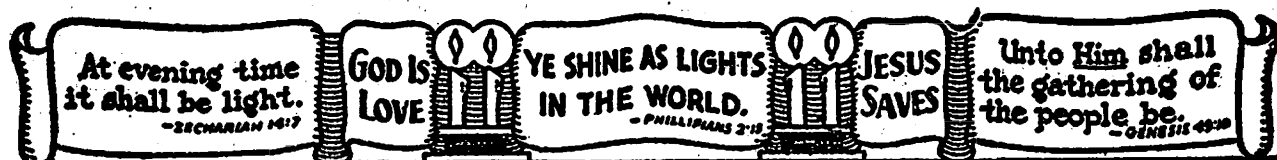


FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 39, No. 9

47th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

January, 1970

New Year of 1970

Shining o'er the dark horizon
Of a world of sin and woe,
Nineteen-seventy is rising—
Dawns her light on men below.

In the rays of her appearing
Many things are brought to light
Of the course of earth that's nearing
Everlasting day or night.

Waxed old by fleeting ages
Rests the Earth on Mercy's arm,
While upon the Sacred Pages
Sounds a warning and alarm:

"Flee, O man, awake from slumber;
Flee the wrath that is to come,
Ere thy days shall know their number
When death totals up the sum."

Spared from wrath and dark destruction,
Space of time is given man
To receive divine instruction
And conform to Heaven's plan.

Willing not for us to perish,
Heav'n and earth are kept in store;
How we ought His grace to cherish,
And enter through the open door.

Now a decade new is rising:
Gaze we forth with solemn heart,
All our weakness recognizing—
Oh, may God His strength impart!

Hitherto the Lord hath helped us:
Forward go in Jesus' name!
Yesterday, today, forever—
Christ, our risen Lord, the same!

—Leslie Busbee

"I Will Draw All Men Unto Me"

Jesus said, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth [meaning His death on the cross] will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. I have always had the conviction that there is not one soul that goes out into eternity unsaved that had not at some time been drawn to God, and had an opportunity to find Him. But they would not! Jesus said, "I will draw all unto me." Now, we can be drawn (attracted, compelled, induced—Web. dic.) but we don't have to go. All are drawn, but, oh, so few go! So few really want to find God. So few are even concerned about their souls, yet Jesus died for ALL. His sacrifice was great enough to atone for the sins of the whole world, yes, every sin that was ever committed from the beginning down to this present time. EVERY sinner (which would include every soul, for "ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God") could be saved if only he would yield to that drawing, attracting, inducing Spirit that comes from God.

I wonder if sinners would read and re-read the story of Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection, could they stay away? It is the greatest love story ever written, "for greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." Jesus laid down His life for His enemies. I was once His enemy. All who are unsaved are the enemies of God, yet He loves each one and would save them so freely if they would come. The mercies of God and the love of God are beyond our comprehension, yet He is a God of justice, also, and if men will not repent, they must perish. "Behold the goodness and severity of God." His goodness is that He is so willing to forgive and bless with all His benefits all who will come! His severity—"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise [also, too, thus—Web. dic.] perish." Men want to look at the goodness of God and believe that some way they will get by in their sins, but they need to consider also the severity (sternness; unsparing; strictness) of God. We must repent (forsake sin) and accept Jesus as our Saviour, or we shall perish! We must be "born again" as Jesus

told Nicodemus (John 3:3). To be born again means just what it says. It isn't just feeling some conviction and going forward to shake a preacher's hand, be baptized and join a church. It isn't just deciding that from now on you will live a better life. It is a re-creation, a making anew, a dying of the old person and a creation of a new person in righteousness and true holiness. That is what happened to me and that is why I can say I was so wondrously saved from sin.

—Thelma Sprague

The Prodigal "Came to Himself"

There was a man who had two sons. One of these sons became restless with the monotony of the daily duties. He became greatly attracted to the bright lights of the city. He longed to know the great mysteries that lay behind darkened doors of certain places where laughter and music floated out. Oh! yes, he had heard of certain crimes committed in those places, but yet the more he thought about it, the more he wanted to see for himself. Finally he thought of a plan. (Luke 15 paraphrased.) He told his father that he wanted him to divide with him his inheritance. Very grieved, the father granted the son his request. The son then went to the city and "there he wasted his substance with riotous living." He tasted deeply of "the pleasure of sin." The Bible says, "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell." (Prov. 9:17, 18) There is poison in the cup of sin. It might taste sweet, but it brings remorse of conscience, and is habit-forming. People become drunk on sin. The devil continually leads them on, deeper and deeper, until he laughs at them when they think of wanting to be free from sin. He tells them that they have gone too far. Many are believing him and are continuing on eating "stolen bread," and drinking "stolen water" but it leads to hell. These "guests" in the dens of sin are those who are corrupt, yet laughing, dancing, jesting and joking, drunk on strong drink which dulls the conscience. They are controlled by their master, the devil, who is leading them to hell. They are blinded to the realities of the seriousness of death, hell, and the judgment. When a serious thought crosses their minds they call for more drink and laugh louder. How sad! Just empty pleasures, never satisfying the longings of their hearts, ever looking for something bigger, stronger, and better. After a bad hang-over they promise themselves they will do better, but their will-power is weakened and their good resolutions are soon forgotten.

It sounds like they are hopeless, but I am glad I can point them to One who can deliver them from the awful clutches of sin. There is hope in Christ. But they must do as the prodigal son who left his father's home for the dens of sin. He realized there were only "husks" in sin and nothing to feed his soul and inner life. The mysteries of the laughter and music were not what they sounded like from the outside. Inside were chains of sin that bound those

within. The results were shocking and gave him physical and mental distress. The pleasures of sin didn't help him when he was alone with his conscience. It cut him off from those who were real and dear to him. It had brought him down to poverty with no real friends when he got into trouble. Just "husks" were all he got from that kind of life. At times the fear of death and hell would grip him and hold him as he trembled.

One day the prodigal son "came to himself." He looked at his life of sinful habits, trouble, and disgrace. He became ashamed of it. He realized there was a way out of it all. Although the devil had tried to blind him, yet "he came to himself." He realized that he did not have to live that kind of corrupt life. There was hope in Christ, who would forgive him, save him, and take away that awful sting of death.

When "he came to himself," he could think clearly. He said, "I will arise and go to my father and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee." He used his will to come to the Father. "Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17) First, a person must will to be saved. He must desire it and want it. Then he must do something about that desire. He must arise and come to the Father and confess his sins, forsaking them and begging with tears of sorrow for forgiveness. God for Christ's sake will forgive such an one.

Oh! thank the Lord for that great fountain that was opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness. (Zech. 13:1) Plunge today into that fountain of the innocent, cleansing blood of Jesus and it will wash away every stain of sin, flood your soul with peace and a sweetness that sin can never give. Then and only then can you enjoy the real pleasures that God has for us. Be like Moses who chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." (Heb. 11:25, 26.) Oh, the reward awaiting all those who are God's "born again" children at His appearing is beyond our imagination and comprehension!

—Sister A. Marie Miles

The Early Christians Fought This War

God declared war on the Devil from the moment he deceived our first parents, and it is clear from Genesis 3:15 that nothing but enmity is to exist between those born of God and the adversary. Such enmity is in the divine nature. Let it out.

The twelve apostles encountered this warfare (Matt. 10:1); the seventy were specially commissioned in it and proved the Name which is above every name (Luke 10:17-20). Even so, those apostles and prophets who were called and commissioned after the Lord ascended up on high (Eph. 4:8, 11) had the unseen world unveiled to them and knew that their battle was not with mere flesh and blood. (See 2 Corinthians 10:3, 4.)

