

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Season's Greetings



It's the old, old story, but wondrous still
That tells of the Saviour's birth,
When the heavenly host, while praising God,
Brought tidings of joy to a sin-cursed earth.

The same tender scene, yet ever new,
Of prophecy fulfilled,
Of a virgin placing her holy babe
In a manger as God had willed.

It's the story of man and his restless search
For peace and contentment of soul,
And the gentle Saviour who shed His blood
To make the sinner whole.

It's peace with God, that blessed peace,
That Christ alone can bring,
That satisfies the longing soul
And causes grateful hearts to sing.

It's a greeting warm, a wish sincere,
That comes your way today,
That this same peace, this glorious peace,
May keep your heart and mind away.

—Selected

We Have Seen His Star



"Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him." Matt. 2:2. What great effort the wise men had put forth to find the Christ! They had traveled many miles and were anxiously inquiring for the King of the Jews that had been born. "Where is he? . . . We are come to worship Him." Oh, that souls today would seek for the Saviour with a purpose in their hearts to worship Him! Surely all praise and honor are due our precious Lord and Saviour.

"We have seen his star." No doubt they had read the Holy Scriptures, as it says in Num. 24:17, "There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a Scepter

shall rise out of Israel." When this unusual star appeared, they knew that the King had been born. How wonderful and marvelous is the perfect timing that we find in God's Word concerning Jesus' coming as a Babe to this world! As the wise men traveled on from Jerusalem, seeking the Saviour, they rejoiced when they saw the star over the place where Jesus was. There they fell down and worshipped Him and gave Him many gifts.

God's timing, as told to the prophet Daniel over 400 years before, came to pass. In Dan. 9:24-27 we read where the date of the Messiah's birth was fixed through prophecy. Seventy prophetic weeks (Lev. 25:8) are four hundred and ninety years. The re-establishment of the government through divine authority by the priests began thirteen years before the rebuilding of Jerusalem, 457 B. C. This number subtracted from 490 years will give 33 years, to be reckoned from the commencement of the Christian era. Thus, the Messiah was to be cut off in the middle of the last week. Jesus exercised Himself in public ministry for three and one-half years before He was crucified as a sacrifice "to make an end of sins," through offering His innocent blood on the cross for you and me. Thus, Jesus came at the appointed time. The star appeared in the sky as ordered by God; also the heavenly host shouted the praises of God and appeared unto the shepherds on the hillside, announcing the birth of Jesus.

We rejoice with the Apostle Peter who knew that the "day star" had arisen in his heart. On the holy mount he was a witness and heard, out of heaven, the voice of God which said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." But Peter said, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19. The darkness in our hearts made by sin was blotted out by the brightness of that Star of perfect light shining into our hearts.

We rejoice today with the wise men because we realize the presence of the Saviour's great love and have experienced the forgiveness of our sins through

the Messiah whom they were seeking. We have had our eyes and minds opened which the "god of this world" had blinded. The "glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God," shined into our hearts. (2 Cor. 4:3, 4) As we believed, our souls were washed in the blood of Jesus and we were made children of God through being "born again" and becoming a "new creature in Christ Jesus." I am so glad that I saw that Star of hope and I sought for the Saviour as did the wise men. We have to put forth an effort to find Jesus. Be assured that you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart.

This "Day Star" is brighter than the sunshine. We must walk humbly before the Lord and let that Star lead us. Its light will shine upon our pathway, and even if it is rough at times, we can know the way which leads us to the portals of glory. Be encouraged to follow on, as Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. —Sis. A. Marie Miles

Love Is of God

God is love. 1 John 4:7-12, "Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God; and everyone that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God, for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." OUGHT means duty bound, so then we are duty bound to love one another. "No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us."

1 John 4:16-20, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"

St. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Whosoever means you or me or anyone else. Whosoever will, let him come and take of the water of life freely. It is really wonderful how the Lord loves mankind, how He created man in His image, in His own likeness, and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and man became a living soul.

1 John 3:1, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Hereby, perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

1 John 5:1-4, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

Isaiah 1:18-20, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord; though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Then Jesus said in Matt. 11:28-30, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me: for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Jesus also said in St. John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." Jesus, speaking again in St. John 14, said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

St. John 15:10-13, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Gal. 5:13, 14, "For brethren, ye have been called unto liberty: only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." Eph. 5:1, 2, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savor." Eph. 5:25-33, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it by the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought [duty bound] men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For

no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery; but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

A lawyer once asked Jesus a question tempting Him (Matt. 22:36-40), "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

St. John 13:34, 35, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." Rom. 13:10, "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law."

Micah 6:8, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." 2 Cor. 13:11, "Finally, brethren, farewell, be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Therefore, let us fear God, and keep His commandments, and love one another, for this is the whole duty of man.

—Mrs. C. D. Dilley

Fornication, Adultery, and Marriage

Are fornication and adultery the same? In Gal. 5:19 fornication and adultery are listed separately as fruits of the flesh. Webster's dictionary says that fornication is committed by single persons while adultery is committed by married persons.

In Matt. 19:9, Jesus said: "And I say unto you, whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery."

Let us go back to the laws of marriage under the Mosaic law dispensation. When a man desired a wife, she was selected by his relatives or some friend and not by the bridegroom. The selecting of the bride was followed by the espousal which lasted one year for virgins. This was a formal proceeding confirmed by oath by a legal representative on the part of the bridegroom and by the parents on the part of the bride. She was now virtually regarded as the wife of her future husband. If she proved unfaithful during the time of espousal, the husband had the option of putting her away. [For reference, see Smith's Bible Dictionary, page 383.] Joseph and Mary are

an example. She was espoused to Joseph. He found she was with child, and thinking she had been unfaithful, he was prompted to put her away. An angel appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Then Joseph "did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife." At that time the woman was called a wife during the espousal or before the marriage. Today she is not called a wife until after marriage. In Joseph's case, if this had been an ordinary espousal and she had been unfaithful, he could have put her away for fornication and married another, if he so desired, according to Matt. 19:9. Fornication can only be committed before marriage or during espousal. 1 Cor. 7:2, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife and let every woman have her own husband."

After marriage, Jesus gave no grounds to put husband or wife away. Matt. 19:6, "Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." "Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives, but from the beginning it was not so." Matt. 19:8.

Mark 10:11, 12, "And he said unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

Luke 16:18, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery."

1 Cor. 7:39, "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will will; only in the Lord."

1 Cor. 7:10, 11, "Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." They can only be put away for fornication and that is committed before marriage or during espousal, as in Matt. 19:9.

