

# FAITH <sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



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### *The Church of God*

Church of God, thou spotless virgin,  
 Church of Christ for whom He died;  
 Thou hast known no human founder,  
 Jesus bought thee for His bride.  
 Sanctified by God, the Father,  
 Built by Jesus Christ, the Son,  
 Tempered by the Holy Spirit,  
 Like the Holy Three-in-One.

God himself has set the members  
 In His body all complete,  
 Organized by Jesus only,  
 Oh, the union pure and sweet!  
 Church of God, the angels marvel  
 At the music of thy song;  
 Earth and hell in terror tremble,  
 As thy army moves along.

Church of God, "beloved city,"  
 Thou art of celestial mold;  
 Lo! from God and out of heaven,  
 Came the city of pure gold.  
 Stones of jasper, clear as crystal,  
 Is the building of thy wall;  
 And the Lamb, thy light forever,  
 Jesus, Jesus, all in all.

God's own holiness within thee,  
 His own beauty on thy brow;  
 Glorified in His own image,  
 This thy wondrous portion now.  
 In thee dwells the triune fullness,  
 Blessing all thy pilgrim days;  
 All around thee His salvation,  
 And before thee gates of praise.

Church of God, in heaven written,  
 Thine the risen life of Christ,  
 And the treasures to thee given,  
 Never, never can be priced.  
 Far above this world's confusion,  
 Walking close by Jesus' side,  
 Leaning on His loving bosom,  
 Is the church, His chosen bride.

—D. S. Warner

### *The Unity of the Church*

God's church is one fold, one family, and one body. Her divine Author demands perfect harmony in all her members, has fully provided for that unity, and forbids all divisions. The community of God is not only one body, but all divisions of that one body are condemned in the strongest terms. Let us hear the great Founder, as He pours out His heart in prayer to the Father, while already suffering the inward pains in behalf of His dearly purchased church: "Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are one." John 17:11. "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." ver. 20, 21. "I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me." verse 23.

Three times over He earnestly implores the Father that all who believe on Him, through the Word of God, which has come down to us from the hands of the apostles, should be one, yea, one, even as He Himself and the Father are one. Are we Christians if we respect not those deep heart yearnings of Christ? Do we care for the salvation of this lost world if we are indifferent about this heavenly unity, which the "wisdom of God" foresaw, and declared essential to their faith in the divine mission of Christ on earth? The Lord knew very well that the citadel of the human soul is under the control of reason, and can admit nothing without the control of that high functionary. He also perceived that reason must pronounce division, discord, and all strife and confusion, inconsistent with a religion professed as emanating from God. Hence, that earnest and thrice repeated prayer, that we should all be one as He and the Father are one, that the world might believe that He was really sent from heaven to save men from their sins.

The language virtually implies that if this holy unity is not seen by the world in the professed fam-

ily of God, unbelief would possess their hearts, and His death on their behalf would be largely frustrated. And have not His anticipations proved sadly true? Behold, the world is today rushing on to hell; and ever since strife and division have broken the sweet "one accord" of the primitive church, the gospel has been comparatively powerless to convict of sin and the judgment, and turn the souls of men from the ways of death. There is then a solemn and awful weight of importance connected with this divine unity. For this cause there is perhaps no one thing more frequently enjoined in the New Testament than the oneness of all believers; no evil more peremptorily forbidden than that of schisms; and no sin more strongly denounced than that of "causing division." The apostles of the Lord, walking in the spirit and footsteps of their Master, continued the same earnest appeal for the unity of all who profess the name of Christ.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." 1 Cor. 1:10. "For ye are all one in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28. "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Phil. 1:27. "Fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind." Phil. 2:2. "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 15:5, 6. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul." Acts 4:32.

Here are five more positive commands in the law of God declaring the children of God to be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment," that they "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." "That ye be likeminded, being of one accord;" not likeminded according to some man's mind or creed; not according to the mind of the flesh, nor yet the edicts of some conference of preachers, but, "Likeminded one to another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God." An earnest admonition is, "I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you." For a refutation of the false statement that people cannot see eye to eye; and for the confirmation of the Word and grace of God; and the encouragement of God's saints in all subsequent time, it is recorded that "the multitude of them that believed, were of one heart and one soul." Not simply a few were enabled to come into this unity for which Christ prayed, but the whole multitude of believers, and they numbered thousands. Now we confidently af-

firm that the same salvation will produce the same fruits today.

Not only did the apostles follow their Teacher and Lord in demanding perfect unity in all believers, but they also show a holy abhorrence of all divisions. Accordingly, we are told that "God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked: that there should be no schism in the body." 1 Cor. 12:24, 25.

Here is a direct prohibition of all schisms, or divisions in the body of Christ. By the standard of truth all divisions among Christians are sinful. "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple." Rom. 16:17, 18. "A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself." Titus 3:10, 11. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." 2 Pet. 2:1-3. —D. S. Warner

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## WOUNDED HEARTS

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Hasty, cruel words were spoken by a father to his son. That tender heart was wounded, and in his desperation the enemy took advantage of him. He left his home and went out into a wicked world filled with clever agents of the devil who were ready to receive him. His heart was broken and wounded, but evil companions led him deep into sin.

A proud, unconcerned mother pushed her daughter out into the society of the world, dressed in the scanty clothing of today, providing her with "the pill" and instructed her to seek for herself a man of money for a husband. Soon her virtue was gone, her tender heart was wounded and scarred by sin.

Rebellious young people turned away from the Christian teachings of their parents, feeling that they are old-fashioned and behind the modern times. These precious young people are caught in the tide of the world which carries them down the stream of life, filled with all kinds of evil and sin. They are bruised and wounded by the rocks of sin. These precious young people, who once had the fear of God upon their hearts, become hardened, yet filled with grief when they seriously look back over their lives.

A husband, innocently at first, yielded to the devil as he worked through another. "She caught him and kissed him, . . . I have peace offerings with

me; . . . Come let us take our fill of love . . . for the goodman is not at home . . . with her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her . . . as an ox to the slaughter . . . Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, . . . For she hath cast down many wounded; yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death." Proverbs 7:13-27. "Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding . . . A wound and dishonor shall he get." Prov. 6:32, 33.

A wife, who had been faithful to her family, often watched the glamour stories on TV where the husband or the lover continually made love and built up the ego of the female by telling her of her beauty and greatness. The wife became dissatisfied with her husband. He seemed to take her for granted and she let these thoughts linger. The devil enlarged on them. Suddenly, she finds herself becoming tired of the sameness of her daily routine of caring for children, cooking meals, scrubbing and cleaning the house. There never seemed to be enough money, so she gets a job. Soon she is noticing another man and visiting the night clubs. She drifts away from her family and husband, and then leaves them.

Sin causes suffering. The devil laughs in his glee as he continually thinks up new schemes to wound and corrupt lives. Children from broken homes are filled with fear and insecurity. Their lives are warped and soon sin takes its toll. Many people are wounded by sin and they try to drown their conscience and evil doings by drinking strong drinks, taking dope, and on and on they are led deeper in sin. The Bible says, "Thy wound is grievous." "The wages of sin is death."

God was filled with pity as He looked down upon this world with people so full of sin and bound by the enemy of their souls. They had been wounded and scarred by sin. "I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord." (Isa. 30:17) The only way that wounds made by sin could have been healed was for Jesus, the Son of God, to come to this sin-cursed world and take upon Himself the form of flesh and live among men. After leaving them an example of holy living, He went to the cross. He was innocent and without sin. There on the cross "he was wounded for our transgressions." (Isa. 53:5) His heart was broken and His body wounded and scarred by others. He bore our sins on the cross and died in our stead for our sins. He arose from the grave and today He is alive, waiting and longing for those who are wounded by sin to come to Him seeking forgiveness for their sins. There is hope for you, dear one, in Christ. He is able to break the bondage of sinful habits and make you pure and holy. He will roll the guilt away from your soul and you will be happy and free. Won't you turn to Him today with your whole heart and find peace?

—Sister Marie Miles

## Look Up To God



When the cares of life are great,  
And the trials hard to bear,  
Then our God, for Jesus' sake,  
Lifts the load, because He cares.

When the cross is very heavy,  
And we stoop beneath the load,  
Jesus sends His tender love,  
Us to cheer along the road.

Though the road may be so rugged  
We are brought to deep despair,  
There's a light that shines above us,  
Beckoning to a City fair.

Let us then take hope and courage,  
Looking up to God on high;  
Nevermore to doubt or waver,  
For our Saviour draweth nigh.

—Effie Miller

## BIBLE REPENTANCE

Truly the world's greatest need today is Bible repentance. There has never been a time in the history of the world when repentance was needed more, or preached less. Repentance is one of the most disliked, and consequently, most neglected subjects among people in general. Yet for those who would find life and peace through the regenerating work of Calvary, there is no other substitute for repentance.