With all the intensity possible I want to say that there is more in this than most Christians are willing to admit. Both revelation and experience have compelled me to face it, or go under. I was not born from above to go under; I was born to triumph, and if I choose to triumph, I may. But if I close my eyes to these things, I shall not triumph. I can afford to be ignorant of nothing. Neglect any part of God's revelation that His Spirit has unveiled and you place yourself in peril (2 Tim. 3:16). Next to being saved through the merits of the precious blood of Christ and being empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit, I believe that there is no truth so vital to healthy, vigorous, fruitful Christian service as to know of the Devil and to stand up to him in the name and power of our living Lord. —F. J. Perryman

How To Find Bible Salvation

In Proverbs 23:26 we find these words: "My son, give me thine heart and let thine eyes observe my ways." This text is setting forth two important truths. The first part is to the unsaved soul that is letting his affections go after things of time and sense, the things of the world, and rebelling against the ways and thoughts of God.

In order to get saved, a soul must first become awakened to the fact that he is lost, and then alarmed because of this knowledge inasmuch that he will hate the life that is causing him to be so attached to earthly things. For Jesus says, "If any man come unto me and hate not his own life he cannot be my disciple." So, dear soul, do not try to cultivate the self-life in order to get saved, for the Word says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God; not of works lest any man should boast." Eph. 2:8, 9.

This Scripture teaches us that one cannot save his own soul by his own power or wisdom, neither can the preacher nor the deacon save one, but salvation comes as a free gift from God. One must come individually to God, being sorry that he has neglected and refused Him; come with a repenting heart, for He will not despise a broken heart and a contrite spirit. By this we learn that repentance toward God and faith in the innocent blood of Christ as an atonement for sins, will bring to a soul peace from heaven, and the load of guilt and sin will pass away and all things will become new. One will have received a new life; old things will have passed away, and that one will be a new creature in Christ Jesus. Praise God!

Many Scriptures teach us how to approach God for the free gift of salvation. In 1 John 1:9, we read, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." After we have repented, confessed, and forsaken our sins, if we do not by faith claim the gift of salvation, we in actions and behaviour leave God as one who has lied, which is not possible for God to do.

The right thing for you to do after you have confessed and forever forsaken your sins is to count God true and claim forgiveness of sins through faith in His blood. When you have a settled knowledge that your sins are all gone and His peace abides within, then you are ready to consecrate your life and all to God to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We read in Ezekiel 36:26, 27, "A new heart also will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh, 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." By these Scriptures we see that the work that is wrought in us is wholly the work of God, and we receive the change by confession and yielding to Him. Oh, dear soul, hasten to the Master's feet and behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Behold Him in the garden when He was so burdened and heavy in soul that He cried out in great agony unto the Father that the cup of suffering might pass, but in the next breath He says, "Not my will, but thine be done," and His sweat was as great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Behold Him when they put a scarlet robe on Him and a crown of thorns on His brow, and bowed their knees in mockery. Behold Him under the load of the cross on His way to Calvary and see the cruel-hearted men driving the nails through His feet and hands; see the spear being thrust into His side, and behold the water and the blood gushing out. All of this He meekly and willingly bore that you might have eternal life abiding in your soul. Then consider for a moment yourself as being one with the throng that abused and slew our blessed Savior, of which throng you are if you are unsaved, for the life that you now have is drawing you on from God, from all that is pure and holy, to destruction and everlasting punishment; for your present life is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can it be. Oh, dear soul, repent that iniquity be not your ruin; for God is tender, kind, and true, and only seeks your good in all things. He desires you to be as an obedient son that will be moved by His correction and yield your members to righteousness unto holiness, and give thanks and praise unto God for His unspeakable gift.

In Isaiah 55:7, we read, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." And the text teaches us not only to give Him our hearts, but to observe His ways, which are altogether different from our ways. Then we shall no longer walk according to the course of the world, but our affections will be on things above where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. Our conversation will be in heaven from whence we look for the Lord Jesus Christ, who is our life. By continuing in His goodness, when He appears we shall also appear with Him in glory. —The late Fred Pruitt

"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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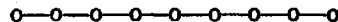
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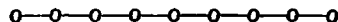
EDITORIALS

At the dawn of this decade and the New Year of 1970 we extend Christian greetings and best wishes to all our readers who, with this issue, include several thousand who are receiving this full gospel paper for their first time and will also receive it for the months of February and March. If you are a new reader, it is likely that a kind friend of yours has subscribed for you for these three months with the hope and earnest prayer that the contents of these issues will prove a special spiritual benefit to you and your family. (These trial issues are coming to you without charge, and you will not receive a bill or statement.) Please read these copies carefully with an open heart and mind, and compare the teachings with the Bible. We hope that you will become a regular subscriber at the end of these trial issues.

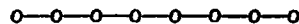


We thank the Lord and our readers for over 5,300 new names who will receive this issue of the paper, as well as the issues for the months of February and March. May God bless and reward everyone who had a part in this gospel extension effort. Pray that the Holy Spirit will carry the truth to the heart of every reader. There is transforming power in believing the gospel.

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



The 63rd annual 10-day Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here at Guthrie, Okla., closed with victory on the 28th of December. Besides the state ministers, a number of out-of-state ministers were present to preach the glorious gospel of Christ which "is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth." A number of souls found victory at the altar of prayer, and those who spurned the gracious invitation will have no excuse at the Judgment. The preached Word, anointed of the Spirit of God, was heart-searching, instructive and edifying to the Church. Surely the Bride is being prepared for the coming of her Lord to take her out of this wicked world which is reserved unto consuming fire.

**More Profitable Meetings in the Deep South**

A number of saints from Oklahoma, including this writer and his wife, enjoyed the precious assembly meeting held on Nov. 23 to 30, 1969, on the General Southern Campground at Hammond, La., where Bro. T. H. Coffey is the pastor. (Also, we were pleased again to visit our son, Byron, and family who live near Hammond.) Many saints, including a number of out-of-state and in-state ministers, were present at this meeting. At some services the chapel was

filled to capacity. The Word was preached with the rich anointing of the Holy Spirit. Many souls sought and received spiritual and physical help at the altar of prayer. The saints were edified and encouraged in the Lord.

Among the ministers there for their first time were Sister Hazel Clark of Akron, Ohio, and Sister Katherine Williams of Oklahoma City. Their labors in the meeting were also appreciated. Sister Williams went on to Florida and held a meeting, starting Dec. 1, at Ft. Lauderdale where Sister Mattie Savage is the local minister. The Lord blessed in the meeting and she reported good altar services.

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Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to two of our ministers—Bro. Wm. McCoy of Dayton, Ohio, and Bro. T. H. Coffey of Hammond, La.—whose wives departed this life recently. Our prayer is that the "God of all comfort" will sustain them in their loss which is Heaven's gain.

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Now available are heavy paperbound books of the eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1969 at \$1.00 each, postpaid. Ready also are the 1969 "Beautiful Way" books for juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, postpaid. Bound books of various prior years are priced at 50c each, postpaid.

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In stock at this office are more than 350 different titles of gospel tracts to be sent free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. Where prices are quoted, it is at cost or below. Write for a FREE 4-ounce sample to read and pass on, or enclose in your letters. One gospel tract may result in the salvation of many souls.

Write for our price list of excellent books, many of which are paperbound reprints of those vital truths written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God Reformation Movement. More of those old out-of-print books will be added to our stock as time and means permit.

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The "Evening Light Songs" book—the 512-page general hymnal for the Church of God—is again in stock. However, the price has been raised slightly to help meet the increased production costs. Single copy is \$1.80, plus 20c for mailing, or \$2.00, postpaid. Six copies or more are figured at \$1.80 per copy, plus the cost of mailing.

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A few beautiful 1970 Scripture Text wall calendars are still available, priced at 50c each, postpaid.

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Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for 1970 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information please send in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1970, so we can publish the entire list in the March issue.

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Reports indicate that many congregations and isolated saints over the United States entered into

the day of fasting and prayer on Dec. 11. God honored this co-operative agreement, and many witnessed to answered prayer. By faith this writer is accepting deliverance from his affliction and holding on for the final touch. "Jesus healed in Galilee and He is just the same today!"

Greater problems and difficulties are facing the church, and these conditions will get worse and worse. But to the true saints in light these critical and perilous times should be a clear and definite call to greater intercessory prayer, more fasting and supplication before the throne of mercy for this perishing world and for the prosperity of Zion. Who will offer soul and body on the altar of our God, stand in the gap and pray the prayer of faith and deliverance? Can God count on you?