Many are entangled with divorce and remarriage today, but according to God's word it is the sin of adultery. Gal. 5:25, "They that do such things [adultery] shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Acts 17:30, "And the time of this ignorance God winked at, but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." False ministers have failed to warn people against such things and even helped by performing the ceremony for divorced couples. There is a way out—only by God's help and a deep desire to obey God and live for Him. May God help every honest soul to see the truth and obey it. —Olive Keene

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EDITORIALS

THE SEASON'S WARMEST GREETINGS are extended to all our readers in the name of the Holy Christ Child, the promised Messiah, whose advent to this world nearly twenty centuries ago made a gracious provision for the salvation of every soul, for He "tasted death for every man." Jesus Christ is still the only hope of salvation for this world of mankind, and let men and angels fall prostrate at His feet in praise and adoration. Thanks be unto God for His "unspeakable Gift"!

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As this last issue for the year of 1970 goes to press, we are thankful to the Lord and our faithful readers for the hundreds of new names already received through the special subscription offer, to whom we will be mailing this gospel paper for the first three months of the year of 1971. By the time you receive this December copy you may have a few days remaining before the expiration date of this special offer on Dec. 8 to send in more names—10 for \$1.00. With your special effort at this time we anticipate having several thousand new readers beginning with the January issue. **PLEASE** rush in all the names possible by December 8, and the Lord will bless you for your sincere concern in spreading the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and reigning King of kings and Lord of lords.

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

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

"For unto us a Child is born . . ."

More than 700 years before Jesus was born, the gospel prophet, Isaiah, looked down through the annals of time and prophesied: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: . . . Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isa. 9:6, 7. Jesus was born King of the Jews, and the true spiritual Jew is, as the Apostle Paul states, one inwardly and not one outwardly in the flesh. Believers are all the children of Abraham by faith.

Many theologians erroneously teach that Christ's kingdom is in postponement, that He did not set it up at His first advent. Note how Jesus answered Pilate's question: "Art thou a king then?" Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice." John 18:37. Pilate must have been convinced that He was the King, for when Jesus was crucified, Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. "And the writing was,

Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." John 19:19. The multitudes have mis-interpreted the nature of Christ's kingdom. Note what Jesus said to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world." John 18:36. His kingdom is not a literal, earthly government of a transitory nature. If it is not of this world, then it must be spiritual in nature—a divine kingdom of righteousness, embracing time and eternity. Judaism, the false theory that the Messiah would drive out the Romans and restore the literal kingdom to Israel, caused the Jews in general to reject Christ at His first advent. That same spirit of Judaism is still blinding the masses to the spiritual nature of Christ's kingdom, and they are looking in the future for Christ to set up a literal earthly kingdom during a fancied millennium. Jesus came to set up a kingdom of love and truth in the hearts of men, making them fit subjects for the eternal world. The angel told Joseph, "... thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21. Jesus did not come to save His people from the Romans, their literal enemy. That was not in God's divine plan, for man's greatest enemy was sin and Satan, and Christ came to destroy the works of the devil in the heart of man and restore to him the kingdom of peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. It was by the means of Jesus' death and resurrection, that He arose a conqueror over sin, Satan, death, hell and the grave, and from that time He began His reign symbolically on the throne of David—a kingdom that is established from henceforth even for ever. Thank God for the kingdom that we possess right here when He saves from all sin, and will last while the ages shall roll!

Bro. Pat Huskey, pastor at Orland, Calif., informs us that Bro. Mart Samons, evangelist from Kentucky, is expected to start a meeting at Orland on November 17.

Word has been received of the passing of Bro. Guy Keeler at Nowata, Okla., on Nov. 2. May the Lord comfort the relatives and saints in their loss.

Bro. Ira Stover of Tulsa, Okla., began a revival meeting at Anthony, Kansas, on Nov. 6, and the services will continue through Nov. 15.

All-day services will be held on Sunday, Nov. 29, at Springfield, Mo., where Bro. Leslie Busbee is pastor, and on the preceding Saturday evening a gospel singing will be held there. You are cordially invited to attend all these services.

Recent good news from Bro. Wayne Turner is that the Governor of Louisiana has signed his pardon. Now he is working at Baton Rouge, La., and looking forward to attending the Assembly Meeting at Hammond, La., which will be held during Thanksgiving week. He writes: "It is a thrill to be able to write you from outside of prison walls, and I certainly do praise God for His goodness and mercy to me.

Only He could have opened the prison doors, and all glory is His alone! . . . Each day is a miracle of the Lord, and I am content to live one day at a time. Please continue to pray for me that I will be able to meet all the adjustments as unto the Lord."

Bro. Wayne Turner was marvelously converted in jail at Amite, La., after he had committed murder on Oct. 7, 1960, at the age of 27. Sentenced to the electric chair, he was in "death row" for some time, and later the sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. Now after the elapse of ten years in custody, he has been pardoned and released. Our prayer is that the remainder of his life will be dedicated to the service of the Lord, and that from personal experience he will be able to convince the youth of our day that crime does not pay.

Bro. and Sister Sam Abbott of Dayton, Ohio, held a ten-day revival meeting at Enid, Okla., which closed Sunday, Nov. 8. A number of souls found help at the altar of prayer.

Sister Velma Smith of California is now (Nov. 12) holding a meeting at Green Pastures, Okla. All-day services are scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 15.

The 512-page songbook, "Evening Light Songs," is now being reprinted to meet the increased demand for this excellent hymnal which contains the cream of the Church of God Reformation songs. Produced in shaped notes only and cloth bound, this hymnal is reasonably priced at \$2.00 each, postpaid. In large quantities the price is \$1.80 per book, plus the postage.

Bro. Kenneth Probst held a very profitable meeting (Nov. 1 to 7) at Sapulpa, Okla., where Bro. Richard Madden is pastor.

Happy birthday greetings to Bro. and Sis. Harry Jackson, Sr., of Hammond, La.! Bro. Jackson observed his 90th birthday on Nov. 14 and his wife, Emma, will be 88 years of age on Dec. 10. Neither one is well, but they are usually able to attend the services in Hammond. Just last Sept. 26, 1970, their 69th wedding anniversary was celebrated. God has granted them a long life together, and we pray that His comforting presence will abide with them the rest of the way to the Glory world.

Several pounds of books, tracts and papers were mailed to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., for distribution at a revival meeting which closed there on Nov. 18. These "white-winged" gospel messengers are going to places over the globe where an individual may never be able to witness. Hearing and believing the gospel of Christ is the only hope of salvation for mankind, and time is running out! Let us resolve by the grace of God to be at our best in His service—ready to go or ready to stay.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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

STEREO RECORD OF GOSPEL SONGS

The congregation of the Church of God at Tulsa, Okla., desires to enlarge their chapel at that location. Therefore, the singers of Tulsa have made a stereo record of thirteen gospel songs, six on one side and seven on the other, and are offering this record of favorite songs for the price of \$4.00 each, postpaid. All of the proceeds will go into the work of the Lord to make an addition to their chapel. Your aid in this project by purchasing a record will certainly be appreciated.

Send your order with remittance to Faith Pub. House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, or to Bro. M. D. Gaines, 2932 N. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, Okla. 74110.

OBITUARIES



Sister Elsie Fry Connelly was born on September 17, 1878, in Michigan, and departed this life at Cushing, Okla., on Oct. 20, 1970, at the age of 92 years.