### What Is Repentance?

Job gave something of the meaning of Bible repentance when he said: "I abhor myself and repent."

Repentance is not only godly sorrow for sin and a determination to forsake it, but also includes such loathing of self because of sin, as will result in confession and renunciation of all known sin. Godly repentance will lead to a complete change of conduct, and to newness of life (2 Cor. 5:17).

### Who Is To Repent?

All men! "God commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). The Lord said, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)

God's message for the world today is definitely repentance and turning away from sin. It has always been His message. The message of repentance was heralded forth with fiery zeal by all the holy prophets of old. The Old Testament Scriptures are interspersed throughout with exhortations to repentance as a means of avoiding God's judgments in the land. (And God has not changed His mind about sin.)

The grace dispensation was ushered in with the same message. Christ's fore-runner preached repentance and faith for the remission of sins, saying, "The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:4-15). He

(Continued on Page Six)

**"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, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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

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**EDITORIALS**

To all of the thousands of our new readers who have been receiving this paper for the past two months, we extend a very special invitation to **SUBSCRIBE AT ONCE** and become a regular reader. Your friend who had these trial issues sent to you would like for you to continue receiving a copy each month. He believes that these Bible truths will be a spiritual benefit and blessing to you. For the convenience of those whose subscriptions are **EXPIRING WITH THIS ISSUE**, we are enclosing a handy pink or blue subscription **REMITTANCE ENVELOPE**. **Just fill in the printed blank form** with your name and address, enclose \$1.00, stamp and mail, and you will receive this paper each month (except August) for the next three years. **Please do this NOW** lest you forget it and miss the forthcoming issues which will contain messages of truth essential to your soul's welfare. My God bless every reader with heaven's richest benefits.



This monthly gospel paper is going into many homes in this country and foreign nations. More than 13,000 copies of this issue will be printed, and we pray that the Holy Spirit will accompany every "white-winged" messenger and impress the Bible truth upon the mind and heart of every reader. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Thank God for the precious freedom from sin and condemnation that we have found in believing and obeying the truth.



Another milestone—an "Ebenezer" has been set up with this inscription, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." All praise and honor unto His holy name! This March issue of the "Faith and Victory" paper marks the beginning of the 48th year of publication. Now, as always, this periodical stands committed to the vital Bible truths which brought forth this "evening light" restoration movement of the Church of God in fulfillment of Bible prophecy—those same truths which were taught and practiced prior to the "landslide apostasy" of 1910-1914. As servants of the Church of God, contending "for the faith once delivered to the saints," the publishers and this literature ministry have weathered many storms by the help and grace of God. More difficulties and obstacles are expected in the future, but our faith is anchored in the Captain of our salvation who is not limited nor restricted by circumstances. The Apostle John affirms: ". . . this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. Our Father, whom we serve, will and does take care of His own.



In giving the Commission to His Church, Jesus' vision was world-wide. He said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Again He said, "The gospel must first be published among all nations." To reach the unreached in the "regions beyond" is the purpose of this gospel literature min-

istry which is primarily and essentially a work by faith in God. Without His blessings it could not continue. This institution operates under a charter from the State of Oklahoma as a non-profit religious and charitable corporation, and no one connected with it receives any personal profit. All proceeds from offerings and sales above the actual operating expenses are kept in the work to expand and increase the output of gospel literature. All who work here have volunteered their services as unto the Lord with no promise of remuneration other than that in God's Word, and His Word has not failed.



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The message for this age is: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." To God's people the call comes from heaven: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." There is no fellowship between light and darkness, between truth and error, and every honest soul should heed the warning, flee from every false way lest he be a partaker of her sins and receive of her plagues. We are not opposing people as such, but only want to expose the false systems and foul spirits, so that honest souls can escape and find fellowship in the true fold of God. "If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another."



**DIVORCE**—" . . . but from the beginning it was not so," said Jesus. (Matt. 19:8).

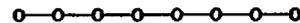
The New Testament, the law of Christ, teaches that marriage is binding for life. Jesus taught that

"fornication" is the only cause to "put away" a companion, but leaves no right for that one to marry again while the first companion lives. Read Matt. 5:31, 32; Matt. 19:9; Mark 10:11, 12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:2, 3; 1 Cor. 7:39.

As a consequence of the foul work of seducing spirits, Bro. D. S. Warner's wife left him and their small son in 1884. Later she secured a divorce by false oath and married again. Three years after her departure he wrote a long poem about this heart-rending experience, two verses of which express the lifetime bond of marriage. We quote:

"We still are joined in Eden's bond  
Of matrimony true;  
While life endures yet undissolved,  
It binds my heart to you.

"No court of man, or Satan's power  
Can disannul the tie;  
Though spirits rent, in evil hour,  
One flesh are you and I."



The "thousand years"—millennium—occurs only six times in the Bible—all within six verses of Rev. 20:2-7. Verse 4 says that "the souls [disembodied spirits] of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus . . . lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." These souls of martyrs for Christ went to paradise—not a reign on earth. Verse 6 indicates that those who partake of the "first resurrection," which alone makes one "blessed and holy," will not be overcome of the "second death" [lake of fire], "but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years." Notice that not one verse in this passage in Revelation teaches that the righteous will literally reign on earth with Christ a thousand years. To live in the blessed hope and continual expectation of the Lord's second coming is one thing, and to have a theory about a literal millennial reign of Christ on earth is quite another. The thousand years merely indicate a long period of time, and not necessarily an exact one thousand years.



"The day of this world is declining,  
The forces of sin are combining,  
The faithful our Lord is refining,  
And soon shall the Bridegroom appear."

In this year of 1970 the challenge has never been greater to get the soul-saving gospel of Christ to this perishing world by means of the printed page. In view of the present breakdown of law and order, race hostility, riots, crime increase, immorality, infidelity, atheism, and the tendency to revert to heathenism, surely mankind needs Christ and His saving grace more than anything else in this world. Billions of dollars have been spent going to the moon and for the exploration of "outer space," but there is very little effort or interest in exploring man's "inner space" to find the cause of mankind's moral pollution and depravity. An application by faith of the blood of Jesus Christ is the only cure for the curse of sin.

The cleansing and purifying of the fallen sinful nature in mankind is the crowning work of God's redemptive plan. "Wherefore he [Christ] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him. . . ." Heb. 7:25. Thank God for the fountain of cleansing that was opened in the house of David for sin and uncleanness. Let us be "workers together" with the Lord in getting this good news of full salvation to every creature. —Lawrence Pruitt

### BIBLE REPENTANCE—

(Continued from Page Three)

demanded that their lives prove a changed attitude toward God and sin. (Luke 3:8)

The importance of repentance is seen in the fact that the Lord began His first sermon with an exhortation to repent (Matt. 4:17), and that He did not even one time throughout His ministry insinuate that salvation by grace could be obtained in any other way than by turning the back upon sin and the old life, and following Him.

The Lord commanded that repentance and remission of sins be preached in His name among all nations (Luke 24:47). He sent the twelve apostles to preach repentance and commissioned the church to do the same. "The apostles went out and preached that men should repent" (Mark 6:12). Peter preached repentance to the religious leaders. (Acts 2:38).

Repentance is to precede baptism. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

#### Why Is Repentance Necessary?

"That sins may be blotted out" Acts 3:19.

Paul preached repentance to both Jew and Greek alike. (Acts 20:21). The early disciples all preached repentance, nor have God's chosen vessels ceased to preach it down through the ages. Wherever Christ has been preached, repentance and faith for the remission of sins has been preached, except by the modernists, who have, as they think, found a better way—"Blind leaders of the blind," of whom the Lord would say today as He did of old, "Ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in." Matt. 23:13.

This modern theory of "accepting Christ," joining a church and being baptized, over unconfessed and unforsaken sins is nothing short of deception. For the heart and life remain unchanged; the canker of sin continues to eat out the vitals, and to lead to certain doom.

Jesus said, "Ye must be born again," (John 3:7) at which time a new name is written in the Book of Life, and without which, joining every church under heaven, will avail nothing, "For whosoever is not found written in the book of life, is cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15.

It is impossible to accept Christ without accepting His Word, and without a resolute purpose to re-

nounce sin and to walk in His ways. If old things have not passed away, and all things become new, we have not accepted Christ in reality. (2 Cor. 5:17).

Another modern invention much used by Satan is the "only believe" theory. There is a time and a place for this, and to accept Christ, but not until every sin has been repented of, and God's conditions have been met.