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The challenge has never been greater to get the soul-saving gospel of Christ to this perishing world by means of the printed page. Time is of the essence, and in this new year of 1970 the consecrated volunteer Christian workers at this gospel publishing plant will be bending every effort and using all means which the Lord provides to increase the outflow of gospel literature world-wide. Your continued prayers and co-operation will be much appreciated, and your reward will be great in heaven. —Lawrence Pruitt

OBITUARIES



Jessie May Taylor was born August 29, 1921, in Ardmore, Okla., and passed away at her home at Guthrie, Okla., on November 29, 1969, at the age of 48 years and 3 months. She was married to Ralph Taylor on February 6, 1942. In July, 1958, they adopted a daughter, Jody Susanne.

Sister Jessie sought the Lord for Bible salvation in 1947 and became a member of the Church of God. She fully embraced all the teachings of God's Word and proved it by her unwavering faith and confidence that she manifested in God. All through her long illness she set an example of courage and manifested completely the characteristics of a Christian. She fought a courageous battle right to the end and died in the faith, laying down her Christian armor, and is now awaiting that great resurrection at the end of time. The influence of her life of faith will live on. The Guthrie congregation will greatly miss our sister.

She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, Ralph Taylor and one daughter, Jody Susanne of the home; her father, Memory Smith, Ardmore, Okla.; her mother, Mrs. Flora Mae Zimmerman, Austin, Texas; her step-mother, Mrs. Memory Smith, Ardmore, Okla.; two brothers, Harry Smith, of McAlester, Okla., and Memory Gailon Smith of Okla. City; many relatives, a host of friends and saints. Our loss is heaven's gain.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Willie Murphey, assisted by Bro. O. C. Porter. Her body was laid to rest in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

Sister Hilda (Colvard) Coffey, wife of Bro. Howard Coffey, pastor of the Church of God congregation at Hammond, La., was born March 20, 1919, and departed this life on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1969, at their home, the par-

sonage in Hammond, La., at the age of 50 years, eight months and 17 days.

She was married to Thomas Howard Coffey on June 17, 1939. To this union were born one daughter and one son.

Sister Coffey was "born again" into the Church of God and lived a consistent Christian life. Five years ago she cast her lot with the saints of God. She accepted and practiced all the doctrines of the Bible, enjoying the fellowship of the saints everywhere and won the love and confidence of all. Her life was devoted to her God, her husband, her children and the saints.

Sister Coffey had suffered with a heart and stomach condition for some time, but the Lord often answered prayer in her behalf. Her heart's desire was to be able to attend the Assembly meeting which convened at Hammond, La., on Nov. 23, 1969. The Lord wonderfully blessed her with strength and granted her desire. She attended service every day of the meeting and received many spiritual blessings.

On Saturday afternoon, Dec. 6, she was taken severely ill. God's presence was in the room to bless and comfort all the way. She manifested a sweet patient spirit through all her suffering, remaining conscious almost to the end.

Sister Coffey leaves to mourn her passing her devoted husband; one daughter, Mrs. Connie Drain, Garden Grove, Calif.; one son, Kent F. Coffey, St. Louis, Mo., and six grandsons. Also surviving are her father, J. A. Colvard, Lenoir, N. C.; two brothers, James K. Colvard, San Antonio, Texas, and Harold Colvard, Hudson, N. C.; two sisters, Mrs. Carl Triplett, Lenoir N. C.; and Mrs. Pauline Johnson, Whitnel, N. C.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Mart Samons. The text was Psalm 34:19, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Also, 1 Cor. 15:56, 57; 1 Thess. 4:13. The graveside service was conducted by Bro. Max Williamson. Scriptures used: Job 19:25, 26; 1 Cor. 15:12-20, 51-56. The Lord also gave him the following lines of poem which were read in memory of Sister Coffey and Sister Jessie Taylor of Guthrie, Okla.

Her body was laid to rest at the Saints' Cemetery near Loranger, La.

God chose a jewel from His collection rare.
He had a crown, and placed her there.
She filled her place and reflected the light,
That came from above where there is no night.
"They shall be mine" saith the Lord of host,
"These gems I purchased at so great a cost."
So He gently reached His hand of love
And took her to that heaven above.
The place in the crown is vacant here;
She shall be missed, and her smile of cheer.
But the light shall shine on and on,
Even with God around the Throne,
And there with the angels up in heaven,
Shall shine as the stars forever and ever.

—Bro. Max Williamson

Card of Thanks

La. (Dec. 12)—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints everywhere, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I want to thank you and the saints in every place where prayer was made in behalf of my wife's illness. The Lord came to her aide many times in giving relief from her suffering, then finally delivered her out of all her afflictions by taking her unto Himself.

I am not able to answer each one individually, but from the bottom of my heart, I thank everyone for their

prayers, cards, letters, phone calls, flowers and financial gifts. May the Lord bless each one for their interest and concern, and the love which was manifest unto us.

All this recent trouble and sorrow causes me to have a greater desire to do the will of God and remain in the faith once delivered unto the saints.

Please continue to pray that the Lord will bless and give me wisdom in my labors for Him.

Yours in the Truth,

—T. H. Coffey

P. O. Box 1177, Hammond, La. 70401

Edith Boulden, daughter of Charlie and Eunice Brown, was born December 21, 1915, at Morristown, Tenn., and passed away December 18, 1969, at the age of 53 years, 11 months, and 27 days at Plymouth, Ind.

On August 20, 1939, she was united in marriage to Howard O. Boulden near Rockport, Missouri.

She embraced the "evening light" truth of the Church of God in 1946.

Sister Boulden had been failing in health for a number of years and took worse suddenly.

Sister Boulden is survived by her husband, Howard; one son, Harold, of Rochelle, Illinois, and three grandchildren; also three sisters, and a host of friends and distant relatives.

Funeral services were conducted at the Johnson Funeral Home in Plymouth, Indiana. Interment was in the Oakhill Cemetery, Plymouth, Indiana.

Gertrude L. Hartgray was born June 7, 1886, in Evans-ton, Illinois, and departed this life Nov. 11, 1969, at the age of 83 years, 5 months, and 4 days.

On September 4, 1909, she was united in marriage with Fred Lee who preceded her in death in July, 1949. To this union were born ten children, six sons and four daughters. The fourth child died in infancy.

In June, 1956, she was united in marriage to Edward Hartgray who preceded her in death.

She was converted to Christ, born again, in 1928 and embraced the truth as it is taught and practiced by the Church of God, Evening Light Saints, and continued in the truth until her death. She worshipped with the Church of God congregation which met at the corner of Naomi and Walnut Sts., in Los Angeles, Calif., for many years. She was a faithful saint and faithful in her attendance.

She spent the closing part of her life in the Senior Citizens' Home at Pacoima, Calif. She trusted God for soul and body and was faithful until death.

She is survived by five sons, four daughters, 27 grandchildren, six great grandchildren, one sister, and one brother.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. I. C. Chandler, assisted by Bro. O. B. Wilson and Sister Melissa Greer.

Wardean (Love) Green was born to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Love, Feb. 6, 1919, in Durant, Miss., and departed this life on Dec. 7, 1969, in Waterloo, Iowa, at the age of 50 years.

On Dec. 25, 1936, she was united in holy matrimony to Charles Green in West, Miss. To this union two children were born. The family had lived in Waterloo, Iowa, many years.

Sister Green was born into the Church of God and remained faithful unto death.

Sister Green is survived by her husband, Charles Green; two daughters, Mrs. Virginia Perkins, Albuquerque, N. Mex., Mrs. Maxine Roby, Waterloo, Iowa; one adopted son, Joseph, at home; her mother, Mrs. Mollie

V. Love; five brothers, five sisters, eight grandchildren, a host of other relatives and friends.

"She hath done what she could." The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, whose new address is 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kansas 67219.

Lemuel Conejos Williams was born September 13, 1955, in Oklahoma City, and departed this life in Okla. City November 18, 1969, at the age of 14 years, 2 months, and 5 days.

Lemuel was a kind and an obedient child, commended by all who knew him for his integrity and fine character in general. He was active in Sunday School and church work at the Church of God on N. E. Third and Phillips Streets which he attended.

