

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### Joy To The World



Joy to the world, the Saviour has come,  
Proclaim His name with joyful sound;  
Peace and good-will to all mankind,  
Good news to all the world around.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
The angels did to them descend,  
And told of the birth of Jesus Christ  
Who came to save His own from sin.

No greater gift has e'er been given  
Than Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
Who came down to earth from heaven,  
That the Father's will might be done.

His name above all names shall stand,  
The sweetest name that mortals know;  
The Great and Everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace with men below.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come—  
Let men repeat the glad new song;  
Let every kindred praise His name,  
And joyfully the strain prolong.

—Ulysses Phillips

**THE UNCERTAINTY** as to the date of Christ's birth existing in the minds of the historians at the beginning of the third century proves that there was no formal observance before the middle of the century. We have no historical record that our Lord's birthday was celebrated during apostolic times.

We, the saints of God, observe the day in memory of the birth of our Saviour into this world for the salvation of souls, without any regard to the exactness of the date. One thing we do know, that He was born "to save his people from their sins," and that we have by His mercy obtained this salvation. For this greatest of blessings and many kindred benefits, we offer to Him heartfelt devotions on the day generally commemorated as His birthday.

—From "Gospel Trumpet" in 1911 by F. W. Heinly

### Christ, the Shepherd of our Souls



"Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed." John 6:37. There is great labor today for meat and substance that will perish, but very little effort exercised to eat of the divine grace and truth that Jesus came to bring. But, oh, how important it is to the hope of mankind that they eat of the Bread of Life! The great and deplorable condition of men today stems from a lack of the Bread of Life in their moral and spiritual diet. And because of rejecting the standard of Christ's word and life, sin and death still reign.

There is spiritual food to be given to us by the Son of Man. This spiritual food is the means of our obtaining eternal life. The prophets of old foresaw the Messiah as one who would feed God's people. "Yet out of thee [Bethlehem] shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting ... And He shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, ... and they shall abide." Micah 5:2, 4. "He shall feed His flock like a shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." Isa. 40:11. "And I will set up one shepherd over them, and He shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd." Ezek. 34:23. Thus we see Christ pictured in prophecy as One who would feed God's sheep. The feeding of the Truth and the Holy Spirit to souls was to mean deliverance from sin and death. In the Song of Solomon we see a metaphor of this in 1:7, 8. "Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon: for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions? If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds' tents." Here

inquiry is made by the hungry soul as to where the Shepherd feeds His sheep, and the answer given. Oh, that there would be more such hungry souls today who would diligently inquire as to the whereabouts of the true Shepherd and His pastures! "Go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock." Seek the company and association of true Christians. The soul needs to eat of the food from the shepherds (true ministers of God's eternal truth) to receive help. There have been many souls won to the dear Shepherd in this way. Their association and contact with true spiritual people led them forth into the living pastures. And as they partake of the manna from above they find their lives transformed unto holiness. Oh, how the truth needs to be preached, but how the truth needs to be heeded by those who hear!

Jesus proceeded in the 6th chapter of John to explain His role as the Shepherd of souls. "Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world." Then said they unto Him, "Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. . . . I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world. . . . Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. . . . As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me." These words offended many of those who heard, and considered not His explanation: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." To eat Christ literally and to merely know Him after the flesh would not profit. His Word and His divine Spirit was the essence of Himself that He declared to be the food for the life of the world. This can only be eaten by true faith and obedience and submission and conformity to their holy standard and nature. Thus the meat and drink that He gives is His commandments and the Holy Spirit.

There is a difference in professing Christ and truly eating of His essence. There is a great difference in knowing Christ historically and knowing Him as the Present living reality in the heart and life. The knowledge and relationship that He desires that we have with Him is that of the Spirit according to His Word. "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Luke 6:46. Many seek His favor and claim to be Christ's who disregard His holy statutes of life. Christ is no longer here in outward form. But He left us the Word and the Spirit. He is revealed to us through these. To claim faith in Christ and at the same time reject His Word is blasphemy. The only way that we can truly eat Christ is to receive His Word and be led by His Holy Spirit. In preparing the hearts of His disciples for His departure from them, He said, "If ye love me, keep my

commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of Truth." When asked further how that from His place in the heavens at the right hand of God he would reveal or manifest Himself to His people and not unto the world, Jesus answered simply, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love Him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me." John 14:15-24. You see, our entire relationship with the Saviour hinges upon our relationship with His Word and the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit. Thus to eat of Christ and to be fed of Him as the Shepherd is to conform ourselves to the standard of His holiness by the grace that He promises to give to those who are meek and lowly in heart like Himself. See Matt. 11:29.

Notice Paul's attitude toward His pursuit of life and the attainment of the resurrection of the dead. "That I may win [or gain, possess] Christ, and be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: that I may know HIM, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Phil. 3:8-11. Paul realized that the only way that he was going to live was to partake of Christ, and possess Him. To know Him, His righteousness, the power of His resurrection, His sufferings, and His death was the ultimate goal of this man. To fail to reach this goal was to fail to gain eternal life and triumph over death. Nor did he suppose and presume upon attaining it. It was continually the endeavor and pressing of his soul.

Dear reader, if you would have hope of life to come; if you would live with Christ in the eternal world; if you would attain unto the resurrection of life; if you would stand before the Son of Man and escape the destruction of all things material, you must eat of Christ, and grow up unto Him in all things. If you will yield to Him and humble your heart from vanity and pride, He as the Great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant will "make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever." Heb. 13:20, 21. God will do this if we will feed on the essence of His Son. Many spiritual lacks and failings can be cured through proper spiritual feeding. This is true in natural eating also. Many prominent diseases of the present day stem from improper diet. Take heed to yourself and see to it that your spiritual diet is what it ought to be. Christ Jesus as the Food for the soul is to us what the tree of life was to Eden of old. The tree of life assured the one who ate thereof of living forever. Because of disobedience man lost access to this tree of life. But in the Lord Jesus Christ and the atoning victory over sin through obedience

that He wrought we have access anew to the tree of life. Let us be diligent to faithfully eat of Christ and thus assure ourselves of living forever.

—Leslie Busbee

### **"Except Ye Repent, Ye Shall . . . Perish"** (Luke 13:3)

Many preachers of our day are filling the minds of the people with the thought, "Accept the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved." Very seldom does one hear the message, "Repent, or ye shall all likewise perish." Repentance is left out of the easy way to heaven preached by the majority of the world's famous evangelists of these last days.

The lack of good sound preaching that brings conviction and makes it plain to all seekers, just how to get rid of their sins, has burdened the writer. Carrying such a burden has caused us to study and to seek the Lord for the answer to the text used by these "easy way" preachers. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." Using this text they instruct sinners just to receive Christ, and it will be well with their souls.

We can never come to a correct understanding of any Scripture without considering who the speaker is, and to whom he is speaking. We must also have a correct knowledge of the time, place, and conditions under which the speaker dwells, and to what age he refers.

Let us consider the words of St. John found in his gospel (John 1:10-13): "He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, 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: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

"He was in the world." He had come into the world and "the world knew him not"—the worldly-minded ones of the world did not know Him—did not recognize Him.

