

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Church Triumphant

Men speak of a "Church triumphant,"
As something on earth unknown,
They think us beneath the tyrant,
Until we shall reach our home.

Oh, cannot the great Redeemer
Prevail over Satan here?
Or must we remain yet under
Confusion, pressed down in fear?

He built on a sure foundation,
And said that the gates of hell,
Against her divine munition,
Can never indeed prevail.

Then how can you say, dear people,
You cannot be kept each day?
The Infinite arm is able,
His word has not passed away.

'Tis not in the Church of Jesus,
That people yet live in sin;
But in the dark creeds they're joining,
And vainly are trusting in.

God's Church is alone triumphant,
In holiness all complete;
And all the dark powers of Satan,
She tramples beneath her feet.

Thank God, for a "Church triumphant,"
All pure in this world below;
For the kingdom that Jesus founded,
Does triumph o'er every foe.

—D. S. Warner

The Glorious Triumphant Kingdom

The mighty host of redeemed saints have the "victory over the beast and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name." Thank God, here we have the triumph of God's saints over false religions—the victory which is being enjoyed now in this blessed evening time. It will be further observed that this triumph gives honor to Christ and glory to His name, as the great "King of saints." This triumph of Christ's kingdom over the enemies of the church is further brought to view in Revelation 19:1-8.

Next, we see the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies gather together to make war against Christ and His mighty host (see Rev. 19:19). These are gathered together by unclean spirits of devils. It is a gathering of the remnants of all the false religions of earth (Rev. 16:13, 14). It is the final conflict before the revelation of Jesus Christ from heaven, called "the battle of that great day of God Almighty." All this maze of false religion is seen under the figure or symbol of "Gog and Magog." These will compass "the camp of the saints about, the beloved city," which represents the pure church in this evening time. The preparation for this great and final conflict is now going on, and already there is a confederation of the different false religions of earth against the pure Church of God.

But He who has never lost a battle, who is sitting at the right hand of God until every enemy is made His footstool ("for he must reign until he hath put all enemies under his feet"), shall triumph in this conflict, also. For when these false religions are gathered together to strike one awful blow fire will descend from heaven and devour them (see Rev. 20:9). This to my mind represents the coming of Jesus Christ "in flaming fire" in His second advent. The devil, as well as the advocates and adherents of every false religion of earth will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:10). At this same time the

"Buy the truth, and sell it not." Proverbs 23:23.
It costs something to gain possession of truth, but it is well worth all it costs. It is the most valuable treasure of which man can gain possession.

Attend National Campmeeting, July 23 to Aug. 1, Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.

universal resurrection of the dead will take place, which will destroy the last enemy—death.

When the last enemy shall be thus destroyed, this particular phase of Christ's reign will have accomplished its purpose and will cease, for He will reign until every enemy is destroyed, which implies that when the last enemy—death—is destroyed, the redemptive reign will end.

But the redemptive reign of Christ has a two-fold purpose. Not only is it intended to destroy all the enemies and antagonistic powers of the church and kingdom, but to restore what was lost through the fall as well. Christ reigns upon a mediatorial throne for the salvation of a lost world. While the world lasts, Jesus as the Messiah and mediator, must reign. His kingdom of grace and salvation and His reign during this dispensation is for the redemption of mankind. He is the world's advocate and Savior. In Acts 3:20, 21 we read that "he shall send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you, whom the heavens must receive until the time of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began." Christ's kingdom was established to restore to man the very thing he lost through the fall.

The heavens will contain Christ until the last trump is sounded; then Christ will leave the mediatorial throne and take the judgment seat, when the world will be left without an advocate, without a Savior, without further opportunities of redemption. The numberless dead will all come forth, and the multitudes will be summoned before the great tribunal and stand in judgment before the great white throne. At this time "every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess to the glory of God the Father." Satan, the prince of darkness, with his myriads of demons, together with all the host of apostates and rebels who closed their probationary state in rebellion against Christ's throne, will fall before Him and acknowledge Him the "King of kings and Lord of lords." This will be the final great triumph. Then with an awful command, He will say to them on the left hand, "Depart from me ye cursed into everlasting punishment," and they shall be "punished with an everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of his power."

Then Christ will receive the innumerable company of redeemed saints who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. These "shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air," and after this meeting, He will present them to His Father as the harvest, the fruit, the success and accomplishment of His death and resurrection—and great redemptive reign. This is the "restitution of all things." What God lost in the fall through Satan and sin, Christ now restores as a result of His great work and mission. What a day of triumph! What an hour of rejoicing! From the hour Christ was anointed by the Holy Spirit during His baptism in the Jordan and began preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, until the judgment scene is closed, the wicked punished, and the righteous rewarded,

all things have been committed to the Son. The Father committed the work of redemption and even the work of final judgment to His Son Jesus Christ, but when this particular work which has been committed to the Son is accomplished, Christ's reign, or this particular phase of it, ceases, and He delivers back "the kingdom to God, even the Father." The Son Himself will be subject to the Father who will reign "all in all" as from all eternity. —H. M. Riggle

Where Are You Going?

Time flies. The days, the weeks, the months and the years slip by with incredible speed and are gone before we realize it. It seems as though they no more than begin when they are gone, passed into eternity. So, too, the happenings of the day soon recede into the distant past. Everything in this world is fleeting and transitory—nothing is stable and lasting. "We spend our years as a tale that is told" (Psa. 90:9). Being busily engrossed with the occupations, labors and pursuits of life we are more or less insensible to the swiftness of passing time, of the solemn fact that life itself is fast getting away from us, and that the end of our earthly journey is speedily and surely approaching. Or, if we are conscious that our time is getting short, either we dismiss the thought or reckon that somehow or other all will be well in the end. How important it is that we keep in mind that our death is ever on the horizon, that we are but a heartbeat from it, and that when we die we will be ushered into eternity from which there is no return or escape. Since death is so common we don't give this sufficient thought; we seem to have developed a sense of immunity to such an experience. We live as though we were certain of many more years of life, whereas God's Word faithfully warns us, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1).

We hear and read of large numbers being killed in war or by accident, of thousands starving to death in Africa and India, but we give this little or no thought; it doesn't mean much to us since we are not personally involved. A neighbor down the street dies, or one of our own dear ones is taken from us. This may cause us to stop and think for a moment, but soon it is largely gone from our memory and we go on our way day after day, probably with the thought in the back of our mind that we are safe and have no reason to be apprehensive, we have plenty of time yet. Likely the thought of our death would take on a new and most serious meaning if we knew that the moment we pass from this scene—and this could be and may be before this day is over—we would awake in hell, in "the everlasting burnings" (Isa. 33:14) forever past all hope. But this is just what God's Word makes known to every sinner. Scripture is clear and plain that "the wicked shall be cast into hell!" (Psa. 9:17); "the rich man also died, and was buried, and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments" (Luke 16:33).

Many take thought for their bodies but totally neglect the interests of their immortal souls. But "what shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mark 8:36, 37). Most drift aimlessly through life without any care or concern as to what is before them after this fleeting life is over, seemingly taking it for granted that somehow or other everything will turn out all right with them in the end. This is what they hope, and they give themselves the benefit of any doubt. They have no consciousness of their lost condition. While they do not consider themselves perfect, yet they are not aware that there is anything seriously wrong with them. They are respectable, law-abiding citizens, and consider themselves no worse than their neighbors, and though they scarcely ever read the Bible or enter a church, they fully expect to go to heaven when they die. Some will admit that they are sinners, but imagine that their good works will far outnumber their bad ones. Some fancy that all will be well with them because they have "joined the church of their choice," been baptized and partake of the Lord's supper. On the contrary, God's Word informs us that it is "not by works of righteousness which we have done" (Titus 3:5) that we are saved. Again, we are told that "there is none good but one, that is, God" (Matt. 19:17); "that all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23), and that "the wrath of God abideth" (John 3:36) on such. This is the condition of every sinner in the sight of God be he king or beggar, high or low, rich or poor, moral or immoral, kind or unkind, religious or irreligious.

