

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



Volume 41, No. 6

49th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

November, 1971

### First John 2:12-19

I write to you, little children,  
Because your sins are forgiven;  
Now you belong to Jesus—  
Your names are written in heaven.

Look not back forever  
To Satan's wily snares;  
Just keep your eyes on Jesus  
With strong and fervent prayers.

I write to you, dear fathers,  
For you have known the Lord;  
Just keep your lamps a-burning,  
And live in sweet accord.

God has not changed a whit—  
Neither praise, nor worldly fame,  
Neither folly, pride or fashion  
Will mar His holy name.

I write to you, young men,  
Because you are strong;  
You have overcome the devil,  
So just keep pressing on.

The Word of God abides in you,  
And gives you joy and peace;  
Love not the world, nor its vain wares,  
Or the love of God will cease.

Little children, these are the last days;  
Keep your hand in the hand of God,  
Lest you be led astray  
From the path that Jesus trod.

Many false and wicked men  
Are running to and fro;  
To lead in crooked paths and ways  
Where saints should never go.

The lust of the flesh, and the pride of life  
Are sure to pass away;  
But he that doeth the will of God  
Shall in His kingdom stay.

—Ulysses Phillips

### Daily Thanksgiving

"O give thanks unto the Lord." Psalms 105:1.  
Thanksgiving to God is an acknowledgement of divine goodness and mercy; it is an expression of our sense of gratitude for the blessings bestowed upon us by the gracious hand of God. Thanksgiving should be from the heart. Gratitude is a feeling in the heart, excited by the goodness of the Lord. Thanksgiving is an expression of that grateful feeling.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord." God is the giver of every good thing. Not a blessing man enjoys but is given him of God. Think of it! Oh, how thankful we should be in our hearts!

We are exhorted to give thanks in everything; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us. The Christian receives only good or that which works for his good; consequently, nothing ever comes to him in life but that for which he can render thanks to the Lord out of a grateful heart. The Christian life should be one of constant praise and thanksgiving. "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalms 34:1.

Many people should be more thankful than they are. It may be that many who read this are desirous of being more thankful. They can be. "The desire of the righteous shall be granted." Too many hearts are cold, hard, ungrateful, and insensible. Every day should be a day of thanksgiving. This sweet incense should be kept arising from our hearts constantly. The greatest commandment God has given to man is to love Him with all the heart and all the soul and all the mind and all the strength. There are different phases of love. The love of the soul is the love of gratitude. Let us see that we love God with all the soul.

Thanksgiving should make up a large portion of our prayers. "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6. Ten lepers were healed, but only one returned to give thanks. Man is willing to pray for hours for some desired object; but when he has

obtained it, only a moment is spent in thanksgiving. "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." Col. 4:2.

These are days of much coldness, formality, and conventionality. There is much giving of thanks, but we fear that a very great amount is only from the lips. Some give thanks at the dining-table regularly, but oh, how cold and formal! It is not from the heart. They go straightway into sin, using the things God gives them to the lust of the flesh.

But some desire to be more thankful if they only knew how. We will try to help you. First, live a pure life, and use all God gives you to His glory. No life lived in sin can be truly thankful: it is only the pure heart that can see God or His goodness. Sin veils the heart so it can not behold the mercy and benefaction of God. Consequently, the heart that sins can not render praise unto God,

Second. Live spiritually, and be strong in faith. Guard against all lukewarmness; carefully avoid any approaches to the world; give no place to discouragements. You can not be thankful if you allow discouragements to come in upon you, nor if you have a little affinity with the world. These are very blighting to the spirit of thanksgiving.

Third. Look at your own nothingness and helplessness; see your utter dependence on God. Of course, it will take some time to attain the desire of your heart. If you are not willing to take time to be thankful, you can never be thankful. Is that not true in everything? How can one succeed in anything, to which he is not willing to devote some time? Go as often as you can—yes, take time to think over the goodness of God to you. See Him dying to save you; see Him in the temporal blessings; see Him in all His goodness—surely gratitude will begin to flow in your heart.

Now, at this time, when our country has set apart a day in which to give thanks unto the Lord, is a good time for His saints to seek Him that they may be more thankful. May the Lord increase the gratitude of His saints to Him and help them make every day a day of real heart-felt thanksgiving.

—C. E. Orr

## Know No Man After the Flesh

In the beginning "God created man in his own image . . . male and female created he them." (Gen. 1:27) Paul affirms that God "hath made of one blood all nations of men . . . for we are also his offspring." (Acts 17:16, 18). The unity of the race is very important because it was in God's plan that there be one plan of redemption brought to us through one person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Man was the highest creation of all His works and this explains to us the reason that man was made "in the image of God." Man is found to have some special characteristics that are from God. He knows right from wrong and is a morally responsible being. He has a freedom of will. He is an intellectual,

physical and spiritual being. God breathed into man the "breath of life and he became a living soul." Therefore, he has a soul and a body. Paul states, "Though the outward man [body] perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." (2 Cor. 4:16). The body was made from the dust of the earth, (Gen. 2:7) and it lives on natural foods from the earth. In the resurrection day, the Bible says, "This mortal [body] must put on immortality." (1 Cor. 15:53). "Dust thou art, unto dust shalt thou return." (Gen. 3:19).

In the beginning God placed man under a moral law. Every person is directly responsible to God. Through the fall, which came by sin, Adam and Eve in the beginning, lost the state of holiness, and to that extent the image of God was lost, but through Christ it is regained. The Bible says, "Lie not one to another, seeing that ye put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him." (Col. 3:9, 10).

Now back to our thought that every person has a soul and a body. The soul will live on somewhere according to each one's choice. God will not make people go to heaven, but only the holy can go there. No other place is prepared for those who are not holy but the place prepared for the devil and his angels. Paul speaks of being "absent from the body" when he would die and be "present with the Lord." (2 Cor. 5:8). So every one is just living in the flesh, this earthly tabernacle, or house of clay. We can readily see that the soul is more important than the body. The body goes back to dust, but the soul lives on somewhere.

The Bible says, "Wherefore, henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more." (2 Cor. 5:16). "God was manifest in the flesh" (1 Tim. 3:16) through Jesus Christ. His purpose was to transform sinful man into God's own image through the plan of salvation. He bridged the gulf between God and man. When Jesus completed the plan by dying on the cross and arising again from the dead, He ascended back to heaven in a glorified body. We do not know Him after the flesh, but we know Him, in the Spirit, as our Saviour, the living Son of God, sitting on the right hand of God interceding for us. We know Him not as in the flesh but as a living reality in the Spirit.

Now as we do not know Jesus after the flesh, our text tells us not to know any man after the flesh. Yes, but someone says, "All we see is the fleshly body." That is true, but we want to look deeper than just the fleshly body. We want to look at people as souls. Every person has a soul to which we have a responsibility. Cain, in the beginning, tried to cast off his responsibility by asking, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God held him to the fact that he was his brother's keeper. He had a responsibility to him that he had to discharge before God. We each one have a