"He came unto his own." Who were "his own"? Were not they the people of Israel, the church which came through the wilderness? Acts 7:38. The gospel came first to the Jews. "And his own received him not," but, thank God for the next clause, "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." Many times we find the Word of God speaking in a general sense. The Jews as a nation rejected Christ and His message. Therefore Jesus told them, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate." Matt. 23:38. Yet three thousand of the Jews repented and were saved on the day of Pentecost. Here again the Scripture is speaking in a general sense. "His own received him not." But as many of "his own" as did receive Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Zacharias, Elizabeth, Simeon, and Anna were in the number of those who

did "receive Him." These and all the others who accepted Jesus while walking in all the light of the law "blameless" were given "power to become the sons of God." This power from on high, wrought within them, bringing them into the "born again" experience, which was necessary to enable them to "see" and enjoy the kingdom of God that was at hand. For Jesus had said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. This change of heart, and receiving the Spirit of God within, (which constitutes the new birth) was promised to the children of Israel. "A new heart also will I give unto you, and a new spirit will I put within you: . . . And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them." Ezek. 36:26, 27. This was a promise to the house of Israel to be fulfilled at the coming of the Messiah.

All who were "walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless" as Zacharias and Elizabeth walked, needed no repentance, having no sin to repent of, as they were "blameless" before God. These had only to "receive him." And by so doing God gave them the power to become the sons of God in the new dispensation through the experience of the new birth.

But all sinners must repent before they can receive the born again experience. Jesus said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." John the Baptist and Christ Jesus came preaching repentance to all sinners. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, told the Jews who had rejected Christ to repent. The Apostle Paul taught that "godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." 2 Cor. 7:10. "And he [Jesus] called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; . . . And they went out and preached that men should repent." Mark 6:7-12. God's true Holy Spirit-filled ministers of today still preach that "men should repent."

Yours for all the truth, —H. P. Huskey

### **PRAYER**

Oh! that mine eye might closed be  
To what concerns not me to see.  
That deafness might possess my ear  
To what concerns me not to hear:  
That truth my tongue might ever tie  
From speaking words of vanity.  
That no vain thought might ever rest  
Or be conceived within my breast;  
So that in deed and word and thought,  
Glory may unto God be wrought.

But what are wishes? Lord, mine eye  
Is fixed on Thee, to Thee I cry!  
Cleanse, Lord, and purify my heart,  
And make it clean in every part;  
And when 'tis pure, Lord, keep it so,  
For that is more than I can do.

—Selected

## "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 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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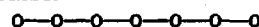
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## EDITORIALS

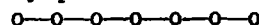


**THE SEASON'S WARMEST GREETINGS** are extended to all our readers in the name of the Holy Child Jesus whose coming to this world nearly 2,000 years ago was announced to the humble shepherds of Palestine by the angel of the Lord, and joined by the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. Jesus Christ is still the only hope for the salvation of this world of mankind, and let men and angels fall prostrate at His feet in worship and praise.

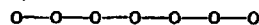


As this last issue for the year of 1969 goes to press, we are thankful to the Lord and our faithful readers for the hundreds of new names received through the special subscription offer, to whom we will be mailing this gospel paper for the first three months of the year of 1970. By the time you receive this December copy you should have a few days remaining before the expiration date of this special offer on Dec. 8 to send in more names—10 for \$1.00. With your special effort at this time we anticipate having several thousand new readers beginning with the January issue. **PLEASE** rush in all the names possible by December 8, and the Lord will bless you for your sincere concern in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and reigning King of kings and Lord of lords.

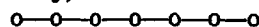
Let us agree in prayer that the Spirit of God will cause the forthcoming issues of gospel messages to penetrate the heart of every reader and glean out of darkness many precious souls.



In the first 15 days of November the Lord has enabled us to mail, free of charge and postpaid, about 50 pounds of assorted books and 20,000 tracts to the foreign mission fields of Africa and Central America for free distribution, besides the tracts, papers and books that are mailed out daily in all directions over the United States. These "white-winged" gospel messengers are going to places over the globe where an individual may never be able to witness. Hearing and believing the gospel of Christ is the only hope of mankind, and time is running out!



Twenty years ago—November, 1949—this gospel printing plant published the first edition of "Evening Light Songs" book—a general hymnal for the Church of God. Since that time the demand for its use has been steadily increasing, and sometimes we have found it difficult to have it always in stock. At the present time this hymnal is practically out of stock, but we are in the process of reprinting it and expect to have a new supply of songbooks available in late January, 1970.



Bro. Ernest Burditt of Oklahoma City was home on the week-end of Nov. 15 from Clearfield, Kentucky, where he had been helping to build a house

for the Curtis Williams family. He reported to us that the outside walls of the building were up, but, of course, there is much more work needed to be done. When he returns on Nov. 17 he expects, if sufficient help is provided, to get the house closed in before severe cold weather. May the Lord bless and reward all those who are giving their time, labor and means to provide a home for Bro. Curtis Williams and family.

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### Christ Reigning Now on David's Throne—

The Apostle Peter, preaching that memorable sermon on the day of Pentecost, quoted from the prophet David in Psalm 16 with reference to Christ's burial and resurrection. In Acts 2:25, 27, 29-31 we read from Peter's sermon: "For David speaketh concerning him [Christ], I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved. . . . Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. . . . Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; he seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption."

Peter states explicitly that David's prophecy that Christ would be raised up to sit on David's throne was fulfilled in the resurrection of Christ from the tomb. Subsequently, Christ ascended to His mediatorial throne at the right hand of the Father. All power in heaven and earth was given into His hands. He is now King of kings and Lord of lords, and reigns from His majestic throne through the agency of the Holy Spirit over all His glorious kingdom on earth—the Church of God in this dispensation. David's earthly throne under the Old Testament was merely a shadow or symbol of Christ's spiritual kingdom under the New Testament. Christ came to save His people from their sins—their greatest enemy. Christ did not come to save His people from the bondage of the Roman government. Therefore, because of the misconception of the nature of Christ's kingdom, the Jews as a whole rejected Christ as the promised Messiah.

Christ will never set up a literal temporal kingdom on earth. This is a vain hope cherished by millions. Although Christ has power and authority over all the kingdoms of earth, He stated clearly in Pilate's judgment hall, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. Christ's kingdom is not and never will be an earthly kingdom. What truth could be plainer?

When God shall declare that time is no longer at the end of this world, Christ will leave His mediatorial throne and return with the angels of heaven and the saints in paradise to judge the world of man-

kind. He will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep are the saved in His glorious kingdom. Instead of setting up an earthly kingdom, He will "deliver up" His spiritual "kingdom to God, even the Father, . . . that God may be all in all." 1 Cor. 15:24, 28. "Then we [the saved] which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4:17.

The world "hell" in Acts 2:27, 31, verses quoted above, does not refer to the grave, as some suppose. The Greek Diaglott translates the original Greek word as "Hades," instead of "hell." Hades is the general term for "the unseen world of departed spirits," which includes Paradise, the heavenly realm of rest, and the "lowest Hades," the place of torment and darkness. During the three days that Christ's body was in the tomb, His soul was in Hades—in Paradise. Jesus said to the converted thief on the cross, "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise," meaning the intermediate abode of the righteous between death and the final rewards. Christ's body in the tomb for three days was not permitted to see corruption. It did not decompose one iota. In contrast, we note that Martha said to Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus, "Lord, by this time he stinketh, for he hath been dead four days." St. John 11:40. The punishment for sin—"dust thou art, and to dust thou shalt return"—did not apply to Jesus' body, for He had never committed sin. He did not "drop his robe of flesh and rise," but was "sown a natural body" and was "raised a spiritual body," even as the Apostle Paul taught. 1 Cor. 15:44.

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Truly, Christ was born into the world, but the most important event in your life is when He is born in your heart. If He is not now living there and governing your life, He was born and died in vain as far as you are concerned. May He be crowned King in every heart!

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The popular Christmas spirit is foreign to the true spirit of Christ. The real purpose and meaning of His birth is buried under the maze of commercialism, social pleasure, and debauchery.