Today people not willing to endure sound doctrine have heaped to themselves teachers having itching ears. It is the teachers who have itching ears, straining to know what will please the people, and thereby gain for themselves popularity, praise, and worldly gain. And the people would have it so, because they love their sin, many prefer fables to truth. Yet for all this, there is to be a reckoning. "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, and the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" 2 Peter 3:10.

"Repent ye, and be converted that your sins may be blotted out" Acts 3:19. "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" Isaiah 55:7. —Ethel Meadows

#### In Memory of My Aunt, Mrs. Laura Nicholson Who Passed Away February 5, 1968

She is gone but not forgotten—  
In my mind she never will be.  
Since she left us there are others  
Who miss her just as much as me.

She bore many heartaches and burdens  
While she lived here on this earth.  
Now she has gone to live with Jesus  
All because of a second birth.

—Written by her nephew, William R. White

### Campmeeting Dates for 1970

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1970, and more complete announcements will appear in later issues.

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Oklahoma—May 29 to June 7, 1970.

Holly Hill, S. Carolina—June 5 to 14, 1970.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 26 to July 5, 1970.

General Southern at Hammond, Louisiana—June 26 to July 5, 1970.

Akron, Ohio—July 10 to 19, 1970.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs) Mo.—July 24 to Aug. 2.

Bakersfield, Calif.—July 31 to Aug. 9, 1970.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—Aug. 7 to 16, 1970.

Boley, Okla.—Aug. 7 to 16, 1970.

California State at Pacoima, Cal.—Aug. 14 to 23, 1970.

Dover, Okla.—Aug. 18 to 23, 1970, held only six days.

Fresno, Calif.—Aug 28 to Sept. 6, 1970.

### EVANGELISTIC TENT WORK FOR 1970

Dear Saints scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. For His love we are indeed grateful. If it weren't for the love of God we would all be consumed. How the world needs to awake to the goodness of God! Our hearts are continually burdened that we might be accounted worthy to enter into the joys of the Lord when our work on earth is done.

The Lord has been good to us since we last wrote. At different times we have been in real need of His divine healing touch and He has come to our rescue for He is touched by the feelings of our infirmities. . . . Dear saints, the Lord is at hand always taking note of our needs. Let us be encouraged to always live where we can feel His presence.

At present we are in Louisiana. We enjoyed the meeting held here at Loranger by Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott. Bro. Mart Samons just closed a meeting at Hammond and the Lord blessed His Word and servant.

For several days we have felt burdened to again remind the saints to be praying for the tent missionary work to be done this summer, that the Lord will guide and direct to the salvation of souls. We have several burdens in which we desire the mind of the Lord and desire your prayers concerning them. It is so needful to keep our ministers in the field of labor. We often think of one soul crying for help—hungry, thirsty, bleeding, sore—desiring that some one would come to help out. We have a vision of many souls in this condition and we do want to be faithful. Some may say, "What's the use?" but let us not neglect our duty. We will reap if we faint not. We can come rejoicing because of the salvation of souls. We don't want to come empty-handed.

We appreciate all the saints and trust that all of you have been blessed of the Lord. Pray much for the salvation of souls and for our ministers who labor in the great harvest.

We plan to return to our home in Kansas the first of March.

—Ralph M. and Inez Beisly  
407 Eldridge, Coffeyville, Kan. 67337

(Editor's Note:—Each summer the evangelistic tent and equipment are used by the ministers and gospel workers whom the Lord calls and sends in this special evangelistic effort. If you desire a tent meeting this summer or want to contribute to this worthy cause in spreading the pure gospel write directly to Bro. Ralph M. Beisly who is the secretary-treasurer of the National Missionary Fund, which fund also is used to aid home missionaries throughout the year.)

### REPORT AND NOTICE OF MEETINGS IN GEORGIA AND FLORIDA

Fla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to you and all the saints of God.

On January 10 to 17 the Lord guided us in an eight-day gospel meeting at Swainsboro, Georgia. We stayed at the home of Sister P. R. Bowers. Thank God for the saints there, Bro. Friendly Green and his sister, P. R. Bowers, who have come out of the fallen movement. The Lord sent us great showers of "hailstones" (solid truth). Praise God, one precious soul, James M. Green, was sweetly saved, and joyful was his victory. Hold him up in prayer. We baptized him on Sunday morning, Jan. 18. The water was cold, but the flame of joy started in this new-born soul gave us all great satisfaction and rejoicing.

Also, we administered the ordinances of the Lord's House. Praise God for a mind to do His entire will!

The saints here at Goulds, Fla., are asking prayer as we announce our ten-day meeting to be held April 10-19, 1970. This year we especially request our white brothers who have a burden to come, to feel free and come. We will all be worshipping together as the Lord would have it. The world needs to see this pattern, and so do the saints. For further information, write or call Bro. H. H. Hargrave, 10835 S. W. 221st Street, Goulds, Fla. 33170, Phone 233-2472. The address of the meeting house is 21595 U.S. No. 1 and Hainlin Mill Dr. (across from Mays High School). Pray for us, as we desire a meeting house for the saints of God off the busy highways.

Love,

—Bro. H. H. Hargrave

Fla.—Dear Sister Marie: We started a Bible Study in my home. . . . We were glad to have Bro. Hargrave and Bro. Clay with us from Goulds. . . . We went to a week's meeting (in Georgia) where Sister Bowers and her brother, Bro. Green, live. They have fled the ruins of Babylon and come to Mt. Zion with songs and everlasting joy. We do appreciate the blessings of the Lord we received there. Surely the anointing of God was on the Word as it went forth with power. . . . Bro. Hargrave was the evangelist.

Pray for me.

—Mattie B. Savage

### PROFITABLE MEETING AT HAMMOND, LA.

Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

We just closed a very profitable meeting here at Hammond La. Bro. Mart Samons was with us from Feb. 6 through Feb. 14. The Word went forth under the inspiration and anointing of the Holy Spirit, resulting in a number of souls coming to the altar for spiritual and physical help. Several came for and received sanctification. Praise the Lord!

To me, it was the best meeting held here for some time, God's very presence being felt in every service. To Him be all the glory and praise.

I am quite lonely since my companion left me to be with the Lord but His presence is with me day by day to comfort and bless.

I ask a continued interest in the prayers of the saints for the work here at Hammond and that the Lord will bless and give more power and wisdom in our labors for Him. Yours in the truth,

—T. H. Coffey

### MARCH MEETING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

Our March meeting at Wichita, Kansas, will be held March 13 to 22, 1970. We want all the saints to be praying for this meeting, for Wichita is a wicked city and truly people here need salvation. We are praying much for the meeting, and that the Lord would send ministers of His choosing to help in the meeting. We want this to be the best meeting we have ever had. There is nothing too hard for the Lord to do.

For further information contact Bro. Lewis Williams, 2643 North Spruce, Wichita, Kansas 67219, Ph. 264-8481.

### EASTER SERVICES AT SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The Church of God at Springfield, Mo., (718 N. Kansas) is planning all-day services on the 5th Sunday, March 29, Easter Sunday. On Saturday night, the 28th,

we will observe the ordinances of the New Testament—feet-washing and the Lord's Supper. On Sunday afternoon there will be a service in song. All are welcome to attend.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee, Pastor

Chapel and residence: 718 North Kansas, Springfield, Mo. 65802 Phone 866-8621.

### EASTER MEETING AT JEFFERSON, OREGON

The Easter meeting at Jefferson, Ore., will be held March 20 to 29, 1970. You are cordially invited to attend these services.

For further information, contact the pastor, Sister Beatrice Spaur, P. O. Box 348, Jefferson Oregon 97352. Phone 327-2855.

### GRACIOUS DEALINGS OF THE LORD

Six years or more ago I answered the call of my Lord to come east to Akron, Ohio, to preach His Word. My call was given in the words of the prophet Ezekiel, 2nd and 3rd chapters. At that time my home was in Los Angeles, Calif., where I had lived for over 22 years. In those crucial years with a family to support, plus an invalid unbelieving husband, the task was great and responsibilities were heavy. Much of my time was spent in fasting and prayer, which is the Christian's pilgrim staff to walk with God. It was through constant prayer that the will of the Lord concerning me was learned, and for encouragement the Lord showed Himself strong in our behalf in many miraculous ways and healings.