Lemuel was a ninth grade honor student at junior high school where he was loved by teachers and students. Many people knew him as the honest little gentleman who brought their newspaper as he was a carrier boy for the "Daily Oklahoman and Times" for almost six months.

He leaves to mourn his passing his father and mother, Bro. and Sister Isaac Williams of the home; three brothers, Sgt. Isaac Williams, Jr., Okinawa, Pvt. Cephas Lamar Williams, Vietnam, and Alvin Williams of the home; three sisters, Mrs. Elaine V. Eddens of Denver, Colo., Beverly and Yvonne Williams of the home; maternal grandparents, Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips of San Bernardino, Calif., paternal step-grandmother, Sister Love of Okla. City, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Herman Kelley with interment at Hill Crest Cemetery.

LEMUEL

Fourteen years ago a fair babe to us came,
One who brought us much joy and no shame.
He grew to school age and there he went
To be an example to all he met.
In Sunday School he was always prepared
To do his part in the lessons he shared.
In business life he was a gentleman, too,
Not once forgetting to be kind and true.
And now today God has called him away
To be at rest in that land far away.
We'll all miss him, 'tis needless to say,
Yet we can meet him in eternity's day.

Lemuel was a faithful boy—

In his home and out of sight;
His parents could depend on him,
To do his best in things of right.

In his home a place so vacant—

Search the schoolrooms, he's not there.
At the Sunday School he's absent;
Sadness, sorrow everywhere.

But, this old world is so sinful,
And grows more wicked every day;
So in mercy God has called him
From the evil things away.

By Little Mother Ethel K. Miles

GOD'S PROMISES

It is said of John Bunyan that he told how every time he got hold of one of God's promises that the devil got hold of the other end, and the fight began. He pulled one way, and the devil pulled the other. He won because he had hold of something that will never fail—God's promises.

JEFFERSON, ORE., MEETING REPORT

We do thank and praise the Lord for another precious Assembly meeting. It was blessed of the Lord from the first day till the last. Some of the services were very special. The saints rejoiced to hear the truth.

Before the meeting started we received a telephone call from a woman sixty miles north of Jefferson, whom we had never met. She had been receiving the "Faith and Victory" paper and wondered if someone could come after her. She came with three of her children, also another woman. She was only in a few services until the mother went to the altar. She was sweetly saved. This is some of the fruits of this meeting.

Only two out-of-state ministers were with us—Bro. Gene Harmon and Bro. Pat Huskey. The messages were timely and anointed by the Holy Spirit. There was a sweet spirit of fellowship all through the meeting.

Bro. Bain and his wife who are in a nursing home in Eugene were here. He is eighty years old and blind. His wife is confined to a wheelchair because of a stroke. They both rejoiced to be in the service. Bro. Bain sang one of his favorite songs. As he stood singing, his face aglow, shining with the joy of the Lord, most all eyes were filled with tears as they rejoiced with him. These dear ones seldom ever get to be in service.

Some were at the altar for soul help and healing. One man who had been up and down, in and out for a few years arrived here all dressed up, long hair, etc., to "provoke the saints," he said, but God got hold of his heart and he went to the altar. He prayed through as the brethren worked with him. He made some open confessions, which was good to do and is taught by the saints. Some do not want to do this. This brother said someone asked him if he wanted his sins to follow him to the judgment or did he want to send them on before. He said, "This is why I made my confession. I wanted the Lord to put them under the blood." I would like to add that this brother had a haircut and began to dress like a saint. Pray for him that he will be true and stand firm for the clean Bible way.

There was a deepening down, deeper consecration throughout the meeting as the Word went forth. There was great rejoicing, unity, and cooperation. Still, there remains much to be done. Precious souls need God. The saints need to deepen down in God. Surely we need to redeem the time. The devil is working to deceive as many as he can. Dear ones, "from the mountains and hills let us gather the few who will stand for the right and dare to be true." Yes, praise the dear Lord, "the darkness is passed, let us shout it aloud." We are determined to press on and do His will. Let us be faithful unto the end.

Your Sister in the Lord,

—Bea Spaur

REPORT FROM MYRTLE, MO.

The singing in the chapel at Myrtle, Mo., on Sat., Nov. 1, was well attended by the saints in this area. The fellowship was sweet and our souls were refreshed as we made melody in our hearts to the Lord. An all-day meeting followed on Sunday and again we sat in heavenly places, feasting on the anointed Word of God.

Our next all-day meeting will be on the first Sunday of February at Senath, Mo. Everyone is welcome to come and be with us.

The indebtedness on the new cabin units at the camp ground at Myrtle, Mo., has been reduced from \$1,500.00 to \$600.00 at this writing. We thank the Lord and ap-

preciate the sacrifice of each one in this worthy cause. We are trusting the Lord to take care of the remaining debt. For further information, you may write: Sammy Sorrell, Thayer, Mo., 65574, or A. J. Sorrell, Myrtle, Missouri 65778.

REPORT OF OKLAHOMA CITY MEETING

The fall meeting in Oklahoma City at the Third and Phillips chapel was soul-searching and inspiring. Only a few were saved, but our souls were bountifully fed from Father's table. Bro. Ulysses Phillips and his daughter, Sister Olive A. Davenport, from San Bernardino, Calif., were with us for part of the meeting. They were an inspiration to all. Also, the Tulsa singers encouraged our hearts with several inspirational songs.

Sister Katherine Williams, Bro. Woodrow Warren, and Bro. Effinger from Alabama were some of the ministers who labored in the meeting.

We surely thank the Lord for all who came and helped in the meeting and trust that each one received a blessing.

—Bro. Herman Kelly, Pastor

—Sister Mary Ellen Harris, Sec.

NATIVE NIGERIAN PASTOR REPORTS

Midwest Nigeria (Nov. 26)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints of the living God abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, who is our strength for our journey to the heavenly city. He strengthened Asher, "And of Asher he said, Let Asher be blessed with children; let him be acceptable to his brethren, and let him dip his foot in oil. Thy shoes shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be." Deut. 33:24, 25.

We, as Christians, as believers, as children of God are travelers on a journey. For what are the shoes? They are for walking, for journeying and the Christian life is most certainly a journey which begins on earth through to heaven and all eternity. The people to whom God made this promise had rocky, flinty mountain roads to negotiate. Therefore the Lord most graciously provided shoes made of iron and brass. This reminds us that we as Christians are traveling on a very rough road; no preacher needs to remind his congregation of this fact, for it is self-evident. We are here journeying steadily, with firm faith and confidence in the provided shoes of iron and brass. We are constantly beset with trials and testings, and the Lord has never promised that it would be different from this. (Psa. 34:19; John 16:33; Phil. 1:29, and 1 Peter 4:12.) But we are encouraged for the Lord promises shoes of iron and brass so that we may journey over the rough roads. Our steps are ordered by Him.

How wonderful the Lord's promise and how sufficient His strength will be for every demand that is made upon us. We must take advantage of that strength as it is offered to us by the Lord in the person of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Zech. 4:6; John 14:16, 17; and 2 Cor. 3:5, 6.

We have received your letter dated the 7th of November, 1969, and noted the contents with immense thanks to the Almighty. Thank you for the enclosed pamphlet on "Feet Washing," to precede observance of the Lord's Supper. We cannot set aside this important emblem of humility practiced and commanded by our Lord Jesus.

Abbia congregation of the Church of God will observe our annual Thanksgiving service on Sunday, the 14th of December, 1969, to show our indebtedness and gratitude

to the Almighty. Pray with us that it should turn out to be an occasion of soul-winning. Many from afar will attend.

Sincerely yours in the Master's service,

—Pastor Titus E. Enu

NIGERIAN CONGREGATION ESTABLISHED

Southeastern State, Nigeria (Nov. 18)—November 16, 1969, will go down in history of our congregation as a day never to be forgotten. On this great and memorable day I have great pleasure in sending greetings to all saints in the United States and everywhere in the blessed name of our dear Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who alone is the only hope for believers' eternal salvation. The church here has completed a year and eleven months of her existence now. For the first two months we had been worshipping at Verandahs with enthusiasm as well as solemnity and thankfulness to God for enabling us to bring the Church of God to stay in our village of Ikot Esen in spite of disappointments and all odds. During these months Satan and his agents were at war within and without. We were faced with unimaginable difficulties and unexpected obstacles, but through God we were able to brave them. Thanks to Almighty God, as the conflict is won.