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Thinking of Christ's birthday, let us give a birthday offering more directly to Him and His great cause. It is nice to give gifts to friends and relatives, but what would be more fitting than to give a gift or offering in memory of our Lord to a very needy person, a special offering for literature evangelism, or to support home and foreign missionary work? Jesus said, "Verily, I say unto you; inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

—Lawrence Pruitt

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

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## OBITUARIES

Gus Leverett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Amanda Leverett, was born October 18, 1880, in S. Carolina. He departed this life Oct. 18, 1969.

Early in life he was united in holy matrimony to Rebella Murrall. To this union four children were born. His wife and three sons preceded him in death.

Bro. Leverett leaves to cherish his memory a daughter, Mrs. Mayetta West, Tulsa, Okla.; one grandson, Clifford Leverett, Chicago, Ill.; one sister, Mrs. Omar Dickens, Pasadena, Calif., and a host of other relatives, friends, and the saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bros. Woodrow Warren and Manlyes Gaines.



Jettie Jewell Davidson passed away Sept. 26, 1969. She was born in Waxahachie, Texas, and later moved to Kansas City, Kansas, where she was married to Daniel James Davidson on July 12, 1920. They made their home there for the past 49 years.

Sister Davidson met the saints years ago and accepted the truth to all she knew and understood and remained faithful until her Home-going. Setting her affections on things above, she endeavored to the end of her earthly days to live that righteous godly life that pleases God.

The last years of her life were spent beneath the shadow of much affliction which tended to draw her closer to God and to make that world above more desirable and welcome. She was kind and humble, and possessed a zeal for the truth and right, also a strict abhorrence of evil. She will be missed by the saints here, but we feel our loss is heaven's gain.

Survivors include her husband, Daniel J. Davidson; one son, James Howard Davidson; one grandson, James Howard Davidson, Jr., all of Kansas City, Kansas, and a host of grand nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Roy Harmon, and burial was in Westlawn Cemetery, Kansas City, Kansas.

—Roy Harmon

Charles Lowell Houck, eldest son of Charles O. and Mattie Houck, was born Aug. 27, 1893, at Enhaut, Pa., and departed from this life Oct. 31, 1969, at his home near Perkasio, Pa. at the age of 76 years, 2 months and 4 days.

He grew to manhood in Dauphin and Perry counties, moving to Perkasio in 1930 where he spent the remainder of his life.

In 1911 he was married to Grace Viola Burk and to this union were born four sons and two daughters.

His wife preceded him in death in 1964, also one son, James, in infancy, and son, John, in 1962.

His survivors include two sons, Wade A. Houck of Duncannon, Pa. and Charles Houck, Jr., of Perkasio, Pa.; two daughters, Mrs. Earl (Ruth) Godshall, Perkasio, Pa., and Mrs. Warren (Grace) Myers of Telford, Pa.; 17 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren, besides other relatives and many friends.

He was converted in his early married life and accepted the truth of God's Word. He was called to preach the gospel and labored many years in this great work. He was faithful until death called, and his life will live on in the memory of many people.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." Funeral services were conducted at Telford, and later at Duncannon, Pa. where he was laid to rest to await the resurrection of the dead.

Ministers officiating were Bro. Curtis Williams and Sister Ruth Murphey.

It was my privilege to help hold up his hands while he fought his last great battle. His suffering was very great, but greater still is the victory gained.

—Ruth Murphey

Verga Mae (Clark) McCoy, daughter of Thomas and Ella Clark, was born May 23, 1905, and departed this life Oct. 27, 1969, at the age of 64 years, 5 months, and 4 days.

She was married to William Albert McCoy on June 6, 1923. To this union were born two daughters and seven sons. One daughter, Opal, preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn her passing her devoted husband, one daughter, Helen, (Mrs. Willard Underdown), all seven sons, Paul, Earl, Orville, James, John, Cecil, and Donald McCoy; twenty-three grandchildren, seven great grand

children; two sisters, Alma Frazier and Frances Fisher, and one brother, Charles Clark.

Sister McCoy was "born again" into the Church of God by a spiritual birth in March, 1930. She lived a Christian life, devoted to her husband, her children, and to God until her passing. She accepted and practiced the Bible doctrine of divine healing and fully trusted God for thirty-nine years. In her recent illness God so blessed her that she testified at different times that she suffered no pain. She always loved the services of God and was faithful to fill her place. Her last attendance at services was only four days before death came. God was surely precious to our dear mother. She is sadly missed by her husband, children, the saints, friends, and loved ones.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Sam E. Abbott, assisted by Bro. Mart Samons. Graveside services were conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams. She was laid to rest in the West Carrollton Evergreen Cemetery, there to await the final resurrection.

—Mr. and Mrs. Willard Underdown, Dayton, Ohio

#### Card of Thanks

Ohio—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' dear and mighty name. I want to thank you and all the dear saints and friends for their kindness and expressions of love—offerings, nice cards, words of comfort and cheer—it was uplifting in this time of sorrow. I surely do thank and praise God for His great power and faithfulness to hear and answer prayer. Isa. 28:29, "This also cometh forth from the Lord of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working." He has said He will never leave us, nor forsake us and has proved it again beyond my expectation.

I have moved into Bro. William Abbott's home. The address is 741 Gondert Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45403. Phone 256-1036, area code 513. I desire the prayers of the saints that I can understand and fit into God's plan to His glory.

—Bro. Wm. A. McCoy

Ray Francis White, son of Marion and Lula White, was born October 19, 1902, at Ottawine, Okla., and departed this life on Nov. 10, 1969, at his home at Guthrie, Okla., at the age of 67 years and 22 days.

He was married to Ethel E. Long on July 9, 1922, at Guthrie, Okla. He was a blacksmith for 35 years until he retired in 1964. A son, Bob Ray, preceded him in death in November, 1949.

Survivors are his wife, Ethel, of the home; and two sons, James M., of Willcox, Arizona, and Raymond E. of Marietta, Okla., two sisters, Mrs. Nellie Ott of Guthrie, Okla., and Mrs. Mary Reece of Fresno, Calif., two brothers, Harry H. White and Roy T. White, both of Guthrie, Okla.; seven grandchildren, one great grandson, several nieces and nephews and a host of friends.

He accepted the Lord as his personal Saviour and was baptized in the summer of 1969. He remained true to the Lord through the rest of his life.

The funeral services were conducted at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, Okla., by Bro. Willie Murphey, assisted by Bros. O. C. Porter and Ira D. Stover. Interment was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie.

#### Card of Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation are extended to everyone for their acts of kindness, words of comfort, letters, cards, phone calls, flowers and prayers during the illness and passing of our loved one.

—Sister Ethel White and family

Special Offer—Ten names for three months for \$1.00



## REPORT OF WICHITA, KANSAS MEETING

The fall meeting in Wichita, Kansas, was an outstanding one this year. There was not the great soul harvest we always long to see, but over 12 children sought salvation, as well as two adults, for whom many prayers had been offered, and that was wonderful. However, the messages were edifying and covered such subjects as: "What Is Sin?", "What Is the Church?", "Our Refuge," "Digging," "Holiness," and "Judgment." Some messages were searching, some strengthening, and some solemn, but all were needed. Bro. Ulysses Phillips from California exhorted the saints to resist the worldliness that seems to be encroaching upon the camp of the saints. He preached a message on "Holding Fast." Both he and Sister Phillips were an inspiration to us in many ways.

Bro. Effinger from Alabama, Sister Katherine Williams from Okla., and Bro. Manlyes Gaines, from Okla., were some of the ministers who helped in the services. We thank the Lord for all who came to help us in the battle and trust they received a blessing to their souls.

The Lord wrought various miracles during the meeting. The healing service was a real blessed one. A long list of names was on the board of ones who needed prayer for various reasons, mostly for healing. The Lord's presence was felt greatly and quite a few were anointed for various ailments. We believe the work was done. The Lord is still working miracles in these last days and we praise His name forever. —Bro. Lewis Williams, Pastor  
Sister Shirley Knight, Sec.