One outstanding miracle in our life was the healing of our youngest son at the age of ten or eleven years. He had taken seriously ill with the flu, then complications, then seemingly pneumonia, but ended with a case of ruptured appendix, then peritonitis soon set in. The child was dying when his father rushed him to the hospital for an emergency operation, but at all times my trust was in the Lord. Since I had to work every day, his case was almost fatal before we realized the seriousness of his condition. Then, overlooking the fact that death was evident by all, I set my eyes steadfast on the power of my Lord, and phoned Bro. and Sister Ulysses Phillips (if I may use their names in this incident) for an agreement of prayer. This strengthened my faith to be unshaken when the doctor stated there was no hope of recovery, only performing the operation as the last human effort. The operating room was ready and last examinations were being made before the procedure began, but prayer was being offered without ceasing as I paced the long corridor. My every breath was entreating my Lord to work a miracle, to glorify His name there before my husband and all concerned. In an instant the Holy Spirit began to undertake for him. His temperature began to drop and continued to go down to normal. Physicians and more physicians were called in on the case. The unknown cause could not be solved by human mind, except by those who knew the power of the God of the universe. Why should we not praise Him? Our son walked out of that hospital after a few days' observation, without medicine or an operation. This was done by completely giving the case over in care of the Lord through constant prayer. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." 2 Chron. 16:9.

We have witnessed many wonderful healings such as tumors, tonsillitis, peritonitis from cases of ruptures, ser-

ious sinus attacks, and many others that only the power of God could heal, in those seven or eight years while conducting cottage prayer meetings in Los Angeles and suburban areas. We would travel a hundred miles or more to reach needy souls. Along with assistant ministry, we witnessed more bodies healed, souls saved, and the truth of God's Word planted in areas of false religion. Souls were delivered from deceptions in these meetings.

Then in the last part of 1963, I arrived in Akron, Ohio, acquainted with no one here except our Lord, on whom our eyes were steadfastly fixed, as we realized our inability to deal with souls. Again I cried out to the One who stated, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." In these few years the Lord made it possible for us to have a chapel, hall, and ground for annual campmeeting. Then, above all, He has raised up a militant church here to worship God in spirit and in truth in these buildings and on these grounds. His name shall have all the praise.

We are thankful that Bro. Mart Samons of Danville, Ky., was here with us in a week's meeting which started January 25. Sister Samons joined him on the weekend. The power of God was truly manifested all through the meeting. Others who shared the burden for souls here in the meeting were Bro. and Sis. Ray Key of Springfield, Ohio, and Bro. Wm. McCoy of Dayton, Ohio. We were also grateful for those who attended from Alliance, Massillon, and Toledo, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pa. We do not cease to praise our Lord for those here in Akron who received salvation, sanctification, and encouragement by the precious Word preached. Other blessings too numerous to mention could be reported.

We desire sincere prayer for the work here.

—Sister Hazel Clark, Pastor

### MISSION LETTER FROM INDIA

S. India (Jan. 31)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and other saints: Cheerful greetings again in the sweet name of Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever" (Psa. 125:1)

Many thanks for your good letter dated Jan. 8, 1970, with the contents, including valuable tracts, Jan. issue of "Faith and Victory" paper, etc. This time my heart is overflowing with great joy and is full of gratitude toward the Lord who blessed our Karikkom convention to be highly profitable beyond what we asked or thought. The four-day convention proceeded with busy day and night public meetings, morning Bible classes, evening open air meetings and women's meetings, etc. Our heavenly Father empowered the saints to arrive here from all parts of Kerala with His Spirit to preach the Word with great authority and passion for souls as He empowered the Apostles. "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." (Psa. 127:1) The words sown by the saints have stirred up the hearts of several sinners and backsliders here and there. On Sunday, 18th of January, seven youngsters were baptized. They request your prayers.

Yes, Brother, the ordinance of feet-washing is an essential and unavoidable factor for the real followers of Christ. You see, this being the command of our Lord, we have been practicing it whenever we had the Lord's Supper, even from our early times. . . .

I am very glad to know that you saints in America always remember us and our tasks here in your everyday prayers. You see, Christianity in India is faced with

the threat of anti-Christian forces which are now gaining political recognition. But the gospel of Jesus has survived the bloody trials and persecutions of the Roman emperors. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. Praise the Lord! The disciples stood boldly before high priests, kings and rulers. Their preaching was positive, persistent and persuasive in homes, in streets, in market places, in jails, in ships and even before the gallows. May the same spirit flow through the believers of this generation is our prayer.

May God prosper and bless your gospel publishing work and other labors there.

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

### NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Under date of Feb. 2, Bro. B. U. Etuk, native minister working with the 20 mission stations in the South-east State of Nigeria, wrote a cover letter for the detailed report of the mission activities for the month of January. He writes: "We thank you immensely for the unwavering prayers you took to the throne of grace for us since the war got started in our country. The Lord heard the petitions . . . and the war ended Jan. 15. Life is rapidly returning to the former condition.

"We got your letter dated Jan. 12 with the draft. . . . We are thankful God makes us able to travel freely anywhere now unmolested by the soldiers. We held services in all parts of the Mission throughout last month, as can be seen by Bro. Umanah's reports enclosed. . . . The Lord is strengthening me and gives me life to continue my labor. Continue to pray for me. . . . The way is opened now for foreign missionaries to enter into the country. So it is hoped that a missionary from there will be ready to enter the opened door."

On the same date Bro. Umanah wrote: "The huge relief supplies reach mostly the recently liberated parts. I don't believe it will come to us."

A letter dated Feb. 3 from Bro. Titus Enu, pastor of the Abbi congregation in the Midwest area of Nigeria, acknowledged receipt of our letter and contents dated Jan. 12, and expressed their joy for the ending of the civil war. Again he was thanking the Lord for the miraculous escape of him and his family with their lives and what they could carry from Benin City at the start of the war.

Under date of Feb. 2 Bro. M. U. Ekpene, pastor of the mission station at Uyo and manager of the Orphans' Home, acknowledged receipt of our letter dated Jan. 12 and gave a report of their mission activities for January. The orphans joined him in extending thanks to the church for their efforts to provide food, etc., for them. He wrote: "We are suffering a great deal to feed the orphans since last year, and now they are starting to school for which fees will have to be paid."

Let us pray that now, since the civil war is over, God will raise up faithful missionaries to carry the gospel of Christ far and wide over this country of sixty million people.

—Lawrence Pruitt

### LETTER TRANSLATION SERVICE

Anyone desiring to correspond with native missionaries in Mexico may send their letters directly to this office. They will be translated to Spanish and sent on. The answers will be translated to English and returned to you.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—three years for \$1.00.

### MESSAGE FROM MEXICO MISSIONARY

Patzcuaro, Mex. (Jan. 24)—Dear Saints and Friends: Greetings to you from Mexico in Christian love. Love is very important to us, for by love we are saved and by love we are kept by power divine. If we love Him, we will keep His commandments, love each other, and give of ourselves for the salvation of others. May our love never grow cold.

In December we had a week-end of services. Bro. Tomas Mendoza and family from the Valle De La Trinidad, Bro. James Huskey and family from La Mision and others came. We had some precious times in the Lord with His blessing from beginning to the end. It is having its effect on the people here and was especially an uplift to the saints. There was altar work, but not as much as we would like to have seen. We are praying that the Lord will direct us in another one soon.

Near Christmas time we took the young people and children Christmas caroling to each home here. This is something that has never been done here before and all seemed to enjoy it—both those who sang and those who heard it. Then we had a special Christmas service. The children memorized the blessed Christmas story, sang choruses and the older folks gave their testimony of being glad they had room in their hearts for the Christ Child. With the help of several of the saints and congregations we were able to give treats and gifts to every one. Every one seemed to enjoy the service.

I was privileged to be in the Pacoima, Calif., Assembly meeting and was especially blessed of the Lord. I had some needs in my soul and the Lord filled them. I have returned to my place of duty with renewed courage and feel the work here is a real challenge in the Lord. By His help I trust more will be accomplished spiritually this year.

The pick-up performs perfectly and I am so very, very thankful for it. God alone knows how many times I have thanked Him already for it. So far every month before payment is due the money is here and ready to be paid. I indeed thank the dear Lord and His dear people for it.

I trust that all is well with you in every way and that you are enjoying peace and joy from the Lord in your life. May God bless you richly is my prayer. Please remember me in prayer.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Edith Cole

P. O. Box 1425, Calexico, Calif. 92237

### MEXICO MISSION FIELD REPORT

La Mision, B. C., Mexico (Feb. 16)—Dear Ones far and near who love the truth: In 2 Pet. 3, we read of the last days and the destruction of this earth, and we realize that each day brings us closer to that day. "Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." Oh, how important it is that we be about our Father's business in this evil day. We are determined to live for Him and do all we can to show His love to a lost world. We feel our burden for lost souls getting greater as we step out by faith in renewed efforts here.

We have rented a building, (18'x28') for a chapel, and had our first services there yesterday with 75 attending. This seems to be a good start when we have been having services only in the homes of different ones. Our Bro. Juan Cruz came and brought a good evangelistic message. We find that he loves the truth and is humble and looking to the Lord to lead him. He doesn't feel he can be our

pastor, but shows much concern in that we have a clean work for the Lord and carry a burden for souls. He is working in construction here on the beach and believes that the Lord has him there in order to testify and preach to fellow workers. As we get to know him more we love him more. Please pray much for all here. We desire to reach the young people here who seem to be "going to the bad."