How prone is human nature to neglect or slight God's solemn warnings and threatenings of coming judgment! We are told "after death the judgment" (Heb. 9:27). The reason is the apprehension of these things is disquieting and disturbing, hence, men put such thoughts from them and go on their way as "sheep for the slaughter." (Psa. 44:22) Few indeed are disturbed enough about their eternal future to cause them to cry out with the Philippian jailer, "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). Oh, the consummate folly of such indifference and procrastination when your eternal weal or woe is at stake, dear reader! Soon at the longest you will go down to the dust and your spirit will return to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7). O my friend, do not lightly dismiss this matter from your thoughts or your folly will only accentuate your misery in that Day. Far better to be made wretched and miserable now for a time than that you should weep and gnash your teeth (Matt. 8:12) forever. His gracious word to you is that "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live" (Ezek. 33:11); that you "repent and turn . . . from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin" (Ezek. 18:30). Unless you do "repent and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:15) Christ Himself asks, "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matt. 23:33) O sinner, will you continue another day with God's wrath hanging over your head? Remember,

your day of grace may be all but over. God warns you, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man" (Gen. 6:3). Do now heed the divine admonition to "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near: 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" (Isa. 55:6, 7). Hallelujah, what a Saviour! Flee to Him now while time and opportunity are yours. Cast yourself humbly and penitently at His feet and cry unto Him for mercy, confess and repent of your sins, for "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2). Will you come?
—I. C. H.

IMPORTANCE OF LITTLE THINGS

I read in the Bible many times of the importance of the little things that God requires, which many overlook. The lack of obedience to the little things seems to be the most stupendous issues—such as eating a little fruit in the Garden of Eden. It didn't just affect those that ate of it, but brought the curse on all mankind until this day. The widow was told to bake a cake first and bring it to the prophet to eat, when she scarcely had enough for her and her son, then was preparing to die. Then Naaman, who heard of "the man of God," through the Jewish maiden, decided to go and see him, as he believed what the child told him. But when he came to the prophet's house, the prophet told his servant to tell him to go dip in the River Jordan seven times. At this Naaman was very wroth, as he was a great man in his own country, and supposed the prophet would come out and do some great miracle before his eyes. But the prophet didn't as much as go out to see him, but sent his servant. After leaving and starting back to his own country, one of Naaman's servants said, now why don't you try dipping in the Jordan like the prophet said? So Naaman was influenced by his servant, and after coming up out of the water the seventh time, he was made whole of his leprosy. —Earl Bliss

BEATITUDES FOR FRIENDS OF THE AGED

Blessed are they who understand
My faltering step and palsied hand.
Blessed are they who know that my ears today
Must strain to catch the things they say.
Blessed are they who seem to know
That my eyes are dim and my wits are slow.
Blessed are they who looked away
When milk spilled at the table today.
Blessed are they with a cheery smile
Who stop to chat for a little while.
Blessed are they who never say,
"You've told that story twice today."
Blessed are they who know the ways
To bring back memories of yesterdays.
Blessed are they who make it known
That I'm loved, respected, and not alone.
Blessed are they who know I'm at a loss
To find the strength to carry the Cross.
Blessed are they who ease the days
On my journey Home in loving ways.

—Esther Mary Walker

"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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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14, 15.

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

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

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

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

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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EDITORIALS

Our God of the universe has extended time and brought us now to the warm summer season—the time when campmeetings and evangelistic tent meetings are held at various locations across the country. According to our stated policy and usual practice, this "Faith and Victory" paper will not be published for the month of August. It is fitting that our faithful volunteer co-workers would have a few weeks off from their regular duties here at the Print Shop to attend various campmeetings or do whatever the Lord may direct. Their services as unto the Lord are much appreciated, and we are confident that the Lord of the harvest will reward them with a full measure of blessings. However, some of us will be here at the office most of the time to fill orders for literature, take care of the correspondence, etc.

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The Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie closed with victory on June 6. Several souls sought help at the altar of prayer. The Word was preached clear and definite, and a good spirit of love and harmony prevailed. Many saints from several states, including some new ones from out-of-state, were edified and encouraged by the preached Word. The date for the next campmeeting is May 26 to June 4, 1972, Lord willing.

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Sister Janice Allen, daughter of Bro. and Sister Murphy Allen of Senath, Mo., who has been faithfully helping here in the office in the mailing department since last autumn, returned home on May 31 with her parents after they attended the first week-end of the Guthrie campmeeting. Sister Janice was an efficient worker, and her sacrificial service in the gospel publishing work and her sincere devotion to the Lord is certainly appreciated. May He reward her abundantly and direct her life in the future. Perhaps He will lead her to continue her service in this field of labor for His great cause.

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Our sympathy is extended to the bereaved family of Bro. Hensel Olson who departed this life on June 13 at Jefferson, Oregon. May the Lord comfort and sustain each one in their sorrow.

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Bro. and Sis. Donald Sharp sent us notice that since their move about June 1, their home address is 2522 S. 48th St., Kansas City, Kansas 66106. They send their love to the saints and a cordial invitation to come visit them any time you may be in their area.

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The annual campmeeting at Holly Hill, S. Carolina closed on June 13. Several out-of-state ministers were present to preach the Word.

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On June 12 the scheduled tent meeting began at Clearfield, Ky., near the home of Bro. Curtis Williams and family. The meeting is going good with a number of saints and ministers in attendance,

but Bro. Williams has an infection in his head in addition to the lung trouble and is not able to attend the services. Pray for his complete recovery.

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

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May the Lord speak words of comfort to Sister Becky Barnes of Stoutland, Mo. in the passing of her husband, David, on June 2. She is a faithful saint, rich in the grace of God, but poor in this world's goods and she has this funeral bill to pay. Pray for her that her obligations will be met.

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"In that day seven women . . ."

The prophet Isaiah, looking down through the annals of time to this day of the last days, prophesied of the present perilous religious conditions in these words: "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." Isaiah 4:1. Many so-called churches have learned that the proper Bible name of the true church is "The Church of God," and they want to go by that name, but at the same time they want to do as they please, set up their own rules, practices and human organization, eat their own bread and wear their own apparel. Their only concern is to be called by God's name to take away their reproach. This prophecy conveys the truth that it takes much more than a name to be the church which God owns and recognizes. Jesus Christ denounced the Sardis church in Asia with these words: "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest [professed], but art dead." Rev. 3:1.

The number "seven" symbolizes fullness or the entire mass of religious deception. Therefore, in this day there is a multiplicity of groups or movements going under the name, "Church of God," but in most every case, sad to say, they will not accept and practice the old-time Bible truth which brought forth this "evening light" reformation or restoration. Christ would be charged as a spiritual polygamist if He should own and accept all these "seven women" as His Bride. Jesus has only one Bride, purchased by His own blood. He built just one church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The voice from heaven is still calling God's people out of "Babylon"—out of the isms and schisms of men—into the glorious visible Church of God which Christ is coming to receive at His second and final coming.

God said, "I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the Lord, keep not silence . . . Go through, go through the gates;

prepare ye the way of the people; cast up, cast up the highway; gather out the stones; lift up a standard for the people." Isa. 62:6, 10.

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Longtime Workers Leaving—A Call to Prayer . . .

About nine years ago (Aug., 1962) Bro. Clifford and Sister Dorothy Wilson with their five children moved to Guthrie from Iowa at the direction of the Lord. After attending the California campmeeting that summer, they volunteered their services and began working in September here in the Lord's Printshop where both had labored before their marriage. Being familiar with the policies, aims and purposes of this gospel publishing work and experienced in the printing process, they readily and faithfully entered into the work. Dorothy has done practically all the type-setting on the linotype machine, besides taking care of her family, and Clifford is efficient in all other phases of letterpress and lithographic printing, in addition to being an excellent machinist who designed and built machines for the shop and improved others. For several years the family has occupied the four-bedroom house on the corner next to the office where the Fred Pruitt family of six children grew up, one of whom was this writer. For some years Bro. Clifford has also been ministering to the congregation at Green Pastures, Okla. Over these nine years Bro. Clifford and Sister Dorothy have agreed in prayer with us for many prayer requests, carried a burden and worked faithfully to get the gospel of Christ out to the world by the printed page.