## PROFITABLE MEETING AT BATON ROUGE, LA.

Dear Saints: This leaves us encouraged in the Lord with a determination to press on in His service. We can say like David, "Truly, my soul waiteth upon God: from Him cometh salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation: He only is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved." Psalm 62:1, 2.

We wish to report that the saints at Baton Rouge, La., were refreshed and encouraged by the presence of Bro. Richard Madden and the Spirit of the Lord in four nights of meeting. We had been praying and looking to the Lord to send some minister, so we were made happy when Bro. Madden called and told us that he was on his way to Louin, Miss., to hold a meeting there, and felt led of the Lord to come on to Baton Rouge and be with us in a few nights of meeting. The saints from Hammond, Loranger, and Kentwood came in from night to night to help out in the meeting. We believe that all were encouraged and edified in the Lord. May God bless each one.

Sister Carrie Shepherd fell and injured herself and was not able to attend all the services. Please pray for her.

Sister Joyce Johnson, Sister Ruby Quave's daughter who was recently saved, is growing in the Lord, and coming regularly to services. We are happy to have her and her four children in worship; also her sister Ruth and her little girl.

Bro. Steve Henry and his wife, Audry, are faithful workers for the Lord and real saints. Bro. Steve teaches the Bible class and Sister Audry the children.

Two Sunday School rooms have been added to the church building here. They were greatly needed, but have not been finished on the inside as yet. Bro. Virgil Joiner is a faithful brother and it was largely through him that this addition was made possible.

Sister Marie Schofield is also one of the little group. She is a sister of Sister Gladys Cashio of Hammond, La. She and her family are greatly appreciated.

Pray for us here that the Lord's will may be done in every way. We are expecting to see precious souls brought into the fold of the Lord. We surely need to work while it is day for the darkness cometh when no man can work. "And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: . . . the night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying: but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Rom. 13:11-14. —M. F. Williamson

## OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 63rd annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla. on Dec. 19 to 28, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

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

We are praying and expecting the Lord to send in Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word with heaven's anointing. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and all who need help in soul or body. These are perilous times and we need to be about our Father's business, doing what we can for lost souls.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Frances Porter, Route 5, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

—Lawrence Pruitt

## CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will be held on the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California, beginning December 26, and continuing through January 4, 1970, Lord willing.

Pacoima is a suburb of Los Angeles in the north-west part of the city and joins the city of San Fernando on the south.

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

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

Our home phone number is 213-361-5671, and the Sunset Guest Home phone number on the campground is 213-899-2022.

We hope to see you at the Assembly Meeting.

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

## REPORT FROM THE FIELD

Dear Brother Lawrence, Sister Marie, gospel workers and saints elsewhere: We send greetings of divine love to each one in the precious name of Jesus—precious indeed, for by no other Name could we be saved. He is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother and His rich blessings cannot be numbered. Praise His name.

It has been quite some time since we have written, but we have by no means been idle, and truly we can say His service is my sweetest delight.

During the past Easter season we attended the meeting here in Dayton, Ohio, although we both were very ill at that time. Bro. Abbott was suffering from the flu and I suffered some sort of suffocating attack. Husband and some of the saints thought surely my time had come to go, but praise God, He healed us both and set us going right on in the work of the Lord. We attended all of the Holly Hill, S. C., and Hammond La., camp meetings. From there we went to California where we spent about three weeks in Pomona, attending services there. Sister LaVern Manuel, pastor there, was quite poorly in body at that time, but God blessed and strengthened her body, encouraged her heart, and deepened her determination to press on in the service of God. We hear He is yet blessing her labors there and new ones are being added to that congregation. Praise the Lord! We enjoyed being with our daughter and family, Alberta Cook, her husband, Kenneth, and the children, Julia, Brenda, and Kelly. There were many afflictions in the Los Angeles area at that time; also among the saints, but in answer to prayer God came to the rescue of His trusting children. He is still a Healer in Zion.

We visited the Senior Citizens' Home on the Pacoima campground. It was such a blessing to see these dear elderly saints happy in the Lord and bringing forth fruit in old age. *Psa. 92:14*. We also attended one weekend of the Bakersfield, Cal. campmeeting, which was precious indeed and met many dear saints we had not seen for several years.

The Lord blessed us with a safe return trip home to Kentucky. The third day thereafter, we arrived on the Myrtle, Missouri campground for the meeting. We have thoroughly enjoyed all these meetings and can never praise Him enough for His traveling mercies. We had not the smallest accident in the more than six thousand miles. What a MIGHTY GOD we love and serve!

For several months we have been burdened about the cause of God here in Dayton, Ohio, and have missed only three weekends being in service with this congregation since the Myrtle, Mo., campmeeting. These were 440-mile trips each time. We sought the Lord earnestly, and others also had been praying about us moving here, for we desired the leadings of the Lord and want to please Him with our lives. Now we find it seemeth good to the Holy Ghost, to us, and to this congregation to make this move. Our new address is: Bro. and Sister S. E. Abbott, 3210 Mesmer Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45410. Brethren, pray for us.

## GOSPEL RECORDS AVAILABLE

The "Evening Lighters," a male quartet composed of Troy Gentry, Manuel Mitchell, Lynn and Arnett Carver, have a long-play record of 12 gospel songs, no instrumental accompaniment, ready for mailing. The price is \$4.00, postpaid. Any profits are to be used in the Lord's work. Anyone desiring a record may order from Lynn Carver, 836 Drexel Dr., Shreveport, La. 71106.

## Prayer Requests



Ore.—Sister O. K. Myers has been suffering with arthritis and desires prayer.

Okla.—A grandmother is very much troubled about her grandson and his wife getting a divorce.

Ill.—"We are still pressing for victory over these physical needs and are praying for others that they may be healed, also." —The Andrew Reinckings

N. J.—"I need help, yet, although I have committed my life to God. Please pray for me." —Mrs. W. Patton

Tenn.—"Terribly afflicted by Satan. Please pray for my children's salvation." —Mrs. C. A. Smelcer.

Calif.—"Sister Zinn is very sick. . . . We have her here in the parsonage as there is no single room in the Senior Citizens' Home for her. She has to sit up for hours at a time at night to get her breath. . . . She has been one of the faithful mothers in Israel and I am staying here to nurse her for awhile. I have known her since I was ten years old. . . . Ira left for home [Tulsa, Okla.] and I am staying here. He will come back for me later. . . . Just Sister Edith (Wittenborn), Sister McKinney, Sister Zinn and I are here in the parsonage alone. . . . Edith has been very ill and yet is not well. She has lost several pounds. . . ." —Sister Ruby Stover. Do pray for our dear sisters in the Lord.

La.—Sister Coffey wrote Nov. 9: "Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. I wish to take this means to thank all the saints everywhere for their interest and prayers for me in my illness. Also, I wish to thank everyone for the nice letters, cards, and telephone calls of encouragement. I am not completely healed, but do thank the Lord for the help I have received. Some days I am able to take a little nourishment and retain it, other days I am not. I ask the saints to continue under the burden with us that I be completely healed to the glory of God." —Sister T. H. Coffey. (On Nov. 14, Bro. Coffey phoned for prayer for Sister Coffey as she had not retained her food for several days.)

La.—Let us continue to remember Bro. Dallas Flynn, Sister G. A. Nichols, Bro. Wayne Miller, Bro. Pinkerton, and Bro. and Sister Harry Jackson in prayer.

Okla.—Sister Jessie Taylor is still looking to the Lord for healing. Also, remember dear Sister and Bro. Sam Barton.