Our children seem to have a renewed desire to serve the Lord. We have worship three times a day with them. They have no desire to go with the crowd. They have a goat, a pig, and two lambs to take care of. They have a little boat down on the laguna in front of our house where they fish and play. We thank the Lord for our children and believe that our number one mission effort should be them.

Today I received a letter from Bro. Irineo Rama, a gospel worker in Michoacan, Mexico. They are well and encouraged in the work of the Lord. He said that there are many places outside their little town where many want him to come to tell them the gospel story, but in building his house and taking care of the ones who come to his house wanting to know about the Lord, he has no time to go other places. They have the walls up and boards on the roof, but the rains came before they got the tar and paper on the roof and they got wet. He said they had been having quite a time, but are glad to be in their own house even if the roof does leak.

Bro. Tomas is with me today. He said the Lord is still blessing in the Valley. Bro. David and Sister Maria Rosas are leading the Sunday School there. The Lord is healing bodies and bringing more in. Some go away because there is no room in their chapel.

Charlotte is fine. We have many burdens and prayer requests.

—The James Huskey family

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

## REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, B. C., MEXICO

Dear Ones: Today (Jan. 30) I praise the Lord for victory in Jesus.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

Praise the Lord, these have been my promises. . . . Two cars were at my disposal but for only a few days, then for reasons known only to God at that time, neither would run. Little by little, as the Lord talked to me, I realized that the work God had for me to do at that time would have been hindered by my having a car. My burden included all whom I encountered daily and through this the Lord opened up the channel of writing, translating, copying, and distributing, which was entirely new to me. Had I been driving a car I would have been limited to contacting two or three families in an evening, whereas, the channel wherein the Lord placed me I was able to contact twenty or thirty families within the same amount of time. He opened the way for me to sit in the store which belonged to Catholics and pass out the literature He had provided for me. It was through the store people that the elderly man of whom I have formerly spoken, (a Catholic, also) learned of the truth, was saved, and took the truth with him to his family in Mexico proper that all might be saved. To God be the glory! This man and others passing through left their addresses so that

they might continue receiving literature as God would provide it. . . .

Another rich blessing I am enjoying is a complete release and healing of my nerves; praise His precious and holy name!

Much time has passed and I will not write the details of this time, but suffice it to say, my time of waiting has been blessed. The Lord, through brethren and a sister has provided living quarters for workers in the far end of the chapel in Ojos Negros where a co-worker, Consuelo Quintana y escas and I now reside, where opportunities abound daily to testify of God's goodness to His trusting children.

The Lord blessed us Sunday with a good meeting, especially with His presence and His convicting Spirit rested on some women present in the service. We truly thank the Lord for His daily leadings and guidance in His vineyard.

Recently the Lord, through a church sister, has provided us with a car. . . .

Remember Consuelo in prayer. She walks only on crutches, has had operations in the past, but has fully decided to trust the Lord for healing. She is daily growing in the Lord and desires to go all the way with Him.

Many have asked why I hadn't written them a long letter concerning the progress of the work, so, as God's work in reaching souls comes first, I have taken this means of writing that more time might be utilized in His work. I also want to thank each one who has not only held us up in prayer but has also been sending supplies to the front lines by means of clothing gifts, love-gifts, offerings, etc. May the Lord richly bless each one is my prayer. Yours in Him,

—Sister Opal Kelly  
Apartado Postal No. 525, Ensenada, B. C., Mexico

## Prayer Requests



Calif.—Remember in prayer Sister Leach who is ill in Orland, Calif.

Kansas—"Remember me in prayer, also my boy who has ulcers." —Sister Jones.

Ark.—"We are both afflicted. Husband is blind and nearly deaf." —Sister W. Bryan.

La.—"My dad is very ill. He has been near death's door." —Mark Spinks.

Mo.—Do pray earnestly for dear Sister Pearl Logan who has had a serious heart attack. She has been very ill and still needs prayer.

N. Car.—Sister Lemons has low blood pressure.

Miss.—"I have a sore on my head that doesn't heal, also have headaches." —Flora Pugh.

Ind.—"I have high blood pressure and a hurting in my side." —Sister Dessie Wilson.

Mo.—Remember Sister Torrance in prayer as she has an allergy that hinders her breathing and is very weak.

Neb.—Remember my daughter in prayer as she suffers with her limbs. —Sister Mittie Sultzbaugh.

Kansas—Sister Inez Beisly needs prayer. She has been ill ever since the first of the year.

Okla.—Still remember Bro. and Sis. Sam Barton. Bro. Barton is bedfast now.

Pa.—Sister Dora Campbell is very ill. She is up in years, and a precious mother in the Lord.

There are a number of the saints who have the flu and we need to remember them. Also, be sure to pray for

the saints' unsaved children; also many dear sisters have unsaved husbands and some of the brethren have unsaved wives. Let us pray for each other and for our dear ones. The world needs God and we should always have a soul burden.

The Apostle John wrote to Gaius in 3rd John, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." That is what I wish for each of you. We know that we can have healing and health through Christ. "By his stripes are we healed." As our faith mounts up and we see the greatness of God, we can just lay hold upon His promises. "God that cannot lie, promised." Titus 1:2. He has said, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." Thank the Lord for that healing stream that we can plunge in and be made whole. —Sister Marie Miles

**From The Mail Box . . .**

Mont.—I hope that the many new readers of the Jan. and Feb. issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper enjoyed and appreciated them as much as we did. They were so good and we pray the dear Lord to bless and help you to keep it pure and clean. . . . May the Lord continue to bless and make you a blessing. —Mrs. C. A. Davis

Ill. —Greetings in Jesus' dear name: I am still trusting the Lord and want to keep my life in His hands. I know He can take care of me—soul, body, and all.

I think there will soon be some changes made here that will affect me. I don't know what the outcome will be, but I know that God knows all about it and I want to leave it in His hands. Pray that I will be able to follow His leadings.

Enclosed is an offering to be used in the Lord's work any place it is needed. —Albert Green

Ohio—Dear Christian workers: I enjoy the little paper very much, though I have neglected to send any help, so please accept this little amount. It is in my heart to do more but the dear Lord knows.

If I live until this July, I will be 95 years old. The dear Lord has been so gracious to me. I have many afflictions. Please remember me in your prayers. May God supply your every need.

With Christian love, —Sister Flora Key

Kentucky—Dear Sir: I ran across an old 1966 copy of "Faith and Victory," and I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed reading it. I wish to subscribe for the paper. The rate given was a three-year subscription for \$1.00. I am sending a \$1.00 check for the paper and if the rate has increased since the old paper was printed I will gladly send the rest of it by return mail when you notify me. Please send the paper as soon as possible since I can hardly wait to receive it.

Thanks and God bless you. —Mrs. Oscar T. Manuel

Calif.—Dear Friends: I have just received my new paper, "Faith and Victory," and I'm so glad that I subscribed to it a few weeks ago. I enjoy it very much, especially the Christian poems. They are inspiring to me. Sincerely yours, —Emily Hale

Md.—Since I enjoy your paper so much, will you please send "Faith and Victory" to me for three years for one dollar? Will you please send some tracts so I may hand them out? May God bless you in your work. Sincerely, —Mrs. J. I. Rambo

Minn.—Dear saints at the Printshop: Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. This leaves me pressing on to gain the crown that God has awaiting me.

I am enclosing . . . for renewal subscription for 12 copies of "Faith and Victory" paper. . . . May God bless and keep you in health and strength, and may He give you messages direct from His throne that souls may be saved and the saints fed on the Word of God.

Much Christian love and prayers, —Andrew Senti

Ohio—Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers at the Lord's Printshop: Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus, that name which is above all in heaven and earth.

This leaves us saved and pressing forward in the Master's blessed service. Our all-day meeting on Feb. 8 was precious. . . .

When you get it printed in book form, I want a copy of Bro. O. B. Wilson's series of articles appearing in the paper. . . . I trust you are better in body before now. In Christian love, —Bro. Wm. McCoy

Missouri—Dear Saints and readers of this good paper: I thank the Lord for this strait and narrow way. It is so sweet to know we can have the love of God in our hearts and to know the Lord is near to hear our prayers by day and night. . . . When sickness suddenly comes upon us we have a great Physician.

I thank the Lord for this little paper which encourages our hearts. When Bro. Fred Pruitt was editing this paper, I would wonder what would happen to it when he was gone. I am so thankful the Lord had some good saints who are still printing the good paper. I have a tape of a sermon Bro. Fred Pruitt preached at the Guthrie Assembly meeting in 1960. There is enough truth in that sermon to save millions of people if they would take it to heart. I like to hear the messages of the dear saints who have gone on. If any reader has Bro. George Stephenson's sermons on tape I would pay for them.