Sister Connelly came to Cushing, Okla., in 1894, and had lived there since that time. In her younger life she taught school in several rural communities in that area.

In 1906 she was married to D. L. Connelly at Cushing, Okla. He preceded her in death in 1931.

Relatives who survive are a sister, Mrs. Myra Hibbard, of Cushing, Okla., besides several nieces and nephews and other relatives.

The funeral service was held in the Memorial Chapel of the Davis Funeral Home and interment was in the New Zion Cemetery, Cushing, beside the grave of her late husband.

(Editor's Note: Sister Connelly is the author of the excellent booklet, "The Great Abomination, or, How Do I Look?" which has been kept in stock at this office for more than thirty years. The Biblical treatise addressed especially to Christian women on the subject of dress is still of universal interest and importance. Every soul who desires a more perfect submission to God's will would do well to read and re-read this Scriptural treatise.)

Minnie M. McPherson was born July 31, 1879, at Woodburn, Washington, and departed this life at Lebanon, Oregon, on September 29, 1970.

In 1900 she was married to Peter H. Kliever and to this union two children were born. Her husband preceded her in death in 1918.

In December, 1928, she was married to William C. McPherson. He died in 1966.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Lillian Strubhar of Pleasant Valley, Oregon, and a son, Vearl Kliever of Grants Pass, Oregon; eight grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Sister McPherson was a member of the Church of God and attended services in Jefferson, Oregon.

Funeral services were held in Sweet Home, Ore., and burial was in Washougal, Wash., with Warren Vasey and Charles Elwell officiating.

Ella D. Linfoot was born Aug. 27, 1885, at Ft. Smith, Ark., and died Oct. 27, 1970, at Wichita, Kansas, at the age of 85 years.

On Sept. 16, 1903, she was married to Oscar B. Linfoot who preceded her in death in 1925.

The survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Beulah Baker of Wichita, Kansas, and Mrs. Doris Goeken of Rose Hill, Kansas; one son, W. T. Linfoot, Los Angeles,

Calif.; one sister, Mrs. Lillie Tuie of Newport, Ark.; nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Sister Linfoot had lived in Cherokee, Okla., for many years, and had attended the annual State meetings of the Church of God at Guthrie, Okla.

The funeral services were conducted by Elder J. A. Newby at Dacoma, Okla., and interment was in the Garrison Cemetery.

HAMMOND, LA., ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual autumn Assembly Meeting of the Church of God at Hammond, La., on the General Southern campground will be held during Thanksgiving week—Nov. 22 to 29, 1970, inclusive.

For further information, write or call Bro. Max Williamson, P. O. Box 1084, Hammond, La. 70401. Phone Area code 504—354-4566.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will be held on the saints' campground located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, California, beginning December 25, and continuing through January 3, 1971, Lord willing.

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

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

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

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

We hope to see you at the Assembly Meeting.

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

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 64th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., on Dec. 25 to Jan. 3, 1971, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

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

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

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

—Lawrence Pruitt

MEETING TO BE HELD AT SENATH, MO.

A meeting will be held at Senath, Mo., from Dec. 2 through Dec. 6, with all-day meeting on the 6th. Bro. and Sis. Ira Stover are planning to be with us. We welcome all who can come and be with us in these services. Pray for the success of the meeting. For further information, contact Bro. Murphy Allen, Rt. 1, Box 161, Senath, Mo. 63876. Phone 738-2551.

ALL-DAY SERVICES AT BOLEY, OKLA.

We greet the dear saints and friends in the precious name of our dear Lord, praising Him for His great love to all mankind.

Lord willing, there will be all-day services at Boley, Okla., on the first Sunday of each month beginning December 6, 1970. We extend a warm welcome to everyone to attend these services.

We are in the process of improving the campground at Boley. We have added fixtures to the restrooms, showers, etc. We also plan to repair the chapel and purchase canvas curtains for the pavilion. We desire your prayers that the Lord will supply means for the work to be done.

For further information, contact Sister Katherine Williams, 905 N. E. 15th St., Okla. City, Okla. 73104. Phone CE 5-2270.

BETTER CAR FOR EVANGELIST

Information has been relayed to us that the saints have taken a step by faith toward purchasing a 1970 Pontiac Station Wagon, which is slightly used, for Bro. Curtis Williams, whose present car is not in good condition. Financial arrangements are pending and after the initial down payment, monthly payments will be made. Bro. Williams is a worthy traveling evangelist, and needs a dependable car in the gospel work. Those who want to help him spread the good news of salvation should send their free-will offering directly to Campground Church of God, c/o Randall Flynn, 310 Old Covington Highway, Hammond, La. 70401.

REPORT FROM THE FIELD

Dear Co-Workers, Saints, and Friends: Greetings of divine love in Jesus' name. Much time has gone into eternity since we last wrote, and multitudes of souls as well. God has blessed us to yet be here and doing what little we can for Him who gave His all for us.

This past summer has been the busiest one ever for us. God's work is precious and His service is our sweetest delight. Early in May we visited some saints in Neosho, Missouri, and were in Anthony, Kansas, that night for the first service of a ten-day meeting there. It was precious to meet the saints in that place and those who came from other congregations. We remained through the last service. We feel that much lasting good was done. Praise the Lord!

The latter part of May we went to South Carolina several days prior to the campmeeting at the White Oak campground, near Holly Hill. It was precious to meet

the dear ones again and see all working together preparing for the meeting. Saints and others came from far and near—largest attendance ever. God provided and all who came were cared for. The fellowship was sweet. Some were saved, others sought and found help at the altar, and some were healed. Thank the Lord!

We came home a few days and felt led to attend the Hammond, Louisiana, campmeeting which was precious from the first to the last. Saints were burdened and praying for a real "breaking through" and souls to be saved. After the day of fasting and prayer, God gloriously manifested His power, and the answer came. The last Saturday morning, when it was "time for the Word," no minister moved (seven were there). When silence seemed to lengthen, a Sister came forward and began to sing. Before she had finished, one soul was weeping at the altar. The Sister who sang the song sat down and the congregation rose to sing invitation hymns. More came—many were weeping and rejoicing. The altar was filled again and again as souls continued to seek God. When the altar was finally cleared, it was 12:15 P. M. A minister arose, and among other things said, "Now we see what happens when God has His way. No doubt every minister had a message, but the Holy Ghost worked, and we surely thank and praise God for it."

We had a safe trip home and went to Akron, Ohio, for the first Sunday of that campmeeting. We were thankful we could be there. It was precious indeed to meet with the people of God. The messages were timely and well anointed, with a large attendance. Also, in July a tent meeting was in progress at West Union, Ohio. We went two or three times. This was a new field and we feel the truth planted in that place will yet bear fruit for God. One precious soul sought and found the Lord. There was rejoicing in the camp. We had the privilege to attend one service of the tent meeting in Kentucky.