La.—"Husband and I are in our sixties and have worked hard. . . . We desire healing to our bodies. . . . other requests." —Alex and Beulah Johnson.

La.—"Pray for a son that has a cyst or a boil that won't heal and another son to be delivered from the cigarette habit." —Mrs. S. L. C.

Ind.—"I have a prayer request." —Minnie Slinkard.

One time a father came to Jesus and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son for he is a lunatic." (*Matt. 17: 15-21*). He continued to tell Him that he had taken his son to His disciples for help, but they could not help him. Jesus then touched the son and he was completely well. Then He said, "Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." We know that fasting with our prayers is of great value. God is pleased and sees our earnestness and is touched. We can build up our faith by reading the Word of God and believing that God's promises are for us, individually.

In the days of Ninevah the king called for fasting and prayer when the judgments of God were pronounced against him. (*Jonah 3:6, 8*) Esther, the queen, called for fasting and prayer in their days of trouble. God heard and delivered them.

—M. Miles

**A CALL FOR FASTING AND PRAYER—Dec. 11**

There are many needs, and we feel it would be good to have a day of fasting and prayer for the ones mentioned and all those of the "household of faith" who need healing. You put your request before the Lord and we will be agreed with you in fasting and prayer on December 11.

Bro. Pat Huskey writes, "I believe it will be pleasing to God for those at the Office to announce a day of fasting and prayer and for all to get under the burden for the healing of our Bro. Lawrence Pruitt." We feel that this is pleasing to the Lord. He has two places on his body that don't heal, and we know God can smite the very root of the trouble and completely heal it, so be agreed with us to that end.

In our agreement of prayer let us ask God to give our ministers and gospel workers a touch of extra strength and healing in the ways they might have need so they can labor more effectively for God. The devil would like to stop this pure, unadulterated gospel, that they teach, from going forth.

Many souls are on the road to destruction and need to be saved. Each of us have loved ones who need to be saved. I feel it would be good for the pastors of the congregations to call all together for an agreement of prayer. Let the church fall upon their knees before God and "diligently seek Him" and He has promised to be their "rewarder." (Heb. 11:6). —Sister Marie Miles

**NATIVE MISSIONARY IN S. E. NIGERIA**

Southeast State, Nigeria (Nov. 3)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: "My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the King: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer." Psalm 45:1.

Greetings in the all-prevailing name of Jesus Christ, the only Mediator between God and man. Thank you immensely for your last communication of October 17, and for its contents. My desire in life is to be faithful to the end. The Lord has been doing His own work here these days, for which we give our King praise, glory, and honour.

Conversion of sinners really proceeds from God. Through this experience I have learned the true meaning of a completely surrendered life abiding daily in Him—our true and eternal Refuge. Letting Christ live His life through us means more to others in times like these than all the pulpit preaching we can do. On Sunday, October 5 last, a woman (pagan) who had never heard about Jesus Christ and His divine message of salvation was miraculously converted and brought into the true Family of God. This came about as a result of my last house to house visitation over the week-end. My heart was filled with joy and ecstasy for weeks. Not that ecstasy was the thing I requested or pleaded for during my last house to house campaign, but conversion. It was the power from on High. The Holy Spirit, who is power, when He came, He anointed with the oil of gladness. Praise the Lord.

In the meantime I feel impelled to speed the gospel light to those who sit in darkness—not only in my village, but throughout the whole Southeastern State of Nigeria lest the door close against those multitudes who still sit in utter darkness. The faith of our young congregation has been strengthened and the revival continues. Pray for us. We are praying for you and all the saints in the United States.

Thank you for the back issues of "Faith and Victory" papers for April, 1967, May and June, 1969, in rolls of

50 each, and a recent copy of October, 1969. They have been a real source of blessing to us. May you continue to send more and more for faithful distribution among the handicapped members of our congregations. May God bless you and all the co-workers in the Print Shop.

Yours in the Master's service, —J. U. Etuk

**MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA**

S. India (Nov. 1)—Beloved Brother Lawrence Pruitt and other saints: Greetings again in the sweet and precious name of Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd and the door of the sheep.

Many thanks for your good letter dated Oct. 9 with the contents and the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am very glad to hear from you that our Lord, the good Physician, touched your wife and she is much improved to the extent that she is able to help in the office work. Praise the Lord! He is always good to His children. "They looked unto Him and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed" (Psalm 34:5). Yes, our continued prayers are with you and your wife for complete healing.

The three-days' meeting at Karikkom chapel were very blessed and profitable. As I mentioned in my last letter, several saints from different places participated in it with prayer and we hope the gospel preached by the saints may work in the hearts of mankind to produce fruits in them. When Peter lifted up his voice and spoke to the masses they were pricked in their hearts and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do? May the heavenly Father prepare the masses to hear and understand the Word with vehement desire, zeal, and thirst is our prayer. Also, this fellowship was a good time for us to make some new steps and decisions for the success of our forward movement in His field. As the honorable Jabez, we also pray the Lord "to enlarge our coast," and to launch our efforts to some new stations. We believe the Lord is with us. Praises to Him! May a revival sweep through the length and breadth of India. Only a revival can kindle the passion for souls in the hearts of the saints. Only a spiritual revival can bring the believers back to their first love for the Lord. Only a Holy Spirit revival can bring power and passion into the pulpit and thus affect the stagnant pews. May the Spirit of prayer fall upon the believers.

Our convention season starts from January onward and finishes after five or six months. Our Karikkom convention will commence on the last week of January, if God allows. We surely hope a minister can reach here by this January, and may God open the way for his coming to India, is our earnest prayer. . . . Let us lift up our eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh our help, and of course, prayer changes things.

My mother, other members of our family, and all the brethren here are happy spiritually and physically by God's grace and deep love.

Let us remember each other through prayer.

Yours in the Body of Christ, —John Varghese

**NOTICE**

We will not have any more monthly meetings at Decatur, Ill., until further notice. —Murphy Allen

Scripture Text Christmas Cards—box of 18 cards for \$1.00, plus 15c for mailing. Order Early!

## Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and all the saints everywhere that hear the Shepherd's voice and follow Him: We send greetings in the Saviour's dear name.

I have been very sick. I do not know just what it was, but it seemed to have been a light stroke and heart attack. The Great Physician knows, and I know I can put all my trust in Him. For a while the suffering seemed more than I could bear. Then the thought came that our dear heavenly Father will not put more on us than we are able to bear. Truly, I found it so. It seemed I was suffering unto death, but I could say, "Thy will be done, dear Lord."

Husband called the saints at Neosho, Mo., for prayer, and in a few minutes the dear Lord answered and eased the suffering. I went right to sleep. I have been very weak in body and could only stay on my feet a very short time. But, as Paul said, I can glory in mine affliction, for each time it teaches us to draw our minds in from every worldly thing, and teaches us such precious lessons of faith and love for our heavenly Father. He knows and He cares.

May He gather many into the fold through the "Faith and Victory" papers going out through the three-months' subscriptions is my prayer. Each paper is a precious message to my soul. May each one at the Print Shop receive a blessing as we know the next three months will mean heavy work for you. But nothing in this world could bring more joy than hearing the Lord say, "Well done." and seeing our Saviour's dear face. —Sister Doris Bowers

Mo.—Greetings to all the saints abroad: We want to give our testimony as we haven't written for quite awhile. First of all, we want to thank the Lord for His goodness to us. We can say as David of old, the Lord has been mindful of us. It will soon be a year since we have moved to Senath, Mo. We have had many trials but we have also had many victories. We certainly do appreciate the prayers of the saints. We have seen the Lord work in many ways in answer to the saints' prayers since we have been here. We felt definitely led of the Lord to come here. The devil tried to discourage, but we still feel like it was in the order of the Lord and He has surely shown Himself strong in our behalf. We appreciate the little group here. There are just a few of us, but God meets with us. We have found a number of open doors since we came this way. We are thankful for the opportunities to carry this gospel to a few lost souls. We certainly do appreciate how the dear saints have stood by us, and we know that God will not forget your works and labors of love. We want all of you to be encouraged and keep looking up for our redemption draweth nigh. We do want to be about our Father's business until He calls us Home. We surely do appreciate the dear family of God. May God richly bless each one of you.

