don't love each other as they should. Point out the good features of your companion to yourself and to your children. Never let them know all the failures nor any feelings you have not conquered. It will affect them. They have a right to have a home where peace reigns and where they can depend upon both parents.

Remember first to adjust yourself to the circumstances if they cannot be changed. You do not have to surrender to wrong, but by God's grace, you can have peace in your soul.

—Sister Marie Miles

Motherhood means going to the depths with her children, loving them there; going to the heights with her children; loving them there. In the depths her prayers are that they would arise. In the heights her prayers are that they do not fall. Motherhood is feeling the keenest pain and the keenest joy that life can bring, and feeling either, to go on loving, praying, and protecting still.

ALONE

It is human to stand with the crowd; it is divine to stand alone. It is man-like to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is God-like to follow a principle, to stem the tide.

It is natural to compromise conscience and to follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty.

"No man stood with me, but all men forsook me," wrote the battle-scarred Apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world.

Truth has been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves.

Noah built and voyaged alone. His neighbors laughed at his strangeness and perished in style.

Abraham wandered and worshipped alone. Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion, and fed the flames.

Daniel dined and prayed alone. Elijah sacrificed and witnessed alone. Jeremiah prophesied and wept alone. Jesus loved and died alone.

And of the lonely way His disciples should walk He said, "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it."

Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way, He said, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The church of the Kings praised Moses and persecuted the prophets.

The church of Caiphas praised the prophets and persecuted Jesus. The church of the popes praised the Saviour and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now applaud the courage and fortitude of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness like faithfulness to truth today.

Wanted, today, men and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fortune and friends and life itself.

—Selected

Who Owns The Wool?

A man has a sheep. That sheep grows wool. Now the question is, Who owns the wool that grows on the sheep? Very well; now let us read a few words found in the Bible. "Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are the sheep of His pasture." *Psa. 100:3*. These words tell us that we are the Lord's and that we are sheep. So, then we are the Lord's sheep. If we are the Lord's, then to whom does the wool belong that grows on the sheep? If you are one of the Lord's sheep, does not the wool you grow belong to

the Lord? This wool question is a very great question. Whom does it belong to? If the Lord owns the sheep, why does He not own the wool that grows on the sheep?

What is meant by the wool that the Lord's people grow? It means everything they grow, or everything they have. That is the wool. If you are one of the Lord's sheep, then everything you have is the Lord's just as truly as the wool that grows on a sheep belongs to the man that owns the sheep. This wool question is a very great question. Many of the Lord's people want to argue that the wool, or the greater part of it, belongs to them. Some say that they are the Lord's people, but they and the devil are getting about all the wool. Suppose you have earned 10 cents. You have grown some wool. That 10 cents, or that wool, belongs to God, but if you take it, and pay your way into a picture show, who gets the wool?

Men shear their sheep. That does not hurt the sheep—it is good for them. It would be bad for sheep if they were not sheared. When they are sheared their owner gets the wool and they just go on and grow some more wool for their owner. That is the way God's sheep do. The Lord shears them. He comes to get that five dollars that they have grown, to give to some poor person, and they let the Lord shear them without a murmur and just grow another five dollars for the Lord. Always remember, reader, that the wool that grows on the sheep belongs to the man that owns the sheep. The owner of the sheep has sole right to the wool.

—C. E. Orr, 1932

GOD'S GRACE COMES FLOWING IN

Many things may tempt your patience
On your journey to the goal,
As you stand for all that's noble
And essential for your soul;
But when evil forces rally
To entice you into sin,
Oh, how blessed and uplifting
When God's grace comes flowing in!

Little home-tests meet you often,
For it's here you gain or lose,
In your heart-life and your spirit
By the way you act and choose;
Yet if you are set for heaven
And you truly mean to win,
Somehow in your sorest trials
God's sweet grace comes flowing in.

As you earn your daily living
In a good and honest way,
You may find that you're surrounded
By some folks who never pray;
And sometimes they tempt you strongly
To pursue their ways of sin,
But by prayer and faith and patience
God's sustaining grace flows in.
—Walter E. Isenhour

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