In the early hours of the day, our Superintendent, Bro. B. U. Etuk, with Pastor B. E. Udoka, Evangelists Smith Joseph Akai, Stephen Akpan, Michael Akpan Uko, T. H. Udo, and all national workers from outskirts of the mission stations arrived at the station to witness and to participate at the first institution of the Lord's Supper in this station. The field secretary, Bro. Nse B. Umanah, in his month-end report will furnish you with particulars.

The present trends are very encouraging, and our faith in the destiny of our young congregation is unshakable and we have full confidence to meet any challenge and steer the church to be united, strong, and spiritual. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your soul." James 1:17-21.

I know that as we work together at this great task, God's name will be glorified and many souls in this jungle will continue to be fed the Living Bread. May I count on you dear saints for the future of this young congregation in your prayers? I express my appreciation to those of you who have helped share our sorrows by praying unceasingly to God for our survival in the present civil war. May God bless you all.

Yours in the Body of Christ, —Pastor J. U. Etuk

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Dec. 1)—Beloved Brother Pruitt and all the saints: Warm greetings again in the good name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, whose we are and whom we serve.

Thank you for your loving letter dated November 11, 1969, with the November issue of "Faith and Victory" and other contents and tracts.

We are very much enlightened to read in the paper that the annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting will be held this month from Dec. 19 to 28. Certainly our heavenly Father is going to bless your labors in that meeting by opening the windows of heaven. May the living Lord open the hearts of many who hear the Word as He opened the heart of Lydia.

We are glad to inform you that we will be meeting together at Trichur (north of Kerala) for a one-day meeting on the 14th of December. Please pray that it will also be a profitable and fruitful one. As the Word says, God has appointed us to be the "salt" of the earth to preserve, the "light" to illuminate, "branches" to bear fruit, Christ's "epistles" to instruct, "ambassadors" and "stewards" to distribute the truth faithfully. Praise the dear Lord!

Lord willing, after the above mentioned meeting, I wish to visit the brethren at Calicut and other northern parts. I am often getting letters from Bro. L. K. John, Calicut. I am happy to note that you are all praying for them, also.

Yes, brother, truly we do not have Scriptural authority to send anyone anywhere. We believe that surely our Lord is able to call and send one here according to His choice and at the time of His will only. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." (Rom. 8:14) Our faith, though it be as a tiny mustard seed in size, it has within it great possibilities. Faith pushes all obstacles out of its way. It changes the negative to positive, can't to can and "God can" to "God will." Of course, it bridges the channels of doubt and fear. May He lead us to hold steadfast this faith and confidence unto the end is our prayer.

Now we are preparing for our Karikkom annual convention which starts on the 22nd of January, and also for the other conventions at different centers. We are praying for the success of your endeavors to increase the production of gospel literature.

I thank you for your prayers for our labors here.

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

REPORT FROM MEXICO MISSIONARY

Valle Trinidad, Baja Calif., Mexico, (Dec 11)—Dear Brethren in all the world: We greet you in the name of Jesus, and to Him we give all praise for His grace with which He saved us in His love. He is the propitiation for our sins and not ours only but those of all the world. We give thanks unto God for the gift of salvation and because His love is extended to all the world today.

Here in Mexico God is blessing us very richly, because we can see that the love of God is reaching many souls and we are rejoicing greatly to be participants in the preaching of the gospel. We have experienced that there is no other thing that gives such great peace as doing the will of God. I believe that many brethren have forgotten the great commandment of the Lord. Matt. 28:19. In order to keep peace in our soul it is needful to obey this Scripture and do the will of God. How sad it is that people are running here and there trying to catch the wind, and this is the reason that many do not have complete joy, and always appear sad and discouraged. These are always asking for prayer, when they themselves should be used of God to pray for others. This is because they have not died to themselves yet.

God needs workers in His vineyard, but many don't want to work because they don't see any money. Many think that one cannot live without money. What false thinking! I beg you to pray that souls might have a

vision of God, and be able to see the millions of souls that are lost each day.

In your own country there is much to be done for God, but it is necessary to ask God with all your heart that He show you His will. And then you can be happy always and go on singing through all eternity.

Pray for us.

Your Brethren, Tomas and Dama and family Mendoza
P. O. Box 3979, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073

(Editor's note:—Bro. Leslie Busbee left Guthrie, Okla., on December 29, driving a Jeep Station Wagon to California to transfer to Bro. Tomas Mendoza to use in his labors in the great and needy Mexico mission field. This vehicle was provided by the co-operative effort of a number of saints, and we pray that it may serve to help carry the good news of salvation to many more precious souls in that field.)

Prayer Request

Let us still remember the different ones who are continually in need of prayer. We are thankful for the blessings received by the different ones on the special day of fasting and prayer. We have received word that a number were healed or blessed in a special way on that day. It was a blessing to my soul to know God's children were seeking His face in an agreement at that time and I know God was pleased. A number of requests came in and we wrote them down on paper and put them in a box and left them at the Guthrie chapel. Different ones came in through the day to meet in an agreement of prayer and a number met at the noon hour. God blessed, and we felt God heard and answered prayer. We will not repeat those requests, and the requests that came in recently were mentioned and prayer offered for them at the Guthrie Assembly meeting which just closed.

—M. Miles

From The Mail Box . . .

Kansas—Dear ones at the Print Shop: I received my last order of books and have given the one, "The Secret of Salvation" by E. E. Byrum all away. . . . I am buying these books to try to do what I can to help get the gospel to as many as I can before Jesus comes. . . . I have known Bro. Byrum since I was four years old, and now I am almost 81.

—Mrs. Sadie J. Beck

Minn.—Dear Saints at the Print Shop, special greetings at this Christmas time. . . . I am sending an offering to use where it is needed most.

I am still happy in the Lord and want to continue serving Him until He calls me Home. I hope and pray that you folks are all well, and that God has touched Bro. Lawrence's body and healed it. There is much to pray about in this sinful time. I believe it is almost as it was in the days of Noah. Let us watch and pray, and be ready for His coming and not be as those five virgins who had no oil in their lamps.

May the Lord bless and keep you in the hollow of His hand is my prayer.

—Bro. Andrew Senti

Calif.—Greetings in Jesus' dear name: Bro. Pruitt, it is good to know of your consecrated service. It was also good to know of your father's true service. Probably it was the thing that helped me get back to a Christian

experience. . . . I surely read many of his good books and literature. So keep on and on with the truth.

Many have been my afflictions, but the Lord has seen me through to victory. . . . I love God's people. He has been so good to me since I moved up in line where He could take over and lead me. . . .

Remember us in prayer.

Love,

—Guy Littrell

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

Colo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. I am glad to hear that you are getting some new and better printing equipment to work with, and I want to share in helping to pay for it. . . .

I am now 76 years old. My eye-sight is failing, so I do not drive any more than I have to. I need the Lord's help and desire the saints' prayers. My faith and trust are in the Lord. He supplies all my needs, and He is very good to me.

May God bless you and all the workers there, and all the work, too.

Your Bro. in Christ,

—Frank Kutra

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Calif.—Dear faithful and consecrated loved ones: Holy greetings in the blessed name of our dear Redeemer. We truly thank the Lord for your comforting words, prayers, and sympathizing spirit in our behalf at this very needy time. [The death of their grandson, Lemuel Williams, in Oklahoma City.] This is the first time for death to come to our family. We can say the will of God be done. We are all on our way. Oh, I am at my utmost effort to be ready!

May the Lord bless the work there and keep you dear ones well and faithful until Jesus calls you to your reward. Our prayers are continually going up to God for all concerned.

—Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips

1240 Orange St., San Bernardino, Cal. 92410

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

Canada—Dear Brother Pruitt: Your faithful service and that of your co-workers is certainly appreciated. I am sure that the Lord will remember it all and richly reward you after He calls you to His eternal abode. Isn't this hope encouraging in a time when so few still hope for an eternity with God? I am most thankful for this assurance that if I remain faithful to my Saviour that He will some day call me up higher and that death will be a door to eternal glory.

It is certainly a privilege to be acquainted with our God and His pure doctrine unto salvation. May we live in the grace which we receive and be prepared at all times to give account of the hope in Him so that others may be able to see the way. It is my honest desire to be a light in this world.

Your previous shipments of books and tracts have always been complete to my knowledge. I certainly am thankful to God for a printing shop such as yours where the Lord is able to lead and the truth is transported via the printed page. May the Lord reward everyone of you already in this life and give you much joy and satisfaction in His service. . . .

United in the love of God for His cause, let us remain true.

Yours in Chrst,

—Alfred Lange

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

S. Carolina—Brother Lawrence and all the dear saints at the Print Shop: I received the two bundles of papers you mailed to me. By the help of God I will get them into every home I can. May God help me in trying to help lost people to know what it means to be a Christian who will stand for the whole truth of God's Word.

I am glad for the work that you and the saints are doing for this lost world. May God bless you and all the saints in this work—that it will prosper and bring forth much fruit.

I received the book you mailed to me on "Availing Prayer." It surely was a great help to me on prayer. I wish that book was in every Christian home. I am certain it would mean much to them. I also received the book, "Divine Healing." It surely did encourage my faith in God. I am sending you \$2.00 to pay for the mailing of the papers.

When you pray, remember me that God will keep me working for Him until He calls me Home.

Your Brother in the One Body, —Eddie Driggers

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and staff: Grace be to you and peace from God and our Lord Jesus Christ who gave His life for the world and wants all to find salvation thereby.

I am real glad there is a remnant of born-again saints left yet in these last times in the world like you and your staff. It is wonderful to read the testimonies written through your "Faith and Victory" paper by the born-again saints. The world does not read the Bible, but we, God's born-again people, have to live a life so the world can see holiness lived.

I am renewing the "Faith and Victory" for three years. The rest of the money is for an offering. May God bless you all.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Sam Nusz

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Testimonies and Answers To Prayer



S. Carolina—Dear Saints: I want to write my testimony, thanking and praising God for what He has done for me. It is more than I can explain.

We had prayer meeting the 26th of November and God really did bless us. No one came to the altar, but I know the saints of God received a good blessing. Bro. Oneil Pratt preached on Friday night about the second coming of the Lord, and I received a blessing.

I want the saints to pray for my husband and children. I desire to see them saved.

We are praying for God to send us a revival Christmas week for it is time now for everyone to get their eyes on God. I want to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes for me.

I desire your prayers.

—Sister Georgia Davidson

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Mich.—Dear Sister Marie: I have been meaning to write to you for some time now. . . . The piece you wrote about being afflicted so many times and that God sometimes healed you instantly and other times you were not healed for some time, was an encouragement to me. This is just exactly the way the Lord has dealt with me. . . . God has been my healer for over fifty years now and has healed me of many afflictions. He even healed me once when I was dying. The death rattles were in my throat. I saw the death angel over me with a sword drawn ready to cut the thread of life. My little children were praying and begging God to let me live with them, and Jesus stepped between me and the death angel and held up His hand and said, "I hear some of my little children calling to me." They prayed again and He waved the death angel away. A cloud seemed to come between us and I revived and came back to life. Thank the good Lord! I was so glad that I had taught my children to pray and to believe in the Lord.

or two hours, off and on. A deep sense of assurance, sweetness, and restfulness about my healing settled on me. The following Thursday on October 16 I was sent to be X-rayed again; one was of the chest, and two were laterals. While lying on a table, the Holy Spirit moved me again to believe and gave me the ability to do so. The Spirit blessed me, and I praised the Lord aloud. Several other times when in prayer in the hospital the Lord blessed me and I praised Him aloud.

On Nov. 2, 1969, the Lord gave me the promise He gave to Solomon in 1 Kings 3:14 that if I would walk in His ways and keep His statutes and commandments He would lengthen my days. Then on Nov. 7, as I recall the date, I was impressed to "praise" God for healing, regardless of anything of suggestions or appearances to the contrary. This by God's power I have been doing, and expect to continue.

Some tracts were sent to me that God used to stimulate faith. Many other valuable lessons were learned while I was at the hospital. Communion with the Lord was very rich and precious. A message was given to me on divine healing, which was given on the air from KMYC and XEMO.

Truly, I appreciate the prayers of all who have prayed for me, and I give God all the praise and the glory for the way He has worked in my behalf. —Bro. Floyd Wilson

HOW TO COUNT

Spiritual arithmetic is an important branch of study for the Christian. He who is not able to count properly in the spiritual life may come to some very wrong conclusions. It is important, therefore, that he give his attention to learning how to count accurately. If we do not learn to do this, we may fall in some critical moment, or at least we may view things from our own standpoint and have wrong ideas concerning them. James gives us a problem in this spiritual arithmetic and tells us how to solve it. He says, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" (James 1:2). Many people have tried to solve this problem in their lives and have found that it did not work out according to the rule here written. When they fell into divers temptations, they could not figure it out any way so as to make it come out joyful. The answer was something else always.

I have seen people in such difficulties and have heard some say to them, "Oh, count it all joy, brother; count it all joy." They tried to do so, but for some reason they could find no joy at all. It felt more like sorrow and grief and disappointment and things of that nature. I have heard others in like situations say resignedly, "Oh, I am counting it all joy," and their countenances at the same time were witnesses against them, for these showed that their owners had no joy in it at all.

When James said, "Count it all joy," he did not mean that we should simply pretend that it was joy, but that it should really be joy. If we get the correct answer, it will be joy. There is a way in which we can work out these problems so that they will all come out joy. The reason that James could get joy for an answer is shown in the third verse: "Knowing

this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." He looked at the outcome, not at the thing itself. Paul expressed the idea when he said, "If so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together" (Rom. 8:17). The reason why he could count it joy was that he looked beyond the present and saw the glorifying together at the end. He continued, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us" (verse 18). This is one thing that we must learn if we are going to find real joy as the answer in working out these problems. If we leave out that which is coming as a result of them, we shall certainly miss finding any good or glorying in them. Paul said, "No chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous." He knew that the joy was not in the trial or in the chastening, but he further said, "Afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Heb. 12:11). It was the "afterward" to which he looked. It is the "afterward" to which you and I must look if we are to get the joy.

There is one more thing that we must know if we are to get the right answer, and that is that there are three things which we must add to every trial in order to make the answer come out joy. If we fail to add any one of these, the answer will not be what we desire. They are submission, obedience, and faith. Add these to anything that comes upon you, and the result is bound to be joy. The first thing is to submit yourself to God's will in the matter. Let Him have His way fully with you. Be willing to endure whatever is His will that you shall endure. Let Him burn out the dross, if the fire must be hot. Let Him work out His pleasure, for that is always "good pleasure." In whatever comes, obey Him. If we disobey for any cause whatever; if we turn our back on His commandments and the things that we know He would have us do, we cannot "count it all joy." There will be nothing joyful in it, no matter how hard we try to count it so. Then, as we obey and submit, we must believe—believe that He will take us through it, and there will be joy indeed for our hearts. We shall not have to count it joy and feel it something else, for God will make our feelings correspond with the fact, and it will be joy to us. The joy may not come until the end of the chastening; it may not come when we are overcoming temptation; but joy will come in the end, and we shall see that the problem is worked out in a satisfactory manner, and we shall not have to count and make believe that we have the answer desired, but we shall have it in the satisfaction of our own hearts. Let us look away from the toil to the reaping; and when at last we come with the reapers to that great harvest-home, we shall bring our sheaves with rejoicing, and we shall enter into the joy of the Lord, there to abide and to share in the pleasures that are at His right hand forevermore.