I have rheumatism in my lower limbs. Remember me in your prayers. . . .

May the Lord bless and encourage everyone. —Sister Fannie Williams, Stoutland, Mo. 65567

Illinois—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all: Blessed greetings in Jesus' name. He has been so good to us in so many ways that I can never thank Him enough. I thank Him most of all for the truth and the strength to live in it. He has put joy and peace in my heart that I never had before.

I want to come to the Guthrie campmeeting . . . , Lord willing.

I appreciated your letter of encouragement. May God truly bless the word of truth as it goes out. . . . May God's grace and blessings rest upon all the saints who labor for Him. —Bro. George Hammond

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, greetings in the all-prevailing name of Jesus: I pray and trust that this message finds you and the other workers at the Lord's Printshop enjoying the blessing of good health along with this wonderful salvation.

I am still encouraged to press on to the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus. The work here has suffered a delay due to the severe weather we have been experiencing, . . . but I am looking forward to spring when I hope to be more active in the work if the Lord wills. . . . Please remember us all in your prayers.

May the grace of our God be with all of you in prayer. Christian love, —James F. Broker

W. Va.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in Jesus' precious name to you and all the dear saints. I am still happy in the Lord and want to live to please Him until He takes me Home.

I surely enjoy your good letters, the papers, and my Bible. . . . I can't hear well, so still remember me in prayer.

I am sending another little offering to help spread the gospel. May the Lord bless you that you will be able to get the truth to many precious souls.

In Christian love, —Dora Willis

Mo.—Dear Friends in Jesus: We enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper very much. In the day in which we live it is hard to find good solid reading that will help and encourage one. We do thank God for His people. I am glad to report victory over sin and a love for God, His Word and His people.

I would like to have some of the tracts, "Ye Women Professing Godliness." Thank you. —Perry M. Williams

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' dear name who made a way for our salvation. I am glad that He ever brought peace to my heart and gave me a desire to follow Him. I appreciate the great kindness He has shown to me and how He delivers out of every trial.

I received your kind letter and the "Faith and Victory" papers. I truly thank you for your kindness and surely appreciate the little papers so much. It is the next best thing to being with the saints, especially when one is isolated. . . .

I believe God's Word and am expecting Him to heal me. Your Bro. in Christ, —Earl B. Bliss

Illinois—Dear publishers of "Faith and Victory": I receive your paper and enjoy it very much.

—Mrs. Opal Howell

Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt: As I sit here reading the "Faith and Victory" paper I just thought I would write and tell you how I do enjoy the little paper. I feel that the printshop is surely worthy of my support, as you keep sending out all those papers and tracts. . . .

Yours through the mercy of God, —Homer W. Fee

Ohio—I do appreciate the "Faith and Victory" paper. One lady called me and asked if I sent her name in. She thanked me and said she enjoyed reading it.

—Mrs. Cora Schumm

S. Dak.—Dearest Sister Marie: Greetings of tender love to all in the sweet name of our precious Jesus. The new decade is here and how fast the time is flying—much too fast to do all that we would like to do. May the Lord help me as I long for a closer and more worthy walk with God.

The January "Faith and Victory" contained many special blessings and was very edifying to the soul. I especially noted the comments in the report from Mexico missionaries Tomas and Diama Mendoza. What a lesson for us here in the States! He wrote of "people 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." I felt that was just for me, and I received a blessing. Of course, there are times when we need agreement in prayer, and the saints should always remember each other in prayer. But what a greater need to be praying for the lost, and those who are suf-

fering torture in the Communist lands, sealing their testimony with their blood. . . .

May the dear Lord keep our faces set like a flint to follow Him, and take heed to the whole counsel of God as we face the unknown future.

Lovingly and prayerfully, —Sister Olive McFarling

W. Va.—I have been reading your little paper, "Faith and Victory" for a year. I can't tell you how much it means to me. The Lord knows how much I enjoy it. . . .

I ask the saints to pray for me and my loved ones.

—Gertrude Smith

## Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

Mo.—Dear Ones in Christ: He has given us the victory over all the powers of the devil. We are so thankful to God for all He has done for us, unworthy though we are. We can never repay Him. We want to live for Him in this life and then go to heaven to praise Him forever.

My husband is getting along all right. Everything is progressing just fine. We surely thank you for your prayers and concern. We trust you are enjoying the blessings of God.

We surely enjoy reading the little paper "Faith and Victory." There is so much soul food in it. May the Lord bless all of you.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. and Sister F. E. Wilson

Kentucky—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: We send greetings in Jesus' dear name and are thankful we can report victory over all the works of the enemy. The Scripture says God giveth more grace. We appreciate the grace He gives us from day to day. We are much encouraged in the Lord and enjoy working for Him—not that He needs me so much but I need Him. Some might think the work couldn't go on without them, but God has always had a people and always will have.

I'm glad I found that sure foundation: "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone. . . ." I'm glad to know not one stake shall ever be removed. I mean to stay on that foundation by God's help and grace.

The Lord has wonderfully blessed me and healed me of the affliction I had for which we give Him all the praise. . . .

As the weather has been so bad back this way we have not been out much since Christmas. But we just closed a very profitable meeting in Akron, Ohio. The Lord is wonderfully blessing Sister Clark and the work there as they have a mind to work. . . . We had good attendance almost every night. A number were at the altar to be saved and sanctified. . . .

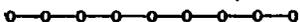
We went by Toledo, Ohio, and spent the night with the Williams family. They seem to be still rejoicing that they have found the true body of saints.

We appreciate the "Faith and Victory" and you dear ones who are laboring to keep the pure gospel going out by the printed page. There's so much going out over the air and in the mail that is false. We are glad to know what you stand for. The Lord is depending on you to keep standing in the old path. . . . I see Zion standing clear of divisions, strife, and confusion—a city that cannot be hid. I know everything will go down but the one true church. I am glad to be in it. By God's grace and help I intend to stay.

We desire your prayers that we ever be led by the Holy Spirit. We have a number of burdens and souls

on our hearts and have more open doors than we are able to fill, so we just want to know God's will. We are yet praying for your complete healing.

Christian love, —Bro. Mart Samons and family  
222 N. First, Danville, Ky. 40422



Texas—Dear Precious Ones in Christ Jesus, greetings: I want to thank the dear Lord for healing me of the flu. I was in bed most all one day. I got up the next morning as usual to fix our breakfast, but turned so sick that I had to go back to bed. I lay there talking to our Redeemer and Healer, and soon I began to feel better. I soon got up and have been well ever since. We truly need to praise and thank our God, the One who has power over all the elements of the world. It is precious to go to Him instead of trusting in medicine. I am thankful He taught me how to trust Him fully. How I do love Him! I wish everyone knew the joy of serving and trusting God. He will never let us down nor forsake us.

Love and prayers, —Essie Moore



Oklahoma—Greetings, dear brethren in the name of Jesus: I trust all is well with you, soul and body. I also hope and pray that no one will become discouraged, fail of the grace of God, and go back in sin. In this age such could easily happen, and does happen to many heedless souls. But it need not be. The Word says God's grace is sufficient.

As "evening light" Christians we do not want to be like the month of March. One writer called it the "adolescent" month; and in his discourse said, "March is nature's problem child." Spiritually speaking, that could be said of the people of God under the law of Moses, but in due time that problem was ended, and Jesus Christ, the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world, appeared on the scene. He gave His life on the cross to put away sin and, praise His holy name, the victory is ours. He becomes the "Prince of peace" in our lives if we accept Him as our Savior.

So, for the month of March, let us study the Word on peace. Peace, peace like a river; may it be a deep everlasting stream in our souls.

—Little Mother Ethel K. Miles



Mo.—Dear Saints, greetings of holy love in Jesus' dear name: The Lord has impressed me to send in my testimony to the paper.

I am happy that I can say that this leaves me still saved and encouraged in my soul with no thought of giving up, but a desire to draw closer to the dear Lord, and with a mind to live more prayerfully and carefully in the future. I do desire your prayers that I might be a better example. I do not want to be a "blind" to prevent souls seeing the beautiful Church, the Bride, the Lamb's wife, which I see and rejoice in.

Oh! what love and pity the Lamb that was slain had for me. Should I not love Him in that I respect His holy Bride? I can truly say she is the joy of the whole earth in my heart. Oh, for understanding and grace that I might walk in and out as I should among so great a people as this church! Oh, that nearness we feel to God as we mingle among the redeemed ones!

I desire your prayer that my life, along with the words that I speak may sound out true praise to the Lamb that was slain. We read in Psalm 50:23, "Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me, and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."