With deep regret and a feeling of personal loss, we announce that on June 14 they informed us that when this July paper is in the mail (about June 23), they will leave the publishing work. Sister Dorothy is not well enough to continue the daily work on the linotype machine, and after much prayer they feel the Lord leading them to make a change. However, their future plans are not definite at this time.

It has been a pleasure to work with them these years, and to have known them more than 30 years. We pray the Lord to bless and reward them abundantly in soul and body for their sacrificial and faithful service in this phase of the cause of Christ. No doubt they will have reached more souls with the gospel message during these years than the rest of their lifetime. May the Lord ever direct their future course in life, and help us all to maintain that fellowship and co-operation in the work of the Lord in all its phases.

Needless to say, their leaving is a great loss to the gospel publishing work which cannot be easily replaced. Yet we verily believe this is God's work, the same as it has been for the past 50 years. The Lord's people come to help in the work and leave at His direction. All of us will soon be gone from this stage of action, but the most important event for each of us is to be found faithful at our post of duty wherever it may be when the Master calls.

Can it be that God wants the true gospel by the printed page curtailed? Surely not in these crucial

times. Please pray with and for us that the Holy Spirit will direct and supply consecrated workers to "stand in the gap," and as you pray, ask the Lord what He would have you to do to advance and increase this gospel literature ministry.

Our other faithful full-time co-workers are Bro. Gene and Sister Dora Lela Beisly, and Sister Joan McIntosh, as well as my sister, Marie Miles, and my good wife, Maybelle. May the Lord richly reward each worker, and add His special blessing on our efforts for precious souls.

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Again I say thank you, our readers, for your fervent prayers for my healing. Your letters of encouragement, cards and phone calls are certainly appreciated. I am trusting in the provision of Christ's atonement that "with His stripes we are healed," counting Him faithful to His promise, and trusting His wisdom as well as His power.

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Bro. Geo. Hammond advises that his application for visa to Nigeria has been returned to him without comment. Evidently they have denied him a resident missionary visa. If the way is not opened for him to go to Nigeria by the last of July, he plans, Lord willing, to labor in the Mexico mission field.

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We hope to meet many of our readers at the National campmeeting to be held at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri on July 23 to August 1. A supply of gospel literature—tracts, papers, books and Bibles—will be available at the book store on the campgrounds. Come in, visit and browse around.

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Our sincere thanks and appreciation are extended to all those who have prayed for and co-operated with us in printing and mailing the "white-winged" silent gospel messengers around the world. It is a pleasure to be "workers together" with you and the Lord in obeying our Saviour's last Great Commission to His Church.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all, and we hope to greet you again, Lord willing, in the September issue.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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The Secret of Salvation by E. E. Byrum. First published in 1896. Paper bound, 264 pages. Each	1.00	The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits by D. O. Teasley. Out of print for many years, this reprint edition contains 192 pages of sound Biblical instructions in a heavy paper cover. Price, each	1.00
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Sanctification by J. W. Byers, 96 pages of clear sound teaching on this subject, paper bound, 40c each, or three books for	1.00	Helps to Holy Living, Books No. 1 and No. 2. by C. E. Orr, combined in 64 pages, paper bound, 40c each or three books for	1.00
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Birth of a Reformation —Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. Another reprint edition 496 pages, many pictures, in gold-lettered cloth binding. Price, each	4.00	A True Story in Allegory by Lottie L. Jarvis, missionary to India. First published about 1920, this booklet of 30 pages describes how the subtle spirit of compromise works to accomplish its purpose. Price, 15c each, or eight for	1.00
The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding.	4.50	The Sin of Trifling , sponsored by Sister Sam Barton. 32 pages, paper bound. Carries a vital message for everyone, especially our young people in these perilous times of loose living. Price, 15c each, or 10 copies for	1.00
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FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

OBITUARIES

Georgia Viola (Christian) Zinn was born March 19, 1884, at Belew Springs, Texas, to Louella and Joseph Allen Christian. She passed away at Pacoima, California, on May 11, 1971.

She was married to J. H. Morton in 1902. To this union two children were born: Thelma and Carl. Her husband preceded her in death in 1944, and daughter Thelma in 1951.

She was married to Edward M. Zinn in 1957 at Monark Springs, Mo. He preceded her in death in 1962.

She is survived by a son, Carl D. Morton, and granddaughter, Renie Masseth (daughter of Thelma); also, four great grandchildren: Robert, David, Diane, and Susan Masseth.

Sister Zinn was converted in this Evening Light Truth in 1906. She loved the truth and the service of the Lord, His work and cause, ever keeping heaven in view, pressing toward the goal with pleasure and delight, never looking back. Earth needs more like her. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Alvin Lucas, assisted by Sister LaVern Manuel.

David Lee Barnes, son of Joshua and Susie Settles Barnes, was born May 8, 1895, in Miller County, Mo., and departed this life June 2, 1971, at his home in Stoutland, Missouri.

On June 14, 1943, he was united in marriage with Becky Brown, who survives.

David left a testimony that he felt there was nothing between him and the Lord, that he never had anything in his heart against anyone. He prayed many times during these last days. David had suffered a long time, but God called him and he is resting from all the suffering and sorrow. We can meet him again some day never to part any more.

He leaves to mourn his passing his devoted wife, Becky, of the home; one step-son, Roy Brown of Waynesville, Mo., also several nieces and nephews and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at Stoutland, Mo., by Bro. Leslie Busbee. Scripture texts: Heb. 5:7; 3:6, 14; Romans 10:13.

MEETING REPORT FROM OAKLAND, CAL.

The first ten-day meeting held in Oakland, Calif., within the past 12 to 15 years has come and gone. We were certainly blessed of the dear Lord through the services and the gathering of saints, friends, and relatives. Attendance was good. Both weekends found the new building filled to capacity. Nightly services were well attended.

We were also blessed with the presence of Sister Ethel Lounds of Oklahoma City who traveled many miles, mainly to be of assistance to us in our duties as hosts, (which as many of you know, is quite a burden on the home congregation.)

The services were precious, as the anointing of the Lord was ever present. Several sought the Lord for salvation and saints were at the altar seeking more of God's grace and strength to continually be overcomers in these crucial days.

Oakland is a rich field to be harvested. Pray for the congregation here, that God will help and bless us with wisdom, knowledge, divine ability and love, that we may be soul-winners for Him. Prov. 11:30.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Doris Washington

TENT MEETINGS IN KANSAS AND ARKANSAS

We were wonderfully blessed through the tent meeting here in Coffeyville, Kansas, held May 15 to 23. The Lord just showered us with His blessings in more ways than we will be able to tell you. The Word went forth rich and powerful. Folks became severely uncomfortable by the Spirit of the Lord dealing with them. One woman said, "We go to church, but we don't hear the Bible like this." We feel assured that the Lord will not let His Word return void, but it will accomplish where unto it was sent.

The tent was almost filled each night, and we were thankful to have the saints come in to help us. We feel that we will yet reap a harvest from the gospel seed that was cast.

We are praying the Lord will continue to bless the tent missionary effort through the summer. Pray for the tent meeting that is to start at Prattsville, Ark., on July 10 through 18. Contact Bro. and Sister E. A. Loftis there for information. Their telephone number is 699-4368. Plan now to attend this meeting if you live within driving distance. Let us travail for souls to be saved.