Let us think more about the glory that shall be revealed in us. When our life on earth is over we shall forget about the toils, the hardships, and the disappointments along the way; and we shall join with the ransomed in the song of rejoicing and surround God's

throne, and through the ages of eternity we shall thank God that He brought us by that rugged way that led upward and onward to the world eternal. We shall then never repine for the thorns that were along our way. We shall then rejoice in Him with "joy unspeakable and full of glory." Let us therefore press on. Let us not hesitate.

Let us, therefore, press on with courage to the goal of life's race, where the heavenly hosts will greet our coming with anthems sweeter than any that ever fell on mortal ear, and where our glorious Redeemer will place upon each victor's brow a glittering diadem and will welcome him to life eternal in those mansions of resplendent beauty, where he may dwell content through ages without end.

—From "Winning a Crown"

Was the Devil Ever in Heaven?

By Ostis B. Wilson

(Part Five, continued from last issue)

Ezekiel 28:13-18

This Scripture speaks of the "anointed Cherub" that had been in the "Eden of God" and was "perfect in thy ways" from the time he was created until "iniquity was found in thee," etc., and the proponents of the doctrine that the devil was one time a bright angel in heaven apply this to the devil himself. But a little closer look at these verses will prove clearly that such could not be a proper interpretation.

The subject under discussion in these verses is introduced in verse 12. "Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, etc."

Here is a reference to the king of Tyrus. The king of Tyrus was, without question, a man and not a spirit such as the devil is. He was a very considerable and accomplished man above other men or kings. The courts of Tyre, with its kings, had for a long time been famous. There is nothing here to even indicate this might or even could mean Satan.

It is said in verse 13, "Thou hast been in the Eden of God." Eden stands as a symbol of the paradise of God where man had everything that was good and was master of it all and had dominion over all. But that position was given to man by God. So was the position, good situation and dominion of the king of Tyrus given him by God because God's Word says that He gives the kingdoms of men to whomsoever He will. Daniel 4:17.

Verse 14 says, "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth," etc. After God had deposed man from his dominion in the garden of Eden, He placed a cherubim at the gate to guard it lest man should return and eat of the tree of life and live forever, etc. Gen. 3:22-24. This cherub stands as a symbol of guardianship or protector of sacred and precious things. God put him there for that purpose. This should be the real duty of anointed kings and when they observe this rule strictly God blesses and owns them. The advancement and position of kings and rulers is from God. He said, "I have set thee so." Verse 14.

Verse 15 says, "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." The day of his creation would be the day he was created or made or set up or anointed as king and ascended the throne. Note it is not just the man as such but the man as "king of Tyrus" that is under consideration here. Hence, his creation as referred to would not be when he was created as a man but when he was created or anointed or set up as "king of Tyrus."

At the time God set him over this kingdom he prospered in all his ways and all went well with him until iniquity was found in him. That is, he became lifted up in his heart with pride and this sin that was the downfall of our fore-parents in Eden (pride) proved to be his overthrow.

This is made plain in verse 17 which says, "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness, . . ." His heart was lifted up against God because of pride on account of his very great position, so God decreed his overthrow just as He did in the case of Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and others. His wisdom was corrupted by reason of his brightness. That is, he was such a bright luminary among men and in the political or governmental world that he became really a fool in glorying and thus his wisdom that brought him to this position was corrupted.

As for the devil or Satan having ever been a good or upright person, I say he surely was not. In 1 John 3:8 the apostle declares without reservation that "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning." And in John 8:44 Jesus said, "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him."

Both of these Scriptures refer to what the devil was in the beginning. One said he sinned from the beginning and the other said he was a murderer from the beginning. If one wants to go on back of the beginning where the sacred record begins and speculate on what might have been there before the beginning I do not consider it safe nor profitable to do so.

The divinely inspired sacred record going all the way back to the beginning says he was a sinner and a murderer then and abode not in the truth. Some may object at this point that he was in the truth at one time but did not abide in the truth. But the other statements of this verse in connection with this statement rather carries out the thought that he never did abide in the truth—was never in the truth at all.

—O. B. Wilson

(The series of articles on this subject will be continued in the next issue. Then when the subject is completed, the entire series will be printed and made available at this office in booklet form.—Editor)

The final proof of greatness lies in being able to endure criticism without resentment.

Tomorrow we shall smile over today's worries; so why not begin today?

The Spirit of Compromise

Compromise—"A settlement by arbitration or by mutual consent reached by concessions on both sides; a reciprocal abatement of extreme demands or rights, resulting in an agreement."—Webster.

To compromise the truth of God's Word means to arbitrate with the devil and concede that he is partly in the right; to abate the extreme demands of full salvation, Bible unity, divine healing, etc., and agree with the adversaries of truth. This world is filled with the abominable spirit of compromise. Men who should live and die by the right are abating the extreme demands of eternal truth and agreeing with the world, and Babylon, and the devil. Why should any man or woman stoop so low as to compromise with the enemy of all good, and lower the standard of eternal truth for filthy lucre or worldly applause? God help us to be true and stand for the whole truth, which saves from sin and makes God's people one. I would sooner face the dark legions infernal till the last drop of blood had flowed from my veins, and die a victor for King Jesus, than to compromise one inch with the world, the flesh, or the devil and be monarch of earth. God wants men and women who will wade through fire and blood before they will shrink or falter.

Nothing will blind the eyes of a man or woman quicker than a touch of compromise. The old life of sin does not look so bad when viewed through the goggles of compromise; the plain dress, conversation, and deportment, required by the Bible does not seem so necessary; Babylon with her stilted lords and steeped halls seems to be "not so bad after all"; and, in fact, many things of the devil seem to be much better than when viewed through the telescope of truth. Oh, who will be faithful unto death and never yield to the foe?

Manifestations of Compromise.—Those who are affected with a spirit of compromise are always over-careful about offending people by telling them the truth when such precaution is uncalled for. When a minister comes to preach the word of life they will be heard to say, "Now, brother, you will have to be careful about preaching too strong or the people will not attend the meetings." The manifestations of compromise in a minister are about the same as in other people. He will "prophesy smooth things," scarcely ever mention Babylon, unity, feet-washing, or divine healing, except in a very mild and compromising way. You no longer hear his bold denunciations of the sin of division, and his preaching lacks zeal and anointing. God has no use for compromising preachers. The only kind he can use are those filled with fire and judgment mixed with love and wisdom. A preacher who is on the compromise line will often preach on fanaticism, and make more allowances for conscience than God allows. He will choose subjects that "tickle the ears" rather than "prick the heart." He will preach much about love, and almost construe the Bible to teach that we can love the world with its pride and fashion.

Along with the spirit of compromise goes the spirit of worldliness. Parents who are too conscientious at first to dress gay themselves will array their children in worldly attire and foster the seed of pride in their young and tender hearts. I know of nothing that will cause people to let down the standard of truth quicker than a spirit of compromise, and devastation quickly follows, spoiling God's vineyard and binding souls for eternal night. The approach of compromise is so stealthy that sometimes an honest soul is, for a short time, almost stifled and overcome by it. Nothing will blind one's spiritual eyes and pervert the vision, turning light into darkness, and darkness into light, much quicker than a spirit of compromise.

Causes of Compromise.—The causes of compromise are many. Some people will sacrifice the right to heaven and compromise with the world for what men call honor. But the honor of this world comes to naught. Others compromise with the world and the devil for "filthy lucre." God says, "Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift; for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous." Deut. 16:19. Paul says, "The love of money is the root of all evil." 1 Tim. 6:10. The love of money is most certainly the root of compromise. Some men will preach almost anything for money and popularity. Compromise is always the effect of a lack in the soul. No man who does not enjoy full salvation himself can preach the truth as it should be preached; consequently the only way to do is to either raise the experience to the Bible standard or compromise. To do the former often means to repent as a sinner, and through pride of heart the latter alternative is often chosen.