Your Blood-washed Brother, —H. A. McMillan

Ohio—Dear Saints: I am writing to clear up some things in my past life that God has been showing me. I did fail to obey instructions on what to do. I am sorry for picking and finding fault with anyone. I want to ask the church to forgive me for the way I have been living, and by the help of God I do intend to live the way God wants me to. I do want to serve the Lord with all my heart.

I have an unspoken request that I would like for the saints to pray about. —Pearl Leonard



Miss.—Dear Sister Miles: I was helping my brother-in-law cut down a tree and it didn't fall the way it was supposed to. He yelled for me to run. I did, but the limbs knocked me down. I give the Lord all the praise for my life being spared. I know the Lord answers prayer. He has helped me in many ways.

I have a sister who needs prayer. She is living for the Lord, but has trouble with her nerves.

So many people say they are living right, but they don't let their light shine. They try to hold on to the Lord with one hand and to the devil with the other. People like that should wake up and pray to the Lord.

Remember me in your prayers. I want to make heaven my home.

Your Sister in Christ, —Flora Ruth Pugh



Kansas—Dear Sister Miles: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. I am still saved and encouraged to live for God. When I was about fourteen years old, I had a strange sickness. I ached in my back and arms one day and by the next day my limbs began to ache. During that whole week my limbs cramped, and most of the time I couldn't walk. According to a doctor book I had almost all the symptoms of polio. But I had faith in God, and I just couldn't accept being crippled and deformed. The Lord healed me after a week and I could walk in a normal way again. One of my girl friends and I went for a walk that day and we walked about twelve blocks. I surely thank the Lord for that healing and all that He has done for me.

Pray for me that I will always live for God to all I know and understand. —Luvenia Johnson



Mo.—Truly I have much to be thankful for. He has been very good to me. I have never had a very serious illness, but He has healed me of minor illnesses.

It seems that the ways of the world are getting more wicked every day and it is easy to drift with the world. Therefore there is a great need of drawing closer to God. Only God can give us the grace to stand for the truth.

Pray for me that I will get closer to God, that I might be an example to my friends, neighbors, schoolmates, relatives, and anyone else I may come in contact with, and have the grace to live as God would want me to.

Christian love, —Rebecca Sorrell



Mo.—Dear Sister Marie: For some time I have had a thought on my heart and today it has weighed so heavily on me that I feel I should share it with others in hopes that it will stir their minds as it has mine.

I'm sure everyone is aware at least to some extent of the conditions in the world today. Looking about, everything seems so ungodly, so wicked, and, worst of all, so futile. Even people who deny the existence of God acknowledge that this life of man on earth amounts to nothing. None of man's greatest achievements have real meaning, because, deep down, everyone realizes they won't last very long. Thrilling entertainments gives no lasting

joy; the cleverest inventions soon become obsolete; wars provide no permanent victory. The list would be endless of all man's efforts ending at a wall of nothing—not exactly defeat, just nothing.

What if there were no God? That's a terrible thought, but it causes one to think more seriously about the importance of God in our lives. He is our one hope and stay. I think of God's gifts to man as these things: His love, His Son, His Spirit, His church, and everlasting life. These provisions, if utilized, give man a lasting purpose and true happiness in life. I know of nothing else which can do that.

I believe the time is approaching when we must trust more fully in God than ever before. Read the twenty-first chapter of Luke. A great deal of insight is not necessary to see the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy developing. Notice that with His warning He gives instructions and promises so we will never have cause to fear.

"Watch ye therefore and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

May God help us all to be more diligent and increase our faith.

—Deborah McMillian

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Calif.—Dear Workers at the Print Shop and readers of this inspiring "Faith and Victory" paper: Those two words mean so much to me—for it is by faith in the blood of Jesus I am saved. And salvation brings victory—which comes after we have resisted the devil by the grace and power of God.

Oh, I'm so thankful I can abound in the grace of God. It is wonderful to walk beside the "still waters," "lie down in green pastures," "abide under the shadow of the Almighty," feed on the "finest of the wheat" and honey from the rock and drink of the "living water" that springs up into "everlasting life." All this I enjoy while "following Jesus one step at a time."

Jesus has been good to me. He cares for me by day and by night. I have burdens, but I've learned to cast them on Jesus. He takes them and gives me peace and a song in my heart. But I want to be worthy of His love, so I must deny myself and carry my cross, and I find His grace sufficient to do that. Some day I will lay my cross down, then, oh, what triumphant victory! Then in the beautiful place He has gone to prepare we will behold the face of our blessed Savior, see His nail-scarred hands and feet, and best of all, hear His voice say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

I realize that if I ever hear those words, I must diligently love and obey my blessed Lord and watch and pray without ceasing, trusting in Him explicitly by believing His Word—His many, many wonderful promises. I am so thankful that I have found He is faithful and true to every promise for soul, body, and mind, for our material needs of life.

Yes, Jesus is a wonderful Savior and Healer, too. He has healed me many, many times of various sicknesses and afflictions, some very serious and others minor. Many times I have been instantly healed, other times Jesus lets me walk by faith, not by sight nor feelings, but the healing does come. Praise His precious name!

I pray God to bless all and help us to let our light shine and be greater soul winners this year.

In Christian love, —Vera Forbes

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Okla.—Greetings to all: This day finds me with a stronger determination than when I got saved to go all the way with God. Those who know me know that my

mistakes are more than any human would forgive. But, praise God, He is merciful to forgive and help by giving grace to do better.

I learn many lessons from my two small children. I strive to teach them godly fear and the right way to live, then by their innocent lives, I am corrected for not being a better example. God has brought me a long way in the knowledge of Him and of obedience.

I had asked my son Kevin to straighten and clean his room. In just a short while he told me he would wash the dishes for me as he saw I was very busy. So he washed and dried them. When I saw it I was surprised, and kissed and thanked him for it. Then I discovered that his room was still not cleaned. I was hurt because he hadn't obeyed me. I hadn't asked him to do the dishes, but to clean his room. Immediately I thought of how grieved God is if we don't obey His Word fully, but try to get by on our good works, which usually receive praise here on earth. I know now that one can give all the money, time, or anything you love, but if you don't obey God's commandments, your labor is in vain. Surely it is true as the Scripture says, "A little child shall lead them." If we are grieved when a small child fails to obey us, how much more does God become displeased with us who are at the age of knowledge, understanding, and yet not obeying God fully?

Pray that I will be as established in God as He would have me to be. This time next year I want to be a stronger soldier for God than I am now.

Christian love,

—Sharon Wilson

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Mo.—Dear Saints and readers of "Faith and Victory" paper: Greetings in Jesus' dear name, the One who is all in all to me. Today we are encouraged to press on for Jesus. He means so much to us each day. I am thankful for how He answers prayers and supplies our many needs.

We both have been real sick with the flu the past week. Asa is still not well, but as soon as the saints started praying I received a healing touch. The next day I couldn't tell I had been sick. Praise our God! What a mighty God we serve! I do thank the Lord and all the saints that prayed for me.

We are getting settled in our new home. We thank the Lord for our little home. It seems just right for us. All the saints here are faithful to come to see us. Pray for us.

I had my 75th birthday the 5th and I was treated real well with cards and gifts. I am still able to do my work and to go places.

Asa wants me to tell you that he has had two or three different kinds of afflictions in the last week and needs help. We both need prayer often. We are glad to have Someone to call on in time of need who is able to do all things. I am glad we have our trust in Him. We are encouraged to go all the way with the Lord. . . .

I write many letters to all I can. I am trying to be a help to all who are in trouble. We are living in troublesome times. We surely don't have to look around very much to find plenty to do. The dear Lord knows that I want to do what I can to help others. . . .

We are surely enjoying reading the Bible Lesson for each Sunday.

Let us all keep true and faithful until the Lord comes for us.

—Katie and Asa Gibson

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## Was The Devil Ever in Heaven?

(Part Seven, concluded from last issue)

By O. B. Wilson

2 Peter 2:4

"For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto Judgment;"

This particular text may be a little obscure and its true interpretation a little difficult to establish clearly in the light of all the other passages considered on this subject, even to myself. However, this one thing I know: any given text of Scripture must be interpreted according to the general tenor of the over-all teachings of the Scriptures on that subject. If any interpretation of a Scripture crosses or contradicts other plain texts on that subject, one can rest assured that something is wrong with his interpretation on that Scripture. To conclude that this one Scripture teaches that celestial angels sinned and were cast down to hell, etc. would be to contradict the general tenor of Scripture as evidenced by the discussion of this number of other passages on this subject. Therefore, whether we may clearly understand this particular passage or not and may not be able to fully and clearly explain just what it does mean for sure, we know that it does not mean that.