Our all-day services on second Sunday here at Coffeyville have been dismissed until the second Sunday in September, Lord willing. We invite any of the saints coming through Coffeyville to come and be with us. We are without a minister now, so ministers, ask the Lord where He would have you to work today.

Do pray for us that we will stay pliable in the hands of God.

Christian love,

—Ralph and Inez Beisly

Prayer Requests

Idaho—Remember Sister Marken, Ruby Marken's mother. She had a stroke and needs healing. We are thankful for all the Lord has done for her.

La.—Sister Rubye Quave phoned for special prayer. She has diabetes in the last stages. She is a precious sister in the Lord and is looking to the Lord for healing.

Calif.—Bro. Isaac Chandler has been ill for a number of months. We have heard through others that the Lord touches him again and again, but he needs a complete healing. His trust is firmly in the Lord. He has been a faithful, humble minister of the gospel, and is much needed in the work of the Lord.

La.—"Please pray for Annie Pellvat . . . She is gravely ill." —R. Quave

Ore.—"Remember Sister Adelia Davis in prayer. She has been sick most of the time for about four and a half years."

La.—"I have been so afflicted the past year that I am not able to keep up the duties in the home, and the past few months I have had a heart murmur which weakens me greatly." —Sybil Goldsberry

Mo.—Remember Sister Halbrook for an affliction on her body.

Mo.—Let us still remember the baby that I mentioned in last month's paper. It was better, but now is in need of prayer again. We know God can heal. Sister Curtis Williams told about their little boy, when he was a baby that he could not retain his food. They prayed and had him anointed and prayed for. God healed him instantly one day and he did not have any more trouble. When he was about two years old he passed something that looked like a chicken heart. She felt that was what had caused his trouble, but God took care of it. We are serving a God of miracles. Let us be agreed for complete healing for this baby.

Okla.—Still remember Sister Lillian Meek and Sister Minnie White. Both are in need of healing.

Ky.—Let us pray God to heal Bro. Curtis Williams completely and put him out in the work of God again.

We thank the Lord for how God does answer prayer. Camille Melot wants the saints to know that God has helped her in her body and she is thankful. She has gained some weight and is feeling so much better. Still remember her for other needs.

We have had some requests through the mails from those who want to be saved. There are some homes the devil is trying to break up. Do pray God to deal with souls and cause them to see their need of Him.

So many times we are like Jacob. When his sons told him that his son, Joseph, was alive and governor of Egypt, "he believed them not." But then when they told him all that had taken place, and "when he saw the wagons" that were sent to take him and his family back to

Egypt, then he believed. We have to see "the wagons" before we believe. We have to see some visible change or we can't believe. But, dear ones, that is not God's plan for us. He wants us to believe and have faith without any visible signs. He wants us to just take His Word as being true and to act like we know it is true. Faith in action brings results. We are to walk by faith and not by sight. Jesus told doubting Thomas, "Because thou has seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29. There is a blessing awaiting those who believe even before they see. Faith counts the work done even before feelings will recognize it. Let us believe before we "see the wagons."

—M. Miles

Campmeeting Dates for 1971

Following are the remaining Church of God campmeeting dates for 1971:—

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 25 to July 4, 1971.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 25 to July 4, 1971.

Akron, Ohio—July 9 to 18, 1971.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 23 to Aug. 1, 1971.

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 6 to 15, 1971.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—Aug. 6 to 15, 1971.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 6 to 15, 1971.

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—Aug. 20 to 29.

Dover, Oklahoma—August 20 to 29, 1971.

Fresno, Calif.—Sept. 10 to 19, 1971.

Campmeeting Notices

GENERAL SOUTHERN AT HAMMOND, LA.

A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend the General Southern Campmeeting of the Church of God at Hammond, La. Dates for the meeting are June 25 through July 4, 1971, Lord willing. The campground is located just off White Street which is in the southwestern part of Hammond.

Provisions will be made to care for all who are able to attend. Dining hall and dormitories are on the grounds. The meeting will be operated on the free-will offering plan. Come praying that the Spirit of the Lord will be poured upon the camp—for salvation of souls, sanctification of believers, and healing of the sick.

For more information and directions to the grounds, phone 504-345-4566 (Max Williamson), or 504-345-1856 (Randall Flynn). —Randall Flynn

JEFFERSON, OREGON, CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting of the Church of God at Jefferson, Oregon, will be held, the Lord willing, June 25 to July 4, 1971, inclusive. All are invited and all are welcome.

This meeting will be supported by the free-will offering plan as usual. Cabins and bedding are furnished. God blessed here in our spring meeting, and we are looking to God for another feast at Father's table. We urge everyone to attend this meeting.

We are expecting our God to send His Spirit-filled and Holy Ghost-led ministers to be with us to preach the

truth of His precious Word. We are all looking forward to having Bro. O. B. Wilson here by that time to stay with us and be our pastor.

For further information, write or call Sister Hilda Nielsen, P. O. Box 34, Jefferson, Ore. 97352, or Sister Bea Spaur, P. O. Box 348, Jefferson, Ore. 97352. Phone 503-327-2855.

AKRON, OHIO CAMPMEETING

The annual campmeeting of the "Evening Light" Church of God will be held July 9 through 18, 1971, at 419-421 W. Thornton St., Akron, Ohio 44307, by the help of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All nations, kindred, and people are welcome. Come praying that souls will be saved, believers sanctified, Christians edified, bodies healed, and that miracles will be wrought in both souls and bodies, as the power of God is just the same today as when Jesus was on earth in bodily form.

Provisions will be made for all. Rooms, meals, and ministerial help will be met by free-will offerings. Bring your campers. We have parking space. All contributions may be sent to Bro. Adolph Robinson, or Bro. Darnell Abbage, or Sister Hazel Clark at the parsonage address, 555 Fernwood Dr., Akron, Ohio 44320.

For further information, phone 762-4432 at parsonage or 762-2286 at chapel.

—Sister Hazel Clark, Pastor

34th NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The National Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, the Lord willing, on the saints' campgrounds at Monark Springs (Neosho), Missouri, July 23 through August 1, 1971, inclusive.

We extend a very sincere and cordial invitation to all who read or hear about this campmeeting to attend, if at all possible. We need the Lord and each other more now than we ever have before.

The campground is located five miles east of Neosho, just off Highway No. 86 about three-fourths mile south.

As in previous years, meals and lodging will be furnished on the grounds. The usual fee of \$5.00 for camp tents and \$1.00 for cot and mattress will be charged. Also, space in dormitories will be \$2.50 per person. With the Lord's help we will try to provide for all who come. All who can, please bring bedding. It would be advisable to bring wraps, as the weather turns very cool at times. Meals will be served on free-will offering plan.

We know God will send His Spirit-filled ministers to bring us His Word. Let us pray earnestly for the ministers and the meeting, that the power of the Holy Spirit will give fresh anointing for every service, convincing sinners of their need to turn to God, that believers will be sanctified, bodies healed, and for an overall upbuilding of the Church of God.

Four services will be held daily, in addition to children's meeting in the morning and young peoples' meeting in the early evening.

There will be an 11 p. m. curfew. All are expected to be in their tent, cabin, or dormitory at this time. Allowance is being given to ministers or those working at the altar or praying for the sick. We appreciate the co-operation given and want to commend our precious young people for their consideration.

It will be necessary for those coming by bus or train to come to Neosho, and either take a taxi to the grounds, or call the campground number 472-6427, which is out of Granby, Mo., and someone will come after you.

We would appreciate receiving your orders for tent and dormitory space as soon as possible so we will have plenty of time to erect your tent and get cots set up in it before the meeting starts. Please send tent orders and offerings to Bro. H. Austin McMillian, Rt. 5, Box 50, Neosho, Mo. 64850, who is the business manager. His home phone is number 451-3692 —H. A. McMillian

Work Days—June 26 and July 5—on Campground

On the Monark campground the work is progressing on building a room 22x26 feet to the dining hall for the kitchen and to allow space for a dish washer. The cement blocks are laid, the floor joists and sub-floor are down. The extra help on June 12 was certainly appreciated.