We are grateful the Lord permitted us to attend the National campmeeting at Monark Springs (Neosho), Missouri. It was wonderful to be on those grounds again and meet God's dear people who came from far and near. The unity and fellowship was sweet. The ministers preached soul-stirring messages. The Holy Ghost convicted souls of sin and of their need of God. Many sought and found help at the altar. A large number of young people were saved. One evening during the service, Bro. Abbott was suddenly stricken with a painful heart attack. It looked for awhile like God was going to take him, but the ministers and saints held on to God and in a little while the Lord answered prayer and sent relief. Praise the Lord! We can never praise Him enough for His healing power and for His dear people. Husband was very weak in body for several days, but the Lord blessed us with a safe trip to the Myrtle, Mo., meeting.

While on that campground it was learned that our car was much in need of repair. We had traveled several thousand miles this summer, which, when the brethren knew, they took the car, had it repaired, and took care of everything. Again, let us "praise God for His people." It was like "old times" to be at Myrtle again. There was as large or even larger attendance this year, and many saved young people. Several remarked about the unity and sweet fellowship that prevailed in the meeting. . . . God gave Husband added strength, and he drove all the way home (with the house trailer) and had no trouble at all. What a mighty God we love and serve!

During the next two weeks we visited a sick Brother and isolated saints in Union City, Indiana. We attended one service at Columbus, Ohio. Saints have an open door there and have had one service each month for several

months. We are now beginning to see some fruit from these labors.

The Lord burdened our hearts to go to South Carolina again and see how the brethren fared. Some had hoped to attend the Monark and Myrtle, Mo., meetings, but none did. On September 1, we went. Some in each congregation were ill. (The Ridgeville chapel is thirty miles from Holly Hill.) We visited and prayed for several different ones. God blessed and all were able to attend the services. We had a few services at Holly Hill, but it was thought best to have a ten-day revival at Ridgeville. We felt the Lord leading that way, and after some visiting and praying for the sick was done, the meeting got under way. There was good attendance and attention given the Word every night. It was indeed a revival, and from the many testimonies during the last service, we feel that God had His way and the saints were revived. To God be the glory!

A few days after coming home, I was stricken with a painful attack of a nervous disorder called "shingles." One brought a book which treated of various afflictions, and of "shingles" it said, "a virus which attacks the sciatic or sensory nerves." Naturally we sought the Lord for healing as at previous times over these thirty-four years. God did not heal immediately, but allowed us to "suffer awhile," testing our faith and consecration. Saints came often and prayed, and each time God gave temporary relief, but the illness lingered thirteen days and nights. We found it a heart-searching time, learned many precious lessons, and found God true to His every promise and when our faith anchored securely and unshaken on God's Word, He instantly healed every ache and pain! What a mighty God we love and serve! We truly appreciate all who sent encouraging cards, letters, tokens of love, also the phone calls, but most of all we are thankful for your fervent prayers. May the Lord bless each one.

While recuperating from the effect of this affliction, I suffered a hard fall down two concrete steps onto a concrete walk. God was with us, protected us, and no bones were broken. Soreness lingered a few days. God had burdened our hearts for several months about a meeting at Enid, Okla. Feeling the time had come, we started October 26. Three days later we arrived in Guthrie. God blessed in the night service. How precious to meet the dear ones again! We visited the Lord's Print Shop, saw the dear consecrated workers giving their time, talent, yea, and their very lives also, to God's service in getting the printed gospel to a lost world. We should all unite our prayers and means in this great work. We are workers together with God.

We are now at Enid, Okla., and thankful to be here with this congregation for the first time. The fellowship is sweet, and attendance is good, with several coming from other places. God is blessing His Word and hearts to receive it. We desire your prayers that we may continue faithful, doing what little we can for souls till He calls us from labor to reward.

Yours and His unworthy servants,

—Bro. Sam and Sister Armilda Abbott
Home address: 3210 Mesmer Ave., Dayton, Ohio 45410

Texas—Greetings to all the saints in Jesus' name: How I do enjoy "Faith and Victory" paper! It is food to my soul to read so many good testimonies about the life they live. Yes, I am one of those who lives this life of a saint. Keep the good work going. I desire your prayers.

A Sister in Christ Jesus,

—F. B. Lawson

Prayer Requests

Mo.—"Remember ———. He is down to 80 pounds and is just living on dope. Pray God to take away the filthy books he reads and help him to give his heart to God." —Name Withheld.

Calif.—"I request prayer for my mother, Sister Alta Emery, who lives in Whittier, Calif. She had the flu and is left weak in body. She is 73 years old. She is saved and loves the Lord." —Sister Eleanor Fingerle.

Tex.—"I had a doctor examine me and she said I had all the symptoms of cancer. . . . I am putting my trust in the Lord . . . I will not take medicine. God can perform miracles on me as He has done before. . . ." —Sister Ruby Lott.

Mo.—"Sister Marie, God did hear your prayers, and when I went to ——— the doctor couldn't find any cancer. God had healed me. Four ladies accepted the Lord. I passed out tracts. My mother is here at present. Will all God's people pray for her eye? She just has one and she does enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper and her Bible. Please pray for all my children . . . Pray for my grandson who has heart trouble and can't run and play as other children do." —Fern Elliott.

La.—Remember dear Mother Benjamin in prayer. She is up in years and has afflictions.

Canada—Bro. Daniel Krebs desires an earnest agreement of prayer for his healing of cancer.

Texas—Mrs. Floyd Doak has an urgent request for prayer for a problem, and also writes: "Please pray for my son and his wife to be saved."

Virginia—Pray for Sister Gladys Weiss who has been ill for a month and desires a healing touch.

La.—Pray for the healing of the following saints: Bro. Davis of Covington, Bro. Dallas Flynn and Sister G. A. Nichols of Loranger, Bro. Pinkerton, Bro. Miller, and Bro. and Sis. Harry Jackson of Hammond.

Calif.—Pray for Sister Zinn who is very low in the Sunset Guest Home at Pacoima.

"Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." Psa. 103:3. Don't we worship and serve a wonderful God? He has all power in heaven and earth. Not only does He forgive ALL our sins, but He also heals ALL our afflictions. As long as we live in the flesh we will have afflictions, but thank God, He knows all about it and has provided a way whereby we might be healed.

This month (November) three years ago I knelt one afternoon beside the bed of dear Sister Lillian Meek and prayed for her. She had had a stroke and her face was drawn to one side. One of her arms was affected and we could not understand what she was saying, but she tried to talk. As I prayed, it seemed that the Lord made me know that He was going to heal her and put her going again. At that time I told her how I felt. Many prayers went up to the throne of God for her. God healed her and caused her to be normal again. Within a few months she was about her duties again. Through the time of her convalescence, again and again I told her that I felt she would be all right. Today we again are thanking the Lord for what He did for her. She mentioned it the other day, and as we prayed for someone else in an agreement, she thanked the Lord for what He had done for her. Dear ones, if you are fighting the good fight of faith in an affliction, be encouraged. God will verify His promises in your behalf. —Sister Marie Miles

MEXICO MISSION REPORTS

Ojos Negros, Mexico (Nov. 3)—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of much love in Jesus' precious name: He has been very good to me. I am happy to be back in Mexico according to the Lord's will. Praise His holy name forever! I want to serve Him.