Yours in the one true way, —The Murphy Allens  
Rt. 1, Box 161, Senath, Mo. 63876

Okla.—Greetings, dear saints and readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper: I trust we are all laboring, praying, consecrating and sacrificing time, talent, and earthly things for the furtherance of the gospel. With renewed zeal may we continue our prayers for the sick, the afflicted, the bereaved and distressed ones for we serve a God who hears and answers prayer.

Now, for December, let us think about Jesus, the greatest Gift in all the world. It is our duty to worship

Him the Bible way. In order to do that, our souls must decay and cast down many fads and customs which manifest pride and vain holiday show. Many of the trinkets and items are shoddy and unholy, and made only for gain. The Lord has a better way for people to spend the time and means He is so graciously lending them. Let us be wise and seek His ways. And may this be the happiest Christmas season we have ever known.

—Little Mother Ethel K. Miles

North Carolina—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the workers at the Publishing House and to the saints everywhere: We send you Christian greetings in the name of our wonderful Saviour, thanking Him for His love and mercy to us and for every blessing of life. Surely He has been kind and thoughtful to us.

The past year has been a year of sorrow for us, but the dear Lord has been with us to comfort us. He said He would never leave, nor forsake us. Surely every promise has proved true.

We are very much encouraged today to live for Him who died for us, and to be our very best for Him. It surely is the joy of our heart to hear from so many of the dear saints through the "Faith and Victory" paper. We thank the Lord for each and every one of them. It encourages us to live closer to the dear Lord. "Life's evening sun is sinking low. A few more days and I must go to meet the deeds that I have done, where there will be no setting sun." That will be a happy day for me. I covet your prayers.

In Christian love,

—Stacy Biddix

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the children of God everywhere: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus. The Lord has surely been good to me. Bless His holy name! He kept His hand over me when I was in sin and far from Him. One day old-fashioned conviction came upon me. After several days I gave in and God saved me. Praise His holy name! He supplies my every need and touches my body when I am sick.

Last week I had a dizzy spell with my head. It came all at once and was severe. I asked Jesus to help me and He did. It left me so fast that I hardly had time to tell it. Praise His blessed name! I began to thank Him for His healing power.

I love Him with all my heart. I could not do without Him. I am not going to do without Him. I am going to obey the Lord the very best I know how, and keep praying until the end.

Brother Pruitt, I am sending you another offering to be used where you need it to help save souls. Pray for my wife and me.

—Nathan Mobley

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We do hope this finds you and the workers at the shop well in body and encouraged in the Lord. We think of you and the work there quite often and pray that the Lord will give the divine wisdom and guidance that you need from day to day. We realize more and more just how dependent we really are on the Lord. It is only through the love and mercy of the Lord that we have salvation and power to keep saved.

The Lord has blessed us very much and we do thank and praise Him. Many times we think how miserable and desperate we would be if we did not know how to trust the Lord. We surely appreciate having been reared in a Christian home and taught to serve and trust the Lord.

We want to give thanks to the Lord for how He answered prayer in a special way for us a few months ago. The children were having a touch of virus which was

going around at the time. One day at noon June was holding the baby on her lap, feeding her. All at once she started jerking, and her eyes rolled back in her head. She still had some food in her mouth, so we tried to open it and get the food out, but could not, as her jaws seemed to be locked. Mother was here at the time and we also called some of the saints for prayer. After about 15 or 20 minutes the Lord undertook and she became conscious again. Twice that night it looked as if she were going into another spell, but we called earnestly on the Lord and He did not permit her to have another hard spell. We do thank the Lord for coming to our rescue and answering prayer.

We pray the Lord to bless you daily. We desire your prayers that we may have the wisdom and understanding we need in rearing the children. We do not want to give place to the devil, but want our lives to be yielded completely into the hands of the Lord.

Yours in Christ, —Randall and June Flynn

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints everywhere: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I want to let you dear ones know that I have been dismissed from the Jefferson Barracks Hospital in St. Louis and am home now. Praise the Lord! I want to make it clear that I am very thankful for the many prayers that were offered to the Lord in my behalf. I am very grateful for the truth and light of God's Word, and His wonderful Son, Jesus, our Redeemer and Saviour.

For a time the doctor thought my brain tumor was coming back. But, praise the Lord, it was not. The doctor said to me, "You must be having headaches." I informed him that my head was not aching at all. Thank God for His mercy on me. I am feeling good in both soul and body at this time and hope to stay that way.

Surely, I am thankful for God and His great plan of salvation through His wonderful Son Jesus Christ. I appreciate all of the saints as my brothers and sisters in the Lord.

May the blessings of the Lord rest upon you.

Your Bro. in the One church, —Kenneth Christiansen

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

Oklahoma.—Dear Ones: I feel I should let the saints know how the Lord has blessed me in my body as well as my soul. I improved real well after the Monark Springs, Mo., campmeeting and was able to do most of my house work. Then the 3rd of October I had a real bad spell with my chest and was very weak, but the Lord saw fit to touch my body, for which we did thank Him. There have been times when it looked as if the Lord would take me, but thank the Lord, He didn't.

The Lord permitted Ted and me to take a trip, along with his two brothers and their wives, to Colorado the last of October. My sister, Frances Perkins, took care of our children for which we were thankful. We looked to the Lord concerning going, knowing that if my trouble were my heart, I, no doubt, should not go. The Lord worked it all out for us to go and it was a real blessing. We enjoyed the trip a great deal. Even though we had been in the mountains before, we seemed to find them more beautiful than ever.

I have felt better since we have been back home than I have for over a year. We thank each one for your prayers in my behalf. We are thankful for the privilege of living for the Lord.

Pray for us that we will rear our four children to fear and serve God. We thank the Lord for His blessings to us and our family.

Christian love,

—Alta Bock

Mich.—Dear precious Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: Greetings of Christian love to all. Several months ago I requested prayer for the healing of my badly afflicted left leg. I could not step on that limb at all and was confined to my bed for about two months. I had an inflammation in the lower part at first, then it went into my thigh and lower abdomen. The afflicted limb had swollen to a very large size and caused me considerable pain. Unbelieving neighbors and relatives asked me a number of times if I had been to a good doctor to have the leg taken care of, to which I replied, "Yes, I went to my doctor. He is Jesus, the Son of God. He is and will be my only doctor."

Today I can happily report that the Lord did hear and answer prayer. My limb is completely well again. I give the honor and glory to my dear Saviour and Father in heaven. Blessed be the name of the Lord forever and ever! I also want to thank everyone who prayed for my healing, for the cards and letters of encouragement and the telephone calls from a distance. How wonderful to have brothers and sisters in the Lord who care for each other. So it should be when we are placed in the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head and we the members. How thankful I am that I found the everlasting truth, the plan of full salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. I certainly want to be wholly yielded to Him in all things. I covet your earnest prayers.

Your Brother in Christ, —Henry Dornhofer

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La.—Dear Sister Maybelle: I'm still happy in the Lord. I told the Lord if He would heal me I would write and tell about it.