Bro. Austin McMillian informs us that a limited work day is planned for Saturday, June 26, and a special general work day is scheduled for July 5 which will be the usual holiday for July 4. All volunteer help possible will be welcomed on July 5. You may contact Bro. and Sister Austin McMillian at the campground phone number 417-472-6427 as they will be living on the grounds until the campmeeting date. —Editor

MISSOURI STATE AT MYRTLE

The Missouri State Campmeeting at Myrtle, Mo., will be held August 6 through 15, 1971. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers of His choosing.

There are many avenues in which we all can work for God. If you have the ability to lead in singing, a gift to work with young people, a burden to teach the children, a prayer for early morning prayer service, the call to preach the gospel in love to lost souls and to encourage the saints, the consecration for kitchen work and manual labor on the campground, come and use the talent God has given you. The Lord will be glorified, souls will be benefited and you will be richly blessed.

We extend an invitation to all nationalities. The entire meeting is supported by free-will offerings. If you can bring your own bedding, it will be appreciated.

Anyone coming by bus, come to Thayer, Mo., or Pocahtontas, Ark., and call 938-2483 or 938-2482, and someone will come get you. Remember these dates: August 6 through 15. For further information, write Bro. A. J. Sorrell, Route 1, Myrtle, Mo. 65778.

BOLEY AND DOVER, OKLA. CAMPMEETINGS

We were thankful to attend the State campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla., and to hear the old-time truth preached in its fullness and to enjoy the sweet fellowship of the saints. Praise the Lord!

Lord willing, the Boley, Okla., campmeeting will be held Aug. 6 to 15, 1971, and the Dover, Okla., campmeeting on Aug. 20 to 29, 1971.

A warm welcome is extended to everyone. Come praying that the Lord will work in these meetings and souls will be saved and believers sanctified, bodies healed, and the saints edified. We are looking to the Lord to send ministers and workers of His own choosing, filled with the Holy Ghost to preach the old-time truth.

We are praying that the Lord will work in all the campmeetings and that there will be a great harvesting of souls. Let us all remember the Lord's request: "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2.

For further information on the Boley, Okla., campmeeting, write Sister Ora Spears, Route 1, Boley, Okla. 74829. Phone 667-3376. For Dover, Okla., campmeeting,

write Bro. Henry Caldwell, Route 1, Dover, Okla. Phone 828-4430.

Yours in His great name, —Sis. Katherine Williams
905 N. E. 15th St., Okla. City, Okla. 73104 ph. CE5-2270

OKLAHOMA CITY MEETING ANNOUNCED

The Church of God, 800 N. E. Third Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, will hold a meeting, Lord willing, June 25 through July 4, 1971. Everyone is cordially invited. Please pray that souls will be saved and blessed of the Lord. May we all be like David when he declared, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1.

For further information, contact Bro. Herman D. Kelley, Pastor. Home address, 2304 N. Everest, Okla. City, Okla. 73111 Phone 427-7314.

At Press Time — Sister L. Y. Janes of Corpus Christi, Texas passed away peacefully on June 18 after a long illness. May God comfort the bereaved family. —Editor

Foreign Field Reports

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN PASTOR

Southeast State, Nigeria (May 18)—Dear Brother Lawrence: All glory to Jesus' name! I acknowledge receipt of your most encouraging letter of May 3 with a copy of "F&V" paper for May, 1971. At the same hour and date I received also a cablegram from Bro. George Hammond informing me of his visa being temporarily delayed. However, we must submit to God's way. But must continue to pray without ceasing until the conflict is won.

Rejoice and praise the good Lord with us when Mrs. Etuk and I say we have been blessed on the 23rd of April with a baby girl. Her name is Grace Etuk, the sixth in the family. Pray for us.

The work in the entire mission stations is progressing and the Holy Spirit is leading. Only the time is hard and changing.

Pray for us as we do for you and all the saints there.
Yours for the cause of Christ, —J. U. Etuk

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (May 31)—My dear Bro. Pruitt and co-laborers abroad: Greetings of faith, hope, and charity in the gracious name of Jesus.

Thank you very much for your good letter and the contents dated May 5, 1971. Our hearts are full of thankfulness for all the goodness our Lord has shown to us during the past and we hope His faithfulness will continue for us in the future, also. I have gone through the May issue of "Faith and Victory" you sent along with the letter. The two articles, "Is God in Everything?" and "Will All Israel Be Saved?" caused me much searching of my heart.

I just arrived here after a long trip to the northern parts for meetings and visits, especially to Calicut to visit Bro. L. K. John who was seriously ill with diabetes. Bro. V. I. Thomas of Niranam also accompanied me to all these northern places and our visits this time were really profitable and fruitful with spiritual blessings from heaven. It was much encouraging to many believers. Though the disease had eaten away the bodily health of

Bro. L. K. John, gradually he is getting better now. Glory to His name! Please remember him and his family in your prayers. Bro. Thomas and I visited the homes of every believer at Calicut which gave them actual enlightenment and refreshment. On the way back we participated in a one-day meeting at Trichur.

The rainy season has started in Kerala which will continue unto September. Consequently, this is the season of famine and disease. One of our brethren at Thrikkannamangal is on the bed now with intestinal disease. There are intermittent storms producing catastrophe here and there. May God cover and keep us under His merciful care and grace during this cold season. Your prayers are requested.

The distance between Karikkom and Calicut is 200 miles, and that between Karikkom and Thrikkannamangal chapel is 6 miles. The repair work of the new chapel has not been finished due to the lack of money. Prayer can fulfill it. I have purchased the Bibles and they are being distributed.

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

NATIVE MISSIONARY IN MEXICO

Valle de la Trinidad, B. C., Mexico (May 31)—Dear Bro. Lawrence, greetings to all: We remember the much work that you have, and above all, that we are able to work together in the work of the Lord. I give thanks to my God that thus we have the same purpose—to give the truth to the people who don't know Jesus Christ, my Saviour, whom we know and through whom we are saved.

Brethren, I want to tell you that God blessed much in the days [in May] that we [Bros. Migel Gaspar and Tomas Mendoza] were in the South [State of Michoacan] with the brethren who have confirmed their faith in Jesus Christ and who are alive in the Lord. One man, who was used by Satan, made a vow to impede the gospel of God that was preached. He said he was going to kill Bro. Rama, but God gave His protection and the devil was angry because of the brilliant light, and the people saw the light. We are praying much for the truth that was preached . . .

Pray for Bro. Rama and for Bro. Migel Gaspar. They are with me on this trip. We give thanks to all the brothers that we had a part in this trip to extend the gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Receive the greetings of all the brothers here and of my family to all that work in the print shop. One more time I give thanks to God that He put in our hearts this love for souls that are in darkness, and that my God may bless each one of all the brothers in the world. We always pray for all and for you, Bro. Pruitt, that God will give you complete healing.

Pray for us. We want to be led each day.

Your Brother, —Tomas Mendoza

GOSPEL WORK AT OJOS NEGROS, B. C., MEXICO

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico (June 4)—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus! Praise the Lord for all He has done for me! I have not the words to express my gratitude for His wonderful lessons to me.

We are so grateful to Him that we are seeing a little fruit here in Ojos Negros. The three so recently saved are really learning and growing. Recently the Lord impressed me to teach them about the ordinances, first, baptism, as they had been inquiring about it, then feet washing. Just the four of us (Sister Carrie Sheppard is on vacation in La.) had a feet-washing service and it was precious to all.

This week was to have been "the Lord's supper" but there have been some deaths of relatives and friends of theirs, so our lesson has been postponed.

Another family here just recently started to attend meeting and are real interested. The two ladies want to come over some afternoon for me to fully explain to them the plan of salvation, to which I'm looking forward.

We are still having good attendance at meeting, though there are a few who are gone.