After campmeeting in Pacoima, Calif., I came to Mexico and worked with the Huskey family in La Mision. They are a busy family, having three Mexican boys they are helping, besides their five children. They have services in their home each day, then in a little chapel on Sundays, also in some ranch homes. We visited in a number of these homes at different times. We all went out to some of the ranches and helped gather fruit and vegetables, and taught them how to can. The boys were much help.

One night Charlotte Huskey and I were called to pray for a very sick lady. When we arrived, she was sitting on her bed in so much pain that she could not talk. We prayed for some time for her. Then all at once she fell off the bed on her knees with her hands reaching up, and with many tears said over and over, "Gracias a Dios," meaning "Praises to God." For some time she cried and praised God. Then she told us that all the pain had gone and that the Lord had blessed her wonderfully. We praised God, too, for His wonderful blessings.

Then about three nights later a little girl came running to call Charlotte and me to pray for her sick mother. The sick lady was standing up, turning from one side to the other, screaming with pain. The atmosphere seemed heavy and hard to pray in, but we kept praying for quite some time. Then finally the lady sat down and stopped screaming, which was such a relief to us. She sat quietly, not saying anything. I told her to give thanks to God. Then she said quietly, "Gracias a Dios." She told us that she was dying, but God saved and healed her. We surely give thanks to our wonderful God for His love to us.

The Spirit of God is so precious in the brothers who are called to preach here in Mexico. We do appreciate them in the Lord.

I was glad I had the privilege of working with the Huskey family awhile.

I am now working with Sister Opal Kelly in Ojos Negros. We had good services there Sunday after visiting in many homes. This is a new station and needs much prayer for souls to see the light. I do appreciate the Lord leading me to work with Sister Opal. We believe the Lord has souls here we can help. Remember to pray for the work here, please.

Your Sister in Christ, —Carrie Sheppard
P. O. Box 2860, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073.

Ojos Negros, Mexico (Nov. 3)—Dear Sister Marie and all, greetings in Jesus' name: As this leaves our hands, we are encouraged to press on for the Lord.

While we were on vacation in Oklahoma, we were blessed in innumerable ways. God sees our needs before we ask and supplies abundantly.

I am very grateful to Him for each and every precious lesson He taught me, both last year in Mexico and while I was at home. He knows just how each of us needs to be equipped for that which is ahead. Praise His name!

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who had any part in helping me return to Ojos Negros. I especially appreciate all the prayers which have ascended in my behalf. I know there have

been many. God has blessed me with a good prayer warrior and working companion, Sister Carrie Sheppard, for which I am truly grateful. My material needs—a pickup truck with camper shell, wood stove, sewing machine, etc.—have all been supplied, and more abundantly than we could ever imagine. This gives us a greater responsibility, but also through these, we can give more time for the actual contact with souls with the gospel.

The Lord blessed us last Sunday in the first meeting since our return, and as several have visited us we have had many opportunities to testify to the goodness of God, for which we are grateful.

Please, everyone who can reach the throne of grace with your prayers, pray for every worker in all mission fields, also for those to whom we impart the gospel, from the pulpit and through personal contact.

Yours for winning souls in Mexico, —Opal Kelly

(Editor's Note: Sister Kelly also states that she would appreciate it if her personal correspondents would consider this a personal letter to them. Sister Kelly and Sister Sheppard now have a new box number together, and anything bulky should be mailed to them at P. O. Box 2860, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073, but all letters go through well to them at Apartado Postal No. 525, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico, where they may receive mail two or three times a week.)

SOULS SAVED IN INTERIOR MEXICO

Baja, Calif., Mexico (Oct. 23)—Sister Virginia: May the peace of God dwell in your heart, Sister. I have great joy in my soul today. God blessed me greatly in the days I stayed in Michoacan. God was always with us. I believe it was a short time that I was there, but God blessed us very much. It was like a tornado or a whirlwind that only lasts a short time. God was there with us, and He touched the hearts and saved from sin some 14 people, and He delivered two from death. One time it was three o'clock in the morning and we were still busy gaining two souls for Christ. Another time we traveled some 10 miles through the mountains on foot to win four souls. The trip was so hard walking that Sister Julia Rama almost fainted from weariness, but God gave her more strength.

They are accomplishing much in the work of God. They cover a lot of ground walking each day. Pray for them that God give them grace every day, and that He supply all their needs.

Look! I already have a strong desire to make another trip South! Rejoice with me! Greet everyone for me.

—Tomas Mendoza

This is my new box number. P. O. Box 3770, San Ysidro, Calif. 92073.

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Nov. 4)—Dear Bro. Lawrence Pruitt and saints abroad: Greetings again in the precious name of Jesus Christ, "who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen." 2 Tim. 6:15, 16.

Thank you very much for your good letter dated Oct. 13, with the contents. There are intermittent rains here even now which may, perhaps, continue till the end of this month, and a clear, bright atmosphere can

be expected from next month onwards. Yet the gospel work here is flourishing and continuing and not slothful in business. Our Calicut brethren conducted special meetings at two villages around Calicut within the last two weeks. We are engaged in a spiritual warfare for the souls of men. Volunteers are needed to join this warfare. Our weapons are powerful, but they must be used. We must fight, not with bayonets and bombs, but with the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. We have a message which was written and sealed by the blood of Jesus Christ, and we must spread it at all cost.

As you mentioned in your letter, time is so short and it will soon be over, and what we do for souls must be done quickly. Men ought always to pray and not to faint. Yes, we are still praying for our urgent needs—for the expansion of gospel work here. Prayer will not be stopped until the answer comes. We need your prayers and participation in taking the gospel to all villages of India. Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

APPEAL FOR A RESIDENT OR VISITING MISSIONARY TO NIGERIA

Southeast State, Nigeria (Oct. 30)—Dear Brother Lawrence and all believers in the Church of God: Greetings in Christian love and fellowship through Christ, our Lord and Saviour of mankind. On behalf of myself and the entire believers in the Church of God in Nigeria I write you this day appealing solemnly with a broken and a contrite heart to the Church of God, United States of America, to send us immediately, either a resident or a visiting missionary to help direct us so that our beliefs and practices here in Nigeria may truly be in conformity with those of the believers in the United States. Such a visit to Nigerian Church of God Mission in particular will help or enable the foreign missionary to see for himself the situation of things. The visit is indeed a matter of great concern, and should be prayed through both by the saints in America and Nigeria while yet the door is left ajar, for the night soon cometh when no man shall work. The Church in America really has a moral and spiritual duty to give an untiring "mighty push" to young congregations in Nigeria. Therefore there should be no holding back whatever. Our climate should in no wise be a stumbling block to any believer, or be counted an agent of fear, for many American missionaries are here under this same climatic condition. We may be right in principle, but wrong in practice, if we have nobody to direct. Therefore, we need a resident missionary in our midst to help direct the great ship of God's blessed family in Nigeria.