But I will insert here an excerpt from the writings of C. E. Orr which seems to me to be a reasonable and true interpretation of 2 Peter 2:4, 5, and Jude 6, 7, both of which texts deal with this same thought.

Quote: "2 Peter 2:4, 5, and Jude 6, 7. This has reference to Adam and Eve. They were cast out of Eden, their first estate. . . . Notice that in the last two texts the writers are speaking of great wickedness or sin. Why should Peter start with sin in the eternal heaven and then go next to the wickedness in the days of Noah? Why should he overlook the sin in Eden which plunged the world into sin? We understand that Peter and Jude are talking about wickedness on the earth, and therefore start with the sin in the garden and not sin among holy angels in heaven. The Bible is not a record of what is done in heaven, but what is done in earth. It is said in John 8:44 that the devil was a murderer from the beginning. In John 1:1 we are told that God was in the beginning. The word "beginning" is used here of both God and the devil, and is so used because of our finite minds being unable to grasp the fullness of eternity, but this beginning reaches back into eternity beyond beginning.

"Sin is a principle. Righteousness is a principle. We hold that no holy being could create or generate a sin principle any more than an unholy being could create a righteous principle. For holy angels to sin, a sin principle must have existed and they received it in their nature by faith or in some manner. The devil and angels did not create sin, for God created all that has been created. God did not create sin. He did not create goodness. Goodness is an uncreated and eternal principle. We hold that sin is an uncreated

and eternal principle. If it be a created principle, then God created it, for He alone is Creator. A holy being could not create sin and retain his holiness; therefore God did not create sin. Devils could not create it; therefore sin is uncreated. God saw that His creation was good, but we do not understand that sin was His creation.

"Jesus taught His disciples to say when praying, 'Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.' Now, if angels in heaven sinned, then God's will was not done in heaven and Christ's words would not mean much to us. If holy angels in heaven sinned one time, how can we know that they have not sinned many times? Why could they not sin some future time, and if they can sin, why could not we after we got to heaven? To our mind the only logical conclusion is that sin never entered heaven and never will. No holy being in heaven ever sinned or ever will. Why would God redeem sinning man at such a great cost, and not redeem sinning angels?"

—O. B. Wilson

(This concludes the series of articles by Bro. O. B. Wilson on the subject, "Was The Devil Ever in Heaven?", all of which will be combined and printed in a 32-page booklet. Available at this office about March 20, this booklet is priced at 15c each, or ten copies for \$1.00, post-paid. Order a quantity and pass out to your friends.)

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## The Fashion Habit

There is a fashion habit—perhaps "craze" is a better word. While we are praying for the wearing apparel of our times to be remodeled to His pattern, there is a deliberate program on the part of the powers of evil to force upon us fashions having dangerous elements. Their campaign was launched under the plea of "health," but behind it is a subtle conspiracy of unclean spirits to INVADE THE SENSES, steal away moral control, and eventually plunge the race into moral ruin. Here we have an echo of the express warnings of the Spirit of God concerning the "last days." Paul by inspiration foretold that men would have "their conscience seared" (1 Tim. 4:1, 2) and that "silly women" would be "led away with divers lusts." (2 Tim. 3:6). So it needs to be seen that the fashion world can become a virulent channel through which this terrible scheme can work.

God has anticipated that there would be peril in a woman's dressing immodestly; consequently, He has commanded that women are to adorn themselves with modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety (lit. "in seemly guise, with modesty and discreetness) which becometh women professing godliness." (1 Tim. 2:9, 10). Modesty and discreetness can be violated in a number of ways. Color, style, length, cost, and motive are all involved. Even when dresses were long and necks high there was immodesty, but today the swing of the pendulum has opened a large door for the devil to enter. Do not women realize that there

are modes which can fan the passions of men into a flame?

Many fine women err in dress entirely through ignorance. They have no desire to look young or to attract men and when cautioned on these matters say, "We had no idea that men were influenced by such things." I hope that what is said here may be some guide to those who honestly desire to dress in a manner well-pleasing to God.

The assault is from all quarters. The majority of the profusely illustrated magazines seem to give precedence and prominence to photographs of scantily dressed women, and the bathing season is a camera harvest for "lust of the eyes." Advertising, whether in newspapers, circulars, or billboards, plays up the sex appeal—anything to attract the eyes—and nothing more easily does it. Some theater managers have admitted that many of the dresses used on the stage are deliberately designed to attract the men. Add to all of this the fact that most modern secular fiction is directed to "setting on fire the course of nature" and you see that all around us blazes a FURNACE OF PASSION, which God declared to be "set on fire of hell" (James 3:6).

True, no matter how women dress, and no matter what conditions prevail, men must encase themselves in Christ in order to triumph. Thank God, they can do this, but you women have a responsibility. By sobriety and wisdom in dress you can do a great deal to stem the tide of "the flesh" (Rom. 13:14), which is always trying to corrupt the church. A few inches added to the length of a dress, or a change of color, may make the difference between modesty and immodesty. Make your clothing a matter of prayer. To neglect prayer here is to weaken your stand with God in the fight and impoverish the value of your witness to Christ and a holy life.

We all, in a measure, conform to custom and fashion, but we must not become slaves to them. What kind of moral judgment is it that has to wait for the prevailing fashion to dictate what is right or wrong? You can be sure that when fashion has worn threadbare one wile, the devil has another ready to launch. If morality exists among certain unclothed races, it is because divine restraint prevails alongside ignorance (Gen. 20:6). We do well to remember our responsibility to weaker brethren (Rom. 15:1-3).

The "cropped hair" question is equally important before God. What He has ordained is right and best, and it is clear from 1 Cor. 11:14, 15 that a woman's hair should be long, while a man's hair should be short.

—F. J. Perryman

If you do not want to go to the devil's place, be careful to give no place to the devil. —C. E. Orr

If you find a blue or pink envelope with this paper, the trial subscription, paid for by your friend, has expired! Please fill in the spaces now on this handy remittance envelope, enclose \$1.00, stamp and mail, and you will receive this monthly gospel paper for three years. One year for 35c.

## "A FRIEND THAT STICKETH CLOSER THAN A BROTHER"

"If we would have a friend, we must shew ourselves friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Prov. 18:24. Our friendship with Jesus is most important. "Other friends may bless and comfort, speak a kind and cheering word, but the balm to heal the heartache, only Jesus can afford."

I have passed through the darkest valley life has ever held for me in the loss of our dear boy [in Navy in Hawaii on Sept. 17, 1969]. The shadows of death that hung over our life, the cruel grave that claimed our precious one are stark realities that bring tears that only the heart can cry. I am humbly grateful for every friend and kind neighbor that tried to comfort and help, but we had to have something that the human is not able to impart. We are sure our minds would not have held steady had we not had a real contact with this Friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Such comfort, as I can hardly believe, our Friend has given as we have gone again and again and cried out for something else to steady our soul in this awful sorrow. It pays to serve Jesus. It pays every day, but there are times like these when the benefits are without price. Truly the Lord is the strength of my life.

I could not begin to tell all the ways the Lord has brought a healing balm to our hearts, but I wish to relate one instance. Our boy often called us by phone whether he was near or far away. And as his twenty-second birthday approached our hearts ached as there would be no phone call that day. There would not be the cheerful voice on the other end of the line to greet me, but my Friend to whom I have clung all down through the years saw the pain in my heart. A friend seeks out ways to please us and encourage us, and Jesus never fails. I was braced for the day, thinking I would be glad when it was past, but before I awakened that morning my Friend Jesus caused me to see or dream about my darling boy. He talked with me in such peaceful surroundings. It seemed nothing could hurt or destroy where he was dwelling. He told me of the wonderful things that he had, and some of them I saw. He said, "Mother, I have a dozen new pairs of jeans." (These were his favorite clothes and surely a dozen pair we were never able to afford.) He had a pink linen packet that contained papers that he urged me to be sure I had. I felt these were papers to permit one to enter the heavenly world. As I watched him in this place that seemed to be perfect, I could hear him singing so happily that I awakened with great rejoicing in my soul. I could not be sorrowful that day but I only rejoiced at what I had seen and heard—to see him in his active life and to hear his beautiful voice. Jesus never has failed me yet and I never expect Him to.

As the true husband seeks out ways to bring joys to his wife so the Bridegroom of God's church never will let one of His chosen bride down nor allow more sorrow than he can bear. If I had any thought, it would be, "Young mothers, cultivate a friendship with Jesus as you bring up your family. Choose Him above all earthly friends because you will need Him perhaps sooner than you think. Stay close enough that He can hear your faintest call."

For every card, word of encouragement, the flowers, food, and all your kindness and especially the prayers of the saints we were most grateful.

Christian love,

—Dorothy Burditt