I was having trouble with my throat (tonsils). It kept swelling up and I couldn't swallow anything. I had put my faith in God. But my mother insisted that I go to a doctor. I prayed harder. We went to a doctor and he said he didn't see any infection. The next day it was so swollen I couldn't talk. Mother wanted to take me back to the doctor. I got dressed and prayed that the Lord would let him see what it was. He saw that it was my gland and tonsils. He said for us to come back in a week so I could be put to bed for an operation. But, thank God, it was healed completely in that week. The doctor looked amazed, so I told him about the Lord and how He could heal.

Please continue to pray for me.

With Christian love,

—Sally O'Bryant

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

Kentucky (Nov. 14)—Dear Sister Marie: We send greetings of much Christian love in Jesus' dear name—our only hope of salvation and life eternal. This letter leaves us with a great desire to press on to that goal set before us. The Lord is so good to us. We were just talking last evening of the goodness of God. I said I don't know why the Lord is so good to us. We surely don't feel worthy.

The house is going up pretty fast now. They have the four walls up and they are working on the inside walls now. It has been such a blessing to have Bro. Burditt and John Ray in our home. They work very well together. Curtis hasn't been able to help too much. If he hammers or lifts very much he suffers greatly. We still desire your prayers for his complete healing. God has done so very much for him and we are looking for Him to complete the job. He was called to Pennsylvania twice, once when Bro. Houck was so sick, then to preach his funeral. He made three trips to Dayton, Ohio, when Sister McCoy was ill and for her funeral. Then his uncle passed away and was buried Saturday week. . . .

We have received \$1,336.00 to help on the house. This surely has been a real blessing, and as I said, we don't feel worthy. I have prayed much about our building ever since we first talked about it while Curtis was sick. I just told the Lord He knew what we needed better than we did, and I just had it committed that way. Things just didn't seem to be working out, so we were about to give up the idea when I got a letter from dear Sister Sam Barton with \$4.00 "for nails," and she said she was praying. Then I received the "Faith and Victory," and read what you, dear ones, printed. We took courage, and in a few days we got word that our house had sold in Ohio. We didn't get nearly as much as we had hoped, but we feel that is what the Lord worked out. . . . [Editor: Sister Williams named a number of others who had worked on the building.]

We trust this finds all there well and much encouraged. Christian love,  
—The Curtis Williams'  
Address: Clearfield, Ky. 40313

## Your Body Is the Temple of God

"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Cor. 3:16, 17. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:19, 20. "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31.

The above Scriptures set forth God's plan for His people in regard to their responsibility to care for their bodies in which God dwells by His Spirit. The temple of God is holy and it must not be defiled or injured in any manner. Therefore, the Church abstains from the use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, medicine, and drugs, as well as tea, coffee, and colas which contain caffeine—a drug stimulant.

Caffeine is also added to some other "soft drinks" which do not come under the "cola" name. Recently Bro. Arnett Carver, of Shreveport, La., sent us some official information which he had obtained on this point. Since we believe this material will be informative to our readers, we quote from it as follows:

From The American Soft Drink Journal of April, 1968, we read: "The soft drink industry in the United States is a \$3.4 billion market," Mahoney said. "Colas account for 60 per cent of that total. . . . Canada Dry market studies showed that most people are unaware that cola drinks contain caffeine, although there is a general awareness that caffeine is contained in tea and coffee."

"Mahoney said that the formulas of the early colas used sugar and added a much larger amount of caffeine than that naturally present in the flavoring extracted from the kola nut. . . . He pointed out that caffeine has a stimulant action."

"Dr. Hall said that each 12-ounce bottle of leading competitors' cola contains about 55 milligrams of caffeine. A minute quantity is contained in the kola nut; the remainder is added to the beverage by the manufacturer. A cup of coffee contains between 100 and 150 milligrams of caffeine and a cup of tea about half as much."

Bro. Arnett Carver writes: "When 'Mountain Dew' first came out I began drinking it because I saw no harm-

ful ingredients listed on the bottle. Later though, I saw caffeine was listed on the edge of the bottle cap in small print, so, of course, I stopped drinking it."

A letter dated Oct. 13, 1967, to Bro. Arnett from Charles P. Grier, Vice President of Manufacturing of Dr Pepper Co., Dallas, Texas, reads as follows: "In answer to your request regarding the similarity of ingredients in bottled Dr Pepper and Fountain Dr Pepper, we are pleased to report that they both contain the same materials, but the quantities differ slightly. The differences are small and are designed to meet the conditions under which the product is served. Attached is a label used on the fountain syrup containers which provides an ingredient list. [Caffeine is on the list.]"

On Oct. 27, 1967, Bro. Arnett wrote Mr. Grier of Dr Pepper Co., and asked him this question: "I have read that some of the more popular brands of 'cola' drinks contain 3 to 4.6 milligrams of caffeine per ounce and am wondering how does this compare with the caffeine content in the regular bottled Dr Pepper?"

In reply on Oct. 30, 1967, Mr. Grier stated: "The figures you quoted in your letter of October 27 are approximately correct and will apply to Dr Pepper as well as the other beverages you mentioned."

The foregoing official information should set the record straight that Dr Pepper beverage contains the caffeine drug. Perhaps numbers of the saints did not have these facts. When light comes it makes us responsible before God and His Word, so let us abstain from the use of all beverages which contain drugs. Saints in light are conscientious in obeying God's Word, for they know that they must give a strict account of their conduct in this world.

—L. D. Pruitt

## Was The Devil Ever in Heaven?

By Ostis B. Wilson

(Part Four, continued from last issue)

### Revelations, Chapter 12

A crown of twelve stars was upon this woman's head. She was exalted and crowned a queen. Her husband was the King of kings and Lord of lords (Christ) and she is exalted to the position of queen, reigning by His side through His power over all the powers of evil and Satan right here in the earth.

In the Scriptures "star" is used to symbolize ministers or spiritual rulers or luminaries. Let us look at Rev. 1:20, "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches." Then in the 2nd chapter of Revelation, the messages to the seven churches begin and we note in verses 1, 8, 12, and 18, and in chapter 3, verses 1, 7, and 14 that the message to each individual church is addressed to the angel of that church. That would mean the minister or overseer there in that congregation. Perhaps the twelve stars in the woman's crown refer to the twelve apostles of Christ who were her first ministers and were co-workers with Christ Himself in establishing her in truth in the earth.

The moon was under her feet. The moon has no light of its own, but reflects the light of the sun. This is a proper symbolizing of the law and prophet age above which the church had just risen to receive



the grace and truth which was brought by Christ Himself. The law with its various rituals and sacrifices and mode of worship typified Christ and the prophets prophesied of Him. In reality, all the light that the law and prophet age had was that which was reflected upon it by the Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, who was to come.

This woman (the church) was travelling in birth and pained to be delivered of a child. This properly symbolized the earnestness and zeal with which the early church labored and sacrificed all to win souls for Christ. And she brought forth a man child. This man child properly represents the multitude of souls who were brought to Christ, born again, in the early church. There were about three thousand in one day on the day of Pentecost, and soon afterward we read of five thousand, etc.

Some may question how a man child could represent such a multitude, but this is no mystery when we understand what the saving grace of God does for people and that those who are saved are of "One heart and one soul" (Acts 4:32), and that the whole church is the "Body of Christ" (Eph. 1:22, 23, Col. 1:18), and there is "ONE BODY" (Eph. 4:6, 1 Cor. 12:13, Rom. 12:5). Further in Eph. 2:13-15 we find that the entire multitude of saved people composed of both Jews and Gentiles who have been brought together in Christ are referred to as "ONE NEW MAN."

Now at this point when the woman was bringing forth this man child (multitudes of believers) the dragon appears and goes into action. He stood before the woman to devour her child as soon as it was born. So now we will turn our attention to the dragon, the second wonder mentioned in Rev. 12, and identify him in the Scriptures.

First, he is described as having seven heads and ten horns. Would we expect to see such a literal, physical monster as that? Certainly not! Then we know that he symbolizes something and the Scripture will help us in finding out what.