I am grateful, for as I see, there are many open doors to preach the gospel. In spite of the great moral and spiritual decline in this old world today, it appears that we still have more opportunities than ever before to preach the living Word of God—the true "Bread of Life." "So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thanks for ever: we will shew forth thy praise to all generations." Psalm 79:13.

May the good Lord solve this problem is the solemn prayer of your faithful Brother, —J. U. Etuk

Okl.—Dear Christian Workers: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. Trust this finds all well at the Print Shop.

We have had a real good meeting here at Sapulpa, Okla. Bro. Kenneth Probst was here from Nov. 1 to 7, 1970. We were real thankful for the altar work. . . . Christian love, —Ted Bock

From The Mail Box . . .

Minn.—Dear Ones at the Printshop: I enjoy reading your "Faith and Victory" paper very much. It has been a real blessing to read a paper that teaches the whole counsel of God. I am enclosing remittance and some names to send the paper for one year, and renew my own subscription for another year. May the Lord bless your faithful ministry in these last days.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Lydia Berglund

Colo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: This leaves us both well in body and enjoying the blessings of the Lord. He is so good and mindful of us. Praise His name forever! I hope this finds all there well and enjoying the blessings of the Lord.

We rejoiced to have Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Kroker with us for three nights' services on their return from the ministers' meeting at Guthrie.

I am enclosing a small offering for the work there. We do appreciate the "Faith and Victory" and all other literature from there. May God bless each of you is our prayer. Remember us. —The McEndrees, Ed and Addie

S. C.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the saints: I have more desire now to go on to make heaven than ever because I see that according to the Word of God the time cannot be much longer. I want to be ready when the Lord returns for His faithful ones who have stood the test and fought the battle to the end. I am glad we have a home in heaven which is not made with hands. Praise the dear Lord!

Brother Lawrence, I surely do enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. I long to see them come because I know I will get something that will be good for my soul. I once was a stranger and foreigner, but I am now a fellow citizen with the saints and of the household of God. Now I am glad to belong to the one family of God. I left all to follow Jesus, by His help, all the way. I am with you with my prayers. May God bless you and all of the saints at the Print Shop that the work will go on until Jesus comes.

Pray for me.

—Bro. Eddie Driggers

Indiana—Dear Friends in Christ: I received my book I ordered and it was wrapped in part of a paper entitled, "Faith and Victory." I enjoyed reading it. The subscription rates were on this part of the paper, and also the request for names of relatives and friends who would be interested in the paper. I am enclosing \$1.00 for a year's subscription to the paper. All over that price, you may use for free tracts. Please send me the envelope with the space for ten names.

May God bless you as you continue to spread the good Word.

Your Friend in Him,

—Sue Morrison

Ohio—Dear Saints of God: I think you are doing a wonderful work and am so thankful there are some who are trying to spread the gospel the way it should be, the Bible way.

We have been in the church about forty-two years. We believe the Word of God and feel that Christ is the answer to all our trouble if men would only turn to the Word of God. There has been so much compromise that sometimes we wonder just how far people will go. There will come a time when famine will strike, not for bread, but for the Word of God, which is Jesus. We have heard

Bro. Riggle, Bro. Byrum, F. G. Smith, the Howard Brothers, and a lot of the saints who told the story of Christ the way it should be. I think of the 107th Psalm, "Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness . . . to the children of men!"

May God's blessings be upon you. We are 78 and 76 years of age, and still working for the Lord. We have been married 59 years and love the Lord. Pray for us that we may remain useful and be ready to meet Him when He comes.

Yours in Christ, —Earl and Marie Truman

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

Miss.—Enclosed you will find one dollar for the ten names to receive your "Faith and Victory" paper for three months, beginning with January, 1971. I get much courage and inspiration reading the paper, and I do truly appreciate you who edit and publish it. I am a firm believer in the true Church of God, and I believe you are standing on the Bible. May God supply your every need to carry on until He says it is enough.

Your friend in His service, —Mrs. Olen Williamson

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

Calif.—I enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper. I also enjoy playing the old hymns on my organ written by Barney Warren and C. E. Hunter. Mr. and Mrs. Hunter used to visit us many times at our home in New Bethlehem, Pa. I was young then. My folks were Mr. and Mrs. James Anthony. When we children were small, Mother used to take us to campmeeting every fall at Emlenton, Pa. I heard Barney Warren preach many times, also John L. Williams, Isaiah McCoy, and H. M. Riggle who lived near us.

I have my Grandmother Anthony's hymn book, printed in 1897 by the Gospel Trumpet Co, "Songs of The Evening Light" and "Salvation Echoes," purchased in 1901. In the front of this hymn book she had placed a copy of a song, "My Lord and I," that had been sung 300 years before. I am sending you a copy of it. The words are lovely. I am now nearing 73 years of age and when one is brought up in this way, it remains with us all our lives. Enclosed is \$5.00 to be used as you wish.

—Mrs. James N. Moyer

"MY LORD AND I"

(Sung under the rocks and in the caves of France during the fierce persecution of the Huguenots, 300 years ago.)

I have a Friend so precious,
So very dear to me
He loves me with such tender love,
He loves so faithfully.
I could not live apart from Him;
I love to feel Him nigh,
And so we dwell together—
My Lord and I.

Sometimes I'm faint and weary;
He knows that I am weak,
And as He bids me lean on Him,
His help I'll gladly seek.
He leads me in the paths of light,
Beneath a sunny sky,
And so we walk together—
My Lord and I.

He knows how much I love Him;
He knows I love Him well,
But with what love He loved me,
My tongue can never tell.

It is an everlasting love,
In over-rich supply,
And so we love each other—
My Lord and I.

I tell Him all my sorrows,
I tell Him all my joys,
I tell Him all that pleases me,
I tell Him what annoys.
He tells me what I ought to do,
He tells me what to try,
And so we talk together—
My Lord and I.

He knows how I am longing
Some weary soul to win.
And so He bids me go and speak
A loving word for Him.
He bids me tell His wondrous love,
And why He came to die,
And so we work together—
My Lord and I.

I have His yoke upon me,
And easy 'tis to bear.
In the burden which He carries
I gladly take a share.
For then it is my happiness
To have Him always nigh;
We bear the yoke together—
My Lord and I.

o

Testimonies and Answers To Prayer



Wash.—Dear Saints, greetings in Jesus' name: On Dec. 20, 1969, I was busy and suddenly I suffered a stroke in my right arm. It became as helpless as a rag. I became concerned and prayed, "Lord, I am crippled and helpless." (I live alone and batch, as my wife had gone to her reward at the age of 90.) Instantly life returned to my arm and I am still healed. Praise the Lord! I am 91 years of age.