Some in La Huerta are still showing interest. I feel definitely impressed of the Lord to be faithful to them.

The Lord very definitely laid it on my heart to use "Bible Chain of Truth" for teaching the babes in Christ as I was earnestly praying for help. The Lord has made translating easy for which I'm grateful.

Pray that I will continue to be what the Lord would have me to be in leading these precious souls to Christ.

Christian love, —Sister Opal Kelly

FURTHER MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Bro. Byron and Sister Virginia Wittenborn, who are staying at present with her aged mother at Encinitas, Calif., have recently made several trips to the various mission stations in Baja, Calif., Mexico. They have been to La Mision with the James Huskey family, to Patzcuaro where Sister Edith Cole is laboring, visiting families at Rosarito, and to Valle Trinidad where Bro. Tomas Mendoza and family are preaching the gospel of Christ. On the week-end of June 13 they planned to visit the mission station at Ojos Negros where Sister Opal Kelly and Sister Carrie Sheppard labor together.

At Valle Trinidad Bro. Tomas has services in his home which is often crowded. When Bro. and Sr. Wittenborn were there, they saw that he had started to build two rooms to his house in order to make more room for services. He hopes to finish them this summer. For that reason he does not plan to go to campmeetings in the States. But he is looking forward to one, or maybe two campmeetings in Mexico.

Sister Virginia writes: "We surely do feel that the Lord is blessing here in Mexico. We are so thankful for all His blessings. He has truly answered prayer and given me an abundance of strength. I am able to help Mother, do what is needed, and still feel strong for our trips." —Editor

From The Mail Box . . .

Jamaica, W. Indies—Dear Brother Pruitt, Sister Marie and co-workers, greetings in Jesus' name.

Let us say how much we enjoy reading the books, tracts, and monthly publications of the "Faith and Victory" papers which were made available to us by the generous contribution of Sister Ada Scanlon. We highly appreciate the work you are doing for the Lord in endeavoring to keep the truth of the "Evening Light" in the world. We have read the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," and this helped to give us some knowledge of the work there.

Last year we were favored with a visit from Brother Willie Murphey and daughter Kathleen. This we enjoyed very much. We rejoice greatly to meet with new members of God's wonderful family—the Church of God.

Recently your article, "Lift Up Your Eyes, Look . . ." was read to our little assembly here, and so we have made up a little contribution toward the missionary fund. Sorry it is not more, but trust that in future we shall be

able to give more. We rejoice to know of the efforts being made by the church in foreign fields. . . .

Yours in Christ's family, —Israel and Olga Smalling

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings of love in Jesus' name.

I am praying that God will richly bless each one of you laboring there at the Publishing House. I certainly do enjoy the good "Faith and Victory" paper and the other literature you publish that I've been able to get. I have been saved but a short while and am hungry for good Christian literature to read. My pastor, Bro. Wm. McCoy, has loaned me a number of books and tracts that have been a real blessing and encouragement to me.

Enclosed is a list of books I'd like sent to me. Enclosed is a check to cover all cost. Use the balance of the check for furtherance of your work there.

Pray for me that I will be faithful and true, and be found doing the will of the Lord at all times.

Your Brother in Christ, —Bob Sallee

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

Calif.—Please use this offering as the Holy Spirit directs you. A reply or acknowledgement is not necessary. It takes less of your valuable time to look heavenward and say, Thank you, than it takes to send me a letter, and you save the cost of the stamp. Anyway, this does not come from me. It is God's money, and He wants it sent to you for the needs that you know exist. I am not signing my name because I'm just the "middle man."

—Unsigned

(May the Lord who knows all men bless and reward this "middle man" who is unknown to us.)

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

La.—Dear Sir: I would like to subscribe to the "Faith and Victory" if you still publish it. I found a copy by the roadside dated Dec., 1966. The rate at that time was 35c for one year, or 3 years for \$1.00. Quote me the price of the paper now. I'm almost sure it has gone up in price as everything else has. Thank you.

—Mrs. Elder R. Cooley

(The subscription price is still the same.)

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

Mont.—Dear Ones at the Print Shop, "the Lord's Print Shop," as Bro. Fred Pruitt called it: We hope and pray the dear Lord is blessing and keeping you encouraged in the good work. We do so appreciate the "Faith and Victory" paper, also the good books and tracts you send out. I appreciate all the dear saints and love so much to read their testimonies.

I was so pleased to read Sister Madge Ferguson's letter as I was acquainted with Sister Faith Stewart. To know her was to love her. How glad the one who sent the paper to this dear lady will be that they were faithful in doing their bit to spread the gospel message. I wish I could do more to help lost souls and also to help and encourage the precious children of God.

Find enclosed our bit to help in home and foreign missions. . . .

We thank you for your prayers, letters and encouraging tracts, and please continue to pray for us. May God bless each of you in every needed way.

—Sisters Betty Davis and Edith Boyer

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and Bro. Pruitt: Our hearts are full of love. . . . I do love my blessed Lord. He is so good to me . . .

Our dear Bro. Ostis Wilson and wife are leaving June 15 for their new home in Oregon. He said Sunday that he had been here in California 28 years. We surely

will miss them. He is such a good minister. Bro. Benson (who lives in Oregon) said, "Your loss is our gain," and that is so. God knows best.

Our Bro. Chandler is very, very poorly. Please remember him in prayer, also Sister Montgomery. They both need our prayers. Also, remember my poor numb hands. I suffer so much with them. —Sister LeMelle

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

Indiana—Dear Friends: Someone sent me your paper and I love it. I am sending you an order for books. . . . Later I want to order more books written by our old Church of God preachers, as I have heard some of them preach. Yes, I am one of the older members of the Church of God, and have been in it for 63 years in September. You see why I love it, and I am enjoying God's rich blessings. Praise God, He is just the same today.

—Mrs. H. C. Studebaker

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Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

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

Texas—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints abroad: Greetings in His dear name. I am so glad to be saved and sanctified and to know the meaning of both words.

The Lord has blessed me so that I don't quite know just where to begin. Just to have salvation is enough. When we realize how and why the Lord suffered, it makes us feel real small and humble. All the suffering Jesus went through was for me. In fact, I am the one who should have suffered, because I sinned, and not He. Jesus boldly stepped up and took my place. Praise God! He tasted death for every man. He hung on the cross for about six hours so I wouldn't have to die. It usually took two or three days to die on the cross, but Jesus died when the time was just right. Some think that the nails held Him to the cross, but it took something stronger than nails. "Love drew Him down from heaven." The cords of love held Him to the cross, not the nails.

I am living in Houston, Texas, at present. For how long, I don't know. When I was working on May 22, I was severely burned with gasoline fumes. I went to the hospital the next day and was told to come back the following Tuesday for possible plastic surgery. I missed my appointment and didn't go back to the hospital. I was burned so badly that I had to sleep with a large towel around my neck as my face was a running mess. In about three days I lost all of my facial skin. In three more days God had given me some new skin, soft and smooth, and the natural color.

I was asked, "Where is the justice in your getting burned, being the only saved person on the job?" God let me know that justice was death. I had sinned, and was condemned to die, but Jesus died for me, so my question is, "Where is the justice for another man dying for something you did?" Before we demand so much justice, we should think again and plead for mercy.

I am glad to know that a child of God will serve Him when he is well, when he is burned, when he is hungry, full, praised, talked about, lied on, and any other condition one might fall into, because we love God, not just for what He can do for us, but for what He has already done.

I want to thank all the dear saints for their prayers. My fellow workers marveled at my rapid recovery. I told them the saints were fasting and praying and God just healed me.

I desire your prayers, as I am endeavoring to "dig out" souls for God from the cages of deception.

—Bro. Mackey Francisco

W. Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We are happy to greet you dear ones again in the name of Jesus. I am glad to be saved and living a life of victory today.