In the Bible horn stands as a symbol of power and authority. They stand for the same here in connection with the dragon. The head would more properly symbolize the ruler or system through which this power or authority was executed. The Scriptures make this perfectly plain concerning this dragon of Rev. 12 and the beast of Rev. 13 which had the same identical marks as the dragon—seven heads and ten horns.

Now, let us turn to Rev. 17:3, and we find here a scarlet-colored beast having seven heads and ten horns—the same identical marks as the dragon of Rev. 12 and the beast of Rev. 13. This time there is a woman riding on the beast, but she is a very different woman from the woman of Rev. 12 who was clothed with the sun, etc., and a pure woman. But this woman of Rev. 17 is declared to be a vile harlot. If the pure woman of Rev. 12 represented the true pure Church of God in the earth, which the Scripture clearly proves that she did, then a woman who was an impure, vile harlot, would properly represent a false church or religion. But this woman was riding

on the beast, therefore we are certain that in some way this beast which is identical with the beast of Rev. 13 together with the dragon which gave the beast its power and seat and authority and which is distinguished by the same marks—seven heads and ten horns—must be, or is closely connected with a false, impure system of religion.

Rev. 17:7 says, "I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns." Then, in verse 9, it says, "The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sitteth." The city of Rome, which was at that time the governmental and political head of all the then-known world, is said to be situated on seven mountains. This is a geographical note of history concerning the city. This verse, then, helps to establish the location or place of the seat of authority of the dragon and beast.

But the seven heads also had a further meaning besides just the seven mountains on which the woman sat. Verse 10 says, "And there are seven kings." During the reign of the Roman Empire as a universal power there were seven different systems or forms of government through which her universal power was executed. They were: (1) The regal power, or kings. (2) Consuls or dictators. (3) Decemvirate, a government by ten men. (4) Military Tribunes or Consuls. (5) Triumvirate, a government by three men. (6) Imperial or emperors (under the Caesars). (7) The Exarchate or Patriciate (Exarch was the title of the ruler of this western kingdom under Charlemagne).

Then in verse 12 attention is turned to the horns instead of the heads, and it says, "And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet." This refers to the ten minor kingdoms which grew out of the Roman Empire during its decline and fall. History records such to have been the case and names these kingdoms as follows: Ostrogoths, Visigoths, Sueves, Vandals, Franks, Burgundians, Heruli, Saxons, Huns, and Lombards.

At the time the Revelation was given to the Apostle John about 96 A. D., the Roman Empire was in its unified form as a world power, and the ten horns had not yet come into existence. The Scripture says they are ten kings which have not yet received a kingdom. But at a later date the Roman Empire disintegrated and fell apart and was broken up into ten minor parts or kingdoms.

These are all merely identifying marks of the dragon and beast so that we might know where to locate them and not be deceived into thinking that this Scripture is teaching something which it is not, such as the devil being in heaven and there being war in heaven, etc.

Rome has been in her time the seat of two grossly false systems of religion. Hence, it was necessary to symbolize her in two forms—a dragon in one instance, and a beast in another—but the seven heads and ten horns of each definitely identifies both of them with Rome. The two false systems of religion of which Rome has been the seat are Paganism (heathenism,



idolatry) and Papalism. The dragon symbolizes Pagan Rome and the beast symbolizes Papal Rome.

Rome in its Pagan form with its heathenish and idolatrous worship was prevailing over all the world when Christ came to earth to bring salvation. This false system of religion with its worship and sacrifices to its idol gods stood in direct opposition to the worship of the true God as taught and practiced by Christ, His apostles, and the early church in general. He stood before the woman (true church) ready to devour her child as soon as it was born. History proves this to have been a literal reality. The opposition became so violent between them that it was finally declared to be a capital crime punishable by death to profess Christianity. When anyone would profess a faith in Christ he was subject to death as soon as he was apprehended. History gives an account of more than sixty millions who were put to death for the name of Christ and their testimony of faith in Him as their Saviour during the combined reign of both of these false systems of religion of which Rome was the seat—Paganism and Papalism.

This is what is meant by the war in heaven—the ecclesiastical or religious heaven. It is said that Michael (Christ) and His angels (ministers) fought and the dragon (the false religious system of Paganism which was dominated, permeated, and engineered by the spirit of the devil himself) and his angels (the priests or ministers or prophets of this false system of religion) fought.

A clear example that this was in the ecclesiastical heaven (the violent opposition between true and false idolatrous religion) is found in Acts 19:23 through the remainder of the chapter. On this occasion Paul and some companions had gone into Asia preaching the gospel of Christ. They came to Ephesus, which was much given to the idolatrous worship of the goddess, Diana. As they taught them that there were no gods which were made with hands, etc., a violent opposition developed against them and they were mistreated and man-handled, etc., and there was much confusion throughout the entire city, and the people of that city cried with one voice for about the space of two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." Other examples can be found in the New Testament and many, many such cases can be found in church history.

This is what is meant by the woman's child being caught up to God and to His throne. When the converts were born or brought forth, then they were put to death and their souls ascended to God. It also explains the statement in verse 11 that they loved not their lives unto death. They were willing to die for Jesus' sake. Paul, who was a martyr for the cause of Christ, said, "Neither count I my life dear unto me, that I might finish my course with joy." Acts 20:24.

The fact that this dragon is called Satan in the 9th verse merely shows the nature of his activity. Satan was more or less a general term applying to any individual or power that stood as an opposer. Jesus called Peter "Satan" on one occasion when he stood before Him and attempted to dissuade Him

from going up to Jerusalem because he knew He would suffer there. (Matt. 16:23). Therefore this false system of religion was called "Satan" because it stood in opposition to the true religion. This does not at all disannul the fact that the term "Satan" is applied to the devil in many instances in the Scriptures, but sufficient evidence has already been produced to show this is not talking about the devil himself in this chapter, but the agent or system through which he operated.

Verse 9 says the dragon and his angels were cast out. As the truth of God with its enlightening and regenerating power continued to spread through the earth through the efforts and work of Christ, His apostles and then the great company of the early church, the deceptions of the devil in this false system of idolatrous worship were more and more uncovered and exposed until the people were able to see the truth and the condition they were in, and as they did, they threw down the false worship and that idolatrous worship, through which the devil had been successful so long in deceiving their darkened souls and causing them to hold it in high esteem in their hearts, was exposed by the light of truth, and was then cast out of the high esteem and allegiance of the people and cast down to a low plane of ill-repute and was looked on with disdain and contempt by the people as they discovered its errors and turned unto the truth. Therefore it is said to have been cast out of heaven (the high and exalted place it had in the hearts of the people).

Bear in mind that it is talking about the dragon all the time, and we have already seen clearly by the Scriptures what the dragon symbolized.

—O. B. Wilson

## PARTICLES IN THE SUNLIGHT

I was on a certain job one day when it was cold, but the sun was shining. The stock we were handling was real dusty, causing many very tiny particles to float through the air. I noticed I could only see them where the rays of the sun shone. Back in the shadows they were hidden from view.

The blessed thought came to me of how that through life we can only see God's love and care for us through the Sun of Righteousness, Christ Jesus, as His rays shine on our lives, turning what seems to be disappointments into rays of hope as we see the real purpose behind them, after being filtered through His own light.

I thought, too, how, through life we are protected from dangers seen and unseen, more unseen than seen. I believe God assures us of His presence by comforting us in times of sickness and distress. The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear Him. (Psa. 34:7.) God brought a holy solemnity over my soul as I thought upon this—how the angels are there around us, and we are the only ones who can feel their presence, even while we are surrounded by sin and evil of all sorts.

—Bro. Willard Underdown