Yours in Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,

—G. E. Brickley

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

Okl.—Dear Sister Marie: You know a while back, my husband John phoned you for prayer for me as I thought I had pneumonia. The dear Lord healed my body. Thank His dear name! I promised I would write my testimony for the paper. I appreciate all the prayers and I am still looking for complete healing to my body of this affliction that I have had some time. Pray for me, our children, and our loved ones.

Christian love,

—Florence Sisk

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

Mo.—Dear Saints: I thank the Lord today for salvation and sanctification.

I want to testify how the Lord healed our youngest daughter, Marita. She had been sick, apparently with the flu, coughing and some vomiting, for two days. We had prayed for her at different times, but God didn't seem to do anything. So on Tuesday, Oct. 27, I went into her bedroom to work on some drawers. As I worked, I stopped and looked at Marita. Then it seemed to me that the Lord impressed me to have special prayer for her. I hesitated, and thought that I'd finish the drawers. But the Lord impressed me again to have prayer. I called my wife and oldest child into the room and we had an

agreement of prayer and begged God to heal her. Then I finished the drawers in about twenty minutes. Within that twenty minutes, God, in loving kindness, healed the child completely. She got up and began to play, and wanted to go to town with us! Praise the God of heaven! That was such an uplift to my soul! Pray for me always.

Christian love, —Melvin Doolittle and family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas—Dear Readers of "Faith and Victory:" Just a word to encourage you to trust and look to the Lord in small things as well as great. Yesterday I was looking for an item that was misplaced. I had searched without finding the item. I thought surely it had been lost for good or burned in the trash. Then I thought that if it were in the house the Lord would help me find it. So I knelt and prayed. It seemed that the Lord wanted me to testify through the paper and I said I would. I don't believe it was a full minute after I finished praying until I found the item for which I had been searching. I do thank and praise Him for His care. —A Reader

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and other workers for God in the Print Shop: I am thanking the Lord for His goodness and mercy to me, for the grace He gives me from day to day. I don't know what I would do without Him. I realize I need lots of help and guidance, but I am doing the best I know how. I surely do desire to please the Lord.

We have many burdens from day to day. I have eight children, all married, and the burdens are many just among my loved ones. Eight children married makes sixteen children which I consider mine when they marry into our family. There are thirty grand- and great grandchildren. Two of my grandchildren have habits of taking shots that are heart-rending, and some of my children have the smoking habit. I shed many tears for my lost family and I know many others do for theirs. It seems as if they are so blind and just don't think what the future will bring if they don't find God.

I am so glad that He ever dealt with my soul. I mean to make heaven whatever the cost. I don't write much as it seems I don't know how to put my feelings into words. But I do want to do what I can for the Lord. He has been so good to me. He took a wreck of a home and made peace to abide there. If people only knew as I do what God can do for them! I tried many ways to work things out myself, but it took God. I could write a book about the pitfalls of the devil if I could put it in words. I see dear people getting into those pitfalls almost every day. Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. And if we don't receive a love for the truth, we will believe a lie and be damned. I am seeing people in that shape. They have been taught the truth but wouldn't have it. Now they are believing false doctrines. How sad!

I am sending addresses for the paper. May God ever bless all of you. Pray for us.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sister Leonard Roberts

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I would like to report to you that I have accepted Jesus as my personal Saviour after so many, many years (approximately fifty) of serving the devil. God was good enough to me to wash away ALL my sins, and if I understand my Bible correctly, He will remember them against me no more. I'll have to admit that I don't know much about the theology and deep things that are taught in the Bible, but I do know the reality of it and believe it is ALL true. And I know that I possess a real genuine born-again experience. I

have a salvation that is a "know-so," because God tells me so. It is a pretty long story just how God helped me to see the lost and hopeless condition that I was in, and helped me to realize just how badly I needed Him to come into my life. I was saved April 25, 1970, in my home. Some day, perhaps, I can tell you more of my experience.

I promised the Lord when He saved me that I would work for Him the rest of my time here in this old world. I'm thankful that He has shown me a few things that even I can do. In my endeavor I feel that I am in need of some of the tracts that you have listed. I do feel that as I talk to others I'll need something to hand them. . . .

Sincerely,

—Robert M. Porter

Do You Believe the Bible?

Here is a question that may seem absurd to many: Do you believe the Bible? If so, do you act it? If you don't act it, do you really believe it? My conviction is to give this question serious thought. Maybe it will help some to search the Scriptures. Jesus said, "Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life and they are they that testify of me." John 6:39. It is not enough to say that we believe the Bible unless we keep it as Christ's Word in our hearts. There is a tendency to overlook some things that the Bible tells us what to do about, and how to do it.

The thought of salvation to many these days is very much like turning over a new leaf. It is soon soiled and must be replaced. Jesus told about a sower that sowed some seed, some in hardpan, or on the wayside. The seed could not sprout because the dirt wasn't loose enough to cover, so the devil or fowls ate up the seed. Some seed fell on the rocks. The roots could not go deep enough to give life, so it died. Some fell among thorns. When the seed came up, it was choked because it could not get any sunlight. The Bible says we must forsake our way, our thoughts, and subscribe to God's way to be like Him. There are many things many people don't like to hear. They want smooth things preached to them. Isaiah 30:10. To the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. I don't imply that we should be harsh. Let us tell the truth, and if we relish or desire the truth, it will make us free, not only outwardly, but also cause a change of heart.

I really wonder sometimes if many among us really believe the Bible. I see mothers failing to bring up their children right in spite of the Word which says "modest apparel." Their little dresses are half way, and sometimes more, above the knees. Mothers, what do you think your daughters will be like in practice and theory when they grow up? What about the girls in their early teens out riding around with a group of boys in a car until 2 A. M.? Then you cry, pray for my daughter, or son. What about boys and girls getting, in some cases, lower than the beast? You don't believe it? Search and find out for yourself that it is true. I have learned some things that sicken and shock me. Boys and girls, think of it—there are a couple of new laws that make the parents offenders for their children's misbehaviour. I have

talked to grandmothers about their grandchildren's rebellion. They agree, but say the mothers won't listen. I was told that one mother said, "I'm not going to let my girls look awful," meaning letting her wear long dresses. I have watched the mode of dress since 1914. It has varied up and down, but always more up than down. The devil himself could not be more pleased. He knows how to destroy morals. Too many of our folks are asleep, or should I say, many of our people professing salvation need to get saved. Matt. 25:2.

The devil is after saints. He doesn't bother about backsliders. He has them already. He has a whole kit of inventions that have all been used with success before, but new ones appear now and then. The tongue—how it burns! James 3:6. We might call it the "grapevine." It gets around fast. We are not willing to close our mouth and say it is nothing, forget it. We want to make it through. If we don't cry aloud, the wolf will slip in. Sheep will band together for their life, I am told, but if one runs, it breaks the close tie. John 10:13. Unity is a word meaningless to many now. There is an indifference, unconcern, and negligence leavening the whole country. This is not to say there isn't a remnant, for there is, and they love one another as the Word teaches.