I am writing you concerning the work in W. Va., as we need the prayers of all the saints. We are beginning to see the Lord work in a wonderful way and a few precious souls are being saved.

About a year ago we were burdened to go see Bro. and Sister Geo. Senic who live about 70 miles from us at Cass. These dear people had stood by themselves for over twenty years and had services around where they lived for many years. After visiting with them, we were encouraged as we felt truly we had met some of God's children. Then last summer they came to the Akron campmeeting for a few days and they felt this gave them much encouragement to meet some of the other saints. . . .

About two weeks ago Bro. Mart Samons came back to Dunmore and had a four-day meeting. Again, the Lord blessed with the saving of five more souls. . . .

Bro. Samons is starting a meeting tonight (May 29) over at Bro. Senic's place of worship at Alpena, W. Va. . . . Bro. Pruitt, we do appreciate so much Bro. and Sister Samon's labors here in W. Va. We pray the Lord will richly bless them in every way as they work for the salvation of souls. We also want to thank all the other brethren who have come this way from time to time, for their labors and prayers, and truly now we feel that all the work and labors done here in W. Va. haven't been in vain. So continue to pray much for us as we all need wisdom and encouragement from heaven as our burden gets greater here in W. Va.

Your Brother in Christ,

—James White

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La.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints: God has been good to me, and I am better in body. I am thankful for the dear saints' prayers for me. What would we do without each other? The saints are so good, when we are in our battles, to hold us up before the dear Lord. I do so love to trust Him for my body and soul, and all I need in life. He has never failed me, and I long to be more like Him! We love divine healing! Oh, to feel His touch upon our bodies, driving out the bad feelings and sufferings! He knows how to handle every case. Blessed be His wonderful name! I love Him and want to draw closer to the Lord in these evil days and be all He would have me to be and rest upon all His precious promises. . . .

I am sending an offering for anything urgent at the moment. Your letter was so encouraging and how we appreciate all of you! . . .

We are indeed happy handing out tracts and papers. . . . Above everything we need to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

Please pray for the saints' unsaved children. Oh, how they need to run to the Lord and lay themselves prostrate at His dear feet, be saved and have peace in their souls, ready to see His dear face in peace.

Pray God that He will keep me humble and always in His divine will.

Yours for one true way, —Sister Rubye Quave

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

Ark.—Dear Friends at the Publishing Plant: May God continue to be with you and bless your efforts in this great field.

I love the "Faith and Victory" and receive spiritual help from each issue. I thank the Lord for people who will stand for truth and for the full gospel in these times. The world needs straight preaching. They need to be told of their sins. They need to be aroused to the danger

they are in. We are expecting the coming of Jesus. It could be today. They should be warned.

My daily prayer is that God will draw lost souls to Him and add them to His Church. When we see what the world is headed for, even some of our own dear loved ones, our heart cries out to God to save them before it is too late.

Here is a little check to help in the expense of getting the printed page to the people.

May God bless you.

—Belva L. Howard

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

Mo.—Dear Saints: My heart is full of gratitude as I think of the miracle the Lord has performed in my behalf. I'm so thankful that I can say truthfully that I know God is REAL!

I had a nervous condition for quite some time. I would get victory at times, but, regretfully, I would let the enemy take advantage. Approximately two months ago it seemed as though I was to a breaking point. I knew I must get a lasting victory. I talked to Mother on the telephone and she advised me to seek counsel and prayer for a touch to my nerves. I did that, and after pouring out my heart to God, with the prayers of others, I received a definite touch. I went from there with a greater determination than ever to keep my life and every burden committed to the Lord. Thank the Lord, that has been around two months and I'm still enjoying the calmness and unspeakable joy of resting free from that nervous life. There have been trials of faith, of course, but thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

This experience has been such an encouragement to me and has strengthened my faith to trust the Lord for the future. Pray for me that through each trial of life, I'll grow deeper in the love of God.

Christian love,

—Janice Allen

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love to you, and all at the Print Shop . . .

Today the enemy of all souls is very busy to hinder the children of God from living the Word of God. . . . I don't believe he cares too much about the profession, if he can only keep them from living the life of godliness and holiness and purity in sincerity, truth, and love before God. That is what it is going to take for people to reach heaven. And God is no respecter of persons, but requires us all to walk in the light. Nothing short of this will please God. Oh, for the testimony that Enoch had! Heb. 11:5, "Before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." We must realize that to be indoctrinated in the Word of God is not enough, but we must have the spirit of Christ or we are none of His. His Spirit is tender, humble, loving, forgiving, unpromising, without picking and fault-finding.

We are living in one of the greatest dispensations of time—that of the Holy Ghost. When He came, He began to reprove the world of sin, righteousness, judgment, and to guide us into all truth (John 16:8-13), and teach us all things. (John 14:26)

It is not the Spirit of God to condone all our failures and short-comings, and put judgment on others. Please read carefully Matt. 7:1-5, and examine yourselves with the Spirit and the Word. 2 Cor. 13:5. Pray as in Psalms 25:1, 4, 5. The Lord will be very pleased to show, teach, and lead us in His ways, because His ways are not our ways, nor His thoughts ours, for as the heaven is higher than the earth, so are His ways, and thoughts above ours. Dear ones, "Well done," and "Thou hypocrite," from the mouth of the Lord, is as far apart as the heaven is above the earth. And unless we can have His commendation

(not our own, 2 Cor. 10:18) we will be left standing outside the door, as the foolish virgins were.

It is with love, and a burden I write these few lines of truth to the saints everywhere. The Lord brought these words to me some years ago: Your soul—God, eternity, heaven, or hell? So it is with us all. May God help all to hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the WHOLE duty of man.

—LaVern Manuel

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

Kansas—Dear Ones: Enclosed is money to renew our subscription for the "Faith and Victory" paper. The remaining money may be used however you see fit.

I have been meditating upon the writings of Paul to the different churches, exhorting them to stand fast in the Lord. In the letter to the Colossians he says, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Col. 2:6, 7.

In another account, Paul sent word to Ephesus and called the elders of the church, for he knew he would see them no more. Acts 20:22-25, "And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me." Can we say what Paul said? "But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy . . . And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more." Paul knew his life would soon be taken from him, and comprehends even more the worth of a soul. Bonds and afflictions to the outward man cannot be compared to the torments a soul would have to endure if cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth in utter agony. Therefore, Paul's heart cries out and yearns toward all his fellow brethren in the Lord, that they, too, remain faithful. He saw that no matter what their bodies had to endure, their souls were eternal.

As we read his letters today, we know they also apply to us. We must be grounded and settled in order for our inward man to remain unshaken when the hard things come against the outward man.

The Lord revealed these thoughts to me as I was thinking of the different saints who have been undergoing severe afflictions, and I, too, have had some suffering to undergo. I had been feeling bad in my body again when the devil presented a thought to me to make me doubt the Lord. But thank God, immediately He brought to my mind the sufferings of Paul. He had gone through bonds, persecutions, tribulations—much more than any of the situations I knew about, and yet was able to say, "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38, 39.

I asked the Lord to help me understand better Paul's willingness to suffer, and it was made so plain to me that Paul was looking beyond this short life to an eternal home. In 2 Cor. 12:4 we read, "How that he [Paul] was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." Then in the tenth verse, he says, "Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." Paul was willing to suffer anything in order to make heaven his home.

Dear ones, the devil is trying every way he can to cheat us out of our heavenly home. Let us get a vision of eternity, and where we want to be in eternity. God lets us make our choice.

Though Paul suffered much bodily, there was Someone else who bore much more than that. His name is Jesus—the Son of God. Jesus suffered all the cruel treatment that man could bestow, meekly as a lamb, but He also bore all the sins of the world. In 2 Cor. 5:21, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.” God cannot look upon sin, as we read in Habakkuk 1:13, “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity . . .” Christ had to endure God’s face being turned from Him. It was then Christ cried out from the cross, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Matt. 27:46. I feel that at that time Jesus experienced what a soul experiences in torment—separation from God. Though He had done no sin Himself, He became sin to make the supreme sacrifice of atonement for sin.