Effects of Compromise.—The effects of compromise are appalling. When compromise rules, the effects are directly opposite to the effects of faithfulness. "When the judgments of the Lord are in the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness." Isa. 26:9. But "let favor be showed to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness; in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the Lord." Isa. 26:10. When compromise comes in the strong judgments of God's Word are laid aside and consequently the people of the world do not learn righteousness. If every man who professes to be an ambassador for Christ would preach the whole truth, unmixed with compromise, ungodliness, and hypocrisy, professors of Christianity would soon be diminished to a great extent. But most preachers have ungodliness too near home to preach the truth as it is. "Therefore the law is slacked, and judgment doth never go forth: for the wicked doth compass about the righteous; therefore wrong [margin, wrested] judgment proceedeth." Hab. 1:4. The prophet Hosea says, "Thy judgments are as the light that goeth forth." Hosea 6:5. This being the case when the judgments of God are withheld by the spirit of compromise, spiritual darkness ensues, and souls who could once see God's true way and their own

duties as clear as the noonday sun are struck with total blindness.

The spirit of compromise is the identical spirit which defiled the people of God in the morning of the gospel day and caused the great apostasy. In fact, the spirit of compromise is a real apostate spirit, and apostasy lies in its train wherever it goes.

Doom of Compromisers.—"Woe unto them . . . which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel." Isa. 5:22-24. "Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood." Jer. 48:10.

The compromising professor of religion, like a soldier who is afraid to use his sword, soon falls a prey to the enemy and is only a disgrace and a detriment to the cause he has espoused. Many would go to heaven if it could be reached by the compromise route, for by lowering the gospel standard we could get many followers. But, oh, what is numbers compared to purity!

"Who will offer soul and body

On the altar of our God?

Leaving self and worldly mammon,

Take the path that Jesus trod?

"Oh, for consecrated service,

Mid the din of Babel strife!

Who will dare the truth to herald

At the peril of his life?"

—D. O. Teasley, 1904

"According As It Is Written"

Concerning those for whom he suffered in the gospel Paul made this statement: "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." (2 Cor. 4:13, 14.) It means much for us to have the same spirit of faith that is revealed in the sacred writings of the Bible. Death worked in Paul's life, that is, he suffered many things in the flesh for the sake of those He labored to help in the grace of God. Were it not for the spirit of faith that he possessed his heart might have lost courage. But he believed from the depths of his heart that though he suffered many things here, the God who raised the Lord Jesus Christ from death would raise him up also and present him with those for whom he suffered those things. This was the spirit of faith, the same spirit that governed the life of whoever wrote the 116th Psalm from which this was quoted, "according as it is written."

As we survey and study and meditate upon the sacred writings and view the spirit and faith and in-

tegrity of those men and women of God, it is our privilege to possess the same spirit of faith with relation to the problems and challenges that we meet in our present day of time. Oh, how many times we are subdued to fear and drawn aside to doubt with misgivings because we do not consider what has been written for our sakes! "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15:4. This explains to us the purpose of the Holy Scriptures. They are preserved for us to read and apply directly to the great challenge of living for God. I am thinking especially of what is contained in the Psalms of the Bible. What life-giving principles and what expressions of the spirit of faith are found in this collection of the writings of men of God! They were not all written by David, as some might suppose. Some are written by authors unknown to us. But whoever wrote them, they contain principles of faith and wisdom that the Holy Ghost has used to convey the truth of Christ to many! When we read the Psalms we should not read them for their eloquence and fame, but we should read them as principles of light and knowledge to spur us on to victory and patience in living for the Lord. In these, the holy God of heaven is revealed in His ministering grace to the souls of men, and the expressions of faith and trust that we must have on our part. As we read, let us ask ourselves: "Do I possess the same spirit of faith that is written here?" It is only when we can actually apply these life-giving principles of faith and the fear of God to our own life and situation that we can have the victory that Christ died that we might have.

Do we have the same spirit of faith that we can boldly say with the Psalmist: "The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" If we do we will not faint in the day of adversity. Can we exhort others as did this same Psalmist when he concluded with "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord"? (Psa. 27:1, 14.) If we have experienced and know what it means to wait upon the Lord and be rewarded for such, we can surely join in this entreaty to others. Do we have the same spirit of praise that we see expressed in the different Psalms? Is our heart filled with the devotion to God and His cause that is exemplified here? Are we in tune with the submission and humble attitude that these holy saints possessed? Do we have the same holy awe and regard for the Law, Precepts, Commandments, Statutes, Judgments, Word and Truth of the Almighty God that moved the author of Psalm 119? Do we keenly feel the same hungering and thirsting for the living God that possessed the writers of Psalm 42 and Psalm 63? Are we willing to bear the reproach and suffer for the Lord as is revealed in Psalm 44? How about the keen sense of God's nearness and interest and concern for us that is expressed in Psalm 139? Do we have this same spirit of faith? Does our attitude blend with the

spirit of the 90th Psalm wherein is found the prayer of a contrite soul deeply sensing the decay and decline of his mortal years and imploring the mercy and aid of God? "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom!" Is this our prayer? Do we reckon our mortal days as this writer: "Their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away." Do we love God's House (the Church of God) and its function and services in the earth as did the author of Psalm 84 and 122? Does our love and effort for peace and unity blend with the spirit of Psalm 133?

Oh, for the spirit of the early day to be upon us in this time! How are we going to know what was the spirit of the fathers if we do not diligently consider their testimonies? The Spirit of the Psalms is the Spirit that we need to guide us in these troublesome times. We need their faith, simplicity, meekness, praise, worship, love, decision, courage, truth, and obedience. We need to love God as they loved Him, and serve Him with the same devotion and skill that they did. These Psalms present the office and character of Jesus Christ. Jesus said that "all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." Luke 24:44. We find the Psalms quoted as much or more than any other book of the Old Testament by the New Testament writers. Oh, how we need to be blended in heart with the glorious message of victory and grace! "Today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart!" Ps. 95:7, 8. God speaks to us today by means of the testimony of those who have proved Him gracious and true indeed. Harden not your heart, that is, be not senseless and dull to the spirit of the Holy Word. And be assured that great glory and victory will be yours when you can say, "We have the same spirit of faith according as it has been written!" —Leslie Busbee

Guard Against Evil Imaginations

Have you ever caught yourself gazing into space and half consenting to all you saw without raising a query as to the source? This is one of the devil's most fruitful fields of harvest, and he persistently labors to gain an acceptance of something which is his invention and no reasoned product of your own mind under the illumination of the Holy Spirit. It is not too far removed from spiritism proper, and many a horrible experience has been traced to seed plots sown in these passive, uncontrolled, mental musings. If you would live in victory, you will have to be most vigilant here and learn quickly to say No when the foe is at the window.

Not always are the things presented suggestive of evil. The devil assumes quite a different role with some people. Neither open sin nor small things appeal to them, so he flashes before them big religious schemes, bright ideas, sweeping campaigns, and stirring scenes in which they are to play a leading part; and they take the bait without thinking. It all looks

so attractive. "See how it will extend the work of God!" But many a man has come to grief by not knowing that the devil could inflate his imagination with big schemes and kindle false revival fire in his heart.

I recall the case of a man who was one of the keenest Christian workers for miles around until he shut himself up to pray for a revival of which he was to be the leader, but which never materialized. His experience landed him in a mental home, and only slowly has he recovered from the effects of his imaginings.

Scrutinize the moving spirit behind great ventures for Christ. They are not all of God. Some can be born of human ambition and others of satanic vision. If the devil cannot quench your spirit, he will try to push you into going too far. These are some of the perils, but a real conquest and mastery can be ours if we will walk with our eyes open and not be too proud to learn. —F. J. Perryman

Greater Than the Heavens

The great celestial bodies are
Most marvelous and grand,
And how they keep their courses
Men cannot understand.
But something far more wonderful
Than stars that brightly glow
Is the mercy of the living God
To creatures here below.

We cannot tell the distance to
His throne so far away,
But we can know that surely
He hears us when we pray.
We cannot hide our wickedness,
Nor from His presence flee,
But we can come confessing all,
And He will make us free.

We marvel at the rolling spheres
That dot the evening sky,
But do we ever wonder why
God gave His Son to die?
We gaze upon His handiwork while
Travelling day by day,
But do we ever thank Him that
He bore our sins away?

Men fly around this planet small,
And compass land and sea,
And as they journey into space,
How thrilling it must be;
They witness things magnificent,
And wondrous to behold;
But the greatness of our Saviour God
Has never yet been told.

—Cora L. Vinal