God has labored with man for many centuries. Some heeded, and some did not. He says, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." I am troubled about how some teachers push aside some of the plain statements that are in the Bible. For instance, how to deal with a trespass. Some say, forget it, when someone trespasses against them. Let's look at the Word in Matt. 18. If your brother trespasses against you, go to him alone. The purpose of going alone is to save him from anyone else knowing. If he won't hear, take with thee one or two more. If he won't hear you then, take it to the church. Here are three endeavors to save the brother. This is forbearing in love to the offender, but if he won't hear the church, let him be as an heathen. In Col. 3:13 we read of forbearing and forgiving. If anyone has a complaint, forgive even as God for Christ's sake forgave you. How did God forgive us? When we repented, when we were sorry for our wrong and we turned away from it. In Matt. 17:3, we read that if a brother trespass, rebuke him; if he repents, forgive him. We should always be ready to forgive. But we can't put away their sins. Only God does that, and it is for Christ's sake. You must repent to get any faith and also to get salvation. Now, here we have the Bible standard in the 18th chapter of Matthew. It teaches to forbear in present trespasses. In Col. 3:13, it teaches to forgive past trespasses. We get forgiveness from God when we forgive; they get forgiveness from God when they repent. I don't believe this was put in the Bible just to read, but to act on—not just forget it. Do we believe the Bible? It is charity for all and malice toward none that I have written this. If we are lacking in power, maybe it's because we don't fully believe the Bible!

—A. E. Harmon

Why?

I asked God, Why?
My anguished soul
Had often been tortured with this thought;
Why did it happen, God, to them,
The dearest ones on earth to me?
You've wondered why,
A thousand whys
Your restless heart is seeking still
An answer to its questionings;
Its ache is still unhealed,
The fountain of your tears unsealed.

I cannot tell you why, I do not know,
I only point to One who hangs
Upon a tree, sinless and pure,
Bearing our sin, forsook of God.
Force from His lips the awful cry,
"My God, My God, Why?"
No answer came—He died that day
Yet He had faith to trust His all,
Into His Father's hand.
He arose again; He's coming soon,
Then trust Him, for the day is nigh
When He'll give an answer to your why.

—Sel.

The Living God

"Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder . . ., they are all the work of cunning men. But the Lord is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting king . . . He hath made the earth by His power, He hath established the world by His wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by His discretion. When He uttereth His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; He maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of His treasures. Every man is brutish in his knowledge . . ." Jer. 10:9-14. In these Scriptures we find the living God described in contrast to the frail and vain expositions of man. Man has lost sense and vision of the true and living God through the glitter of their own inventions. The art and device of the wisdom of men have so made gross their hearts that the feats of the living God as described in these verses are rarely deemed to be the handiwork of God. All nature is a living miracle, a vivid proof and testimony of the living God. What else beside the miracle of God's wisdom could suspend a multitude of waters above the earth? But man is brutish in his knowledge. His knowledge and scientific research renders him to the level of the brute beast, rather than to the praise, adoration, and faith of a saint.

"Ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He left not Himself without witness, in that He did good, and gave us rain from heaven,

and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." Acts 14:15-17. This statement was made by Paul and Barnabas to the men of Lystra, who, amazed at the miracle God performed by them, wanted to do sacrifice before them. The gods of these people's imaginations were supposed to relish the slaughter of animals as homage to them. But not so with the true and living God. Oh, how easy it is for man to conceive far-fetched ideas about God! It is easy for us to forget His love and favor for us and weave into our minds a system of our own devising, which we feel will attract Him to us. We can afflict and deny ourselves in an effort to touch the heart of God, when all the while we are missing the joy and comfort that His free gift provides. He is a living God. He cannot be worshiped with dead forms of religion, however beautiful and impressive they may seem to the eyes of men.

"Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy." 1 Tim. 6:17. There are many people who have not experienced the joy of knowing what the living God can and will give to them richly to enjoy. Rather, they are going about themselves in their own strength and wisdom to secure happiness and stores of earthly supply. Some succeed, and many are frustrated in their efforts. But to the fortunate soul who is willing to trust in the living God for the supply of life's "things" there are blessings of life and grace exceeding what others obtain in their own strivings. The living God will give to those whose hearts incline to Him. He will give richly. He will give richly **all things**. He will give richly **all things to enjoy**. This is His grand role as the living God to the children of men. Men who turn away from the fear of God do so to their own disadvantage. "He that feareth God shall come forth of them all," the Scripture says. (Eccl. 7:18.)

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb. 9:14. Notice the two comparative terms: "dead works" and "the living God." The work of salvation is to purge our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. I am thinking of the term "dead works" here as religious forms and customs, ceremonies, creeds, doctrines, and all such works that minister no life to the soul, but are rather a mere exposition of fleshly and carnal show. The world is full of such.

Dear reader, are you serving the living God, or is your profession a cold formal fancy? A good test would be to exclude from your system of worship everything of a material nature, and try to imagine what your worship would consist of then. God is a Spirit, and must be worshiped as such, in Spirit and truth. Take heed that the functions of your worship to God be not "dead works," — works that will merit no fruit unto life eternal.

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Heb. 10:31. It will be a sad fate

for you or me to be disposed of by a living God. If we have refused to be led by His divine Spirit, choosing rather self-devised pathways and the security of the material things of this life, we will be in the hands of the living God, not to be received and rewarded richly, but to experience everlasting punishment. —Leslie Busbee

Christ's Reign Foretold and Fulfilled

The writings of the Old Testament seers are thickly sprinkled with sparkling prophecies relative to the blessings and privileges of the Christian dispensation. In many of the Psalms, David foretold how the Messiah would reign over Mount Zion forever. The term Zion generally signified the New Testament church. The evangelistic prophet Isaiah thus expressed it: "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment." (Isa. 32:1). In the old dispensation, Jehovah was recognized by the children of Israel, and also by the nations about them, as the national God of the Jewish people, the ruler of the Israelitish nation alone. But it was foreseen that with the ushering in of the new dispensation, "He shall speak peace unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth" (Zech. 9:10). "And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: and in that day there shall be one Lord, and his name one" (Zech 14:9).

Christ's Reign Fulfilled Under the Gospel

"Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14, 15). The time foretold by the prophets when the God of heaven would set up His everlasting kingdom and when the Messiah would begin His reign, Christ declared to be "fulfilled." The kingdom of God was then "at hand."

That the gospel dispensation is the age in which Christ's kingdom and reign would be fully established is proved beyond question by Jesus' own words, as recorded in Luke 17:20, 21: "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." Other translations render this last clause, "the reign of God is within you." Paul makes this clear in Rom. 14:17: "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy, in the Holy Ghost." That all this is a present reality, is made clear by reference to Col. 1:13: "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." And again: "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 1:9).

These texts are decisive. Christ NOW has a kingdom, and a kingdom supposes a king. —H. M. Riggle