Isaiah 53:11, “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.” So if we wash in Jesus’ blood and stand fast as Paul admonished, an entrance will be made for us into heaven.

Dear ones, may we, as Paul, have a deep insight for our soul’s welfare. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Romans 8:18.

I’m thankful for the blessings God bestows upon us here in this world. Paul surely must have received many blessings while here, as he endured many things for Christ’s sake. I’m encouraged to press on for the Lord.

With Christian love, —Carol Cole

Why Are Ye Troubled?

One evening two men were walking along a road talking together. They were very troubled. Many strange things had happened that they had not understood. As they walked along, another man joined them. He asked them why they were so sad. They asked him if he were a stranger in those parts. Then they told him about a good man who was mighty in deed and who had been killed by the rulers of the land. Now, this was trouble. It brought fear and apprehension to them. Their own lives were in danger since they, too, were followers of Jesus Christ. They were puzzled also because God had permitted their mighty preacher to be killed. They were puzzled about many things that were taking place. Would we not be puzzled? Would we not be troubled?

Later these two men joined another group one evening and suddenly Jesus, the risen Son of God, appeared in their midst. They were “terrified and affrighted.” Jesus said to them, “Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet . . . and see.” (Luke 24:38) As they looked at Jesus their troubles vanished. After a little talk with Jesus and pouring out their hearts to Him, they had “great joy.” (verse 52)

Today we are living in a world of trouble on every side. We are not different from the disciples of that day. We see the confusion and feel the weight

of many perplexing problems all about us. But, dear ones, we need to look up to Jesus. We need to see Him as the risen Saviour who is sitting on the right hand of God today interceding for you and me. Have a little talk with Jesus. Pour out your heart to Him. Hear Him gently say, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.” Believe Jesus to be a Deliverer. Believe Him to be One who is filled with compassion for you. Believe Him to be your Healer, your Keeper, your Comforter, and your Helper. Jesus wants you to practice counting Him being with you at all times. Let Him have your life. Make Him your constant companion. Trust His wisdom concerning everything in your life. “Have faith in God.” “Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.” Look up! “Why are ye troubled? . . . behold . . . and see.” See your Saviour as One who can take your problems if you will just let Him. He has all power in heaven and earth. He gives us power if we will just take it to Him, let go and let God have His way in our lives. You can know in your heart that God’s way is best and He only permits to touch your life just that thing which is just right and best for you and others concerned if you are truly consecrated to Him.

—Marie Miles

The Meaning of the Seven Churches of Asia in Revelation

Why were the seven churches of Asia Minor selected as the ones to which the Revelation should be dedicated or addressed? (See chapter 1, verse 11.) “Does what is said of the seven churches in chapter 1 and to them in chapters 2 and 3, have reference solely to the seven literal churches named, describing things only as they then and there existed, and portraying what was before them alone?”

The entire book of Revelation was dedicated or addressed to the seven churches. (Chap. 1, verse 11.) “But the book was no more applicable to them, except the special messages to the individual churches, than to other Christians in Asia Minor—those, for instance, who dwelt in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, and Bithynia, addressed in 1 Peter 1:1; or the Christians of Colosse, Troas, and Miletus, in the very midst of the churches named.” “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass.” Note that the Revelation was sent “unto his servants”—all of God’s servants, regardless of geographical location.

“Only a small portion of the book could have personally concerned the seven churches, or any of the Christians of John’s day, for the events it brings to view were mostly so far in the future as to lie beyond the lifetime of the generations then living, and consequently they could have no personal connection with them,” except in the special messages directed to the particular congregations named.

“The seven stars which the Son of man held in His right hand (verse 20) are declared to be the

angels of the seven churches. The angels of the churches, doubtless all will agree, are the pastors or ministers of the churches. Their being held in the right hand of the Son of man denotes the upholding power, guidance, and protection provided for them. But there were only seven of them in His right hand. And are there only seven thus cared for by the great Master of assemblies? May not, rather, all the true ministers of the whole gospel age derive from this representation the consolation of knowing that they are upheld and guided by the right hand of the great Head of the Church? Such would seem to be the only consistent conclusion.

"John, looking into the Christian dispensation, saw only seven candlesticks, representing seven churches, in the midst of which stood the Son of man. The position of the Son of man in their midst must denote His presence with them, His watch-care over them, and His searching scrutiny of all their works. But does He thus take cognizance of only seven individual gospel ages? Then why were only seven mentioned? Seven, as used in the Scriptures, is a number denoting fullness and completeness, like the first seven days of time, which gave the world the still used complete weekly cycle. Like the seven stars, the seven candlesticks must denote the whole of the things which they represent." The entire universal Church throughout the gospel age is symbolized by the figure "seven." The scope of the prophetic feature of this symbolization is not derived from the churches themselves as such, or the messages to them, but rather from the symbolic number "seven" alone.

Any congregation of the Church in any period of the Christian dispensation is subject to the same condemnation or commendation as any one of the seven churches if it is found in a similar condition. One authority has rightly said, "Many expositors have imagined that these epistles to the seven churches were mystical prophecies of seven distinct periods, into which the whole term, from the apostles' days to the end of the world, would be divided. This theory, though very old, has arisen from imagination, and finds no basis in reason or fact from the Scriptures."

Adam Clarke writes in A. D. 1831: "I do not perceive any metaphorical or allegorical meaning in the epistles to these churches. I consider the churches as real; and that their spiritual state is here really and literally pointed out; and that they have no reference to the state of the church in all ages of the world, as has been imagined; and that the notion of what has been termed the Ephesian state, the Smyrnian state, the Pergamenian state, the Thyatirian state, etc., is unfounded, absurd, and dangerous; and that such expositions should not be entertained by any who wish to arrive at a sober and rational knowledge of the Holy Scriptures."

F. G. Smith writes: "These churches can scarcely be symbols of chronological epochs for the reason that they are themselves the object of symbolization. We know that type and antitype cannot be united in the same things, that they are mutually exclusive;

and I fail to see how a particular church can be a direct object of symbolization and at the same time a symbol of something else. 'The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.' " (Revelation 1:20b).

Again Smith says, "Some have assumed that the seven were selected in order to set forth seven successive historical epochs in the Christian church. The record shows however, that instead of the seven being symbols, they are themselves the objects of symbolization. Furthermore, the actual facts of ecclesiastical history, in their successive order of unfolding, do not agree with the messages as given to these churches."

Throughout all prophecy we find first the true Church in her apostolic beauty and glory, later arises apostasy and the deepest spiritual darkness in the Middle Age, and finally there is a restoration of the true Church just before the end of time. Now, for instance, try to make the message to the church at Ephesus apply or correspond to the Church of the first century when she shone forth in her pristine glory. The message to the Ephesians indicates that it was a backslidden church. (Rev. 2:5) Such a prophetic symbolization of the Church in general at this period is inconsistent with the facts. Then according to this theory, the restored Church in the evening time—"At evening time it shall be light" (Zech. 14:7)—would be represented by Laodicea, reference to which the message from the Son of man declares that they are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:17).

This unsound doctrine arose many years ago, and has been widely promulgated by the Seventh Day Adventist sect, whose false doctrines on other lines were exposed by Bro. D. S. Warner in his day.

Brethren, let us endeavor to hold fast to sound doctrine, rightly dividing the word of truth.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

What My Saviour Did

When I met the Saviour
Upon the road of sin,
He took my heavy burden,
And gave me peace within.

He healed my afflicted body,
And took my doubts away—
When I met the Saviour
Upon the road one day.

He filled my heart o'erflowing
With His peace from above;
He took my thoughts of hatred,
And filled me with His love.

He gave me beauty for ashes,
And put gladness in my heart,
And promised if I'd be faithful
From me He'd not depart.

—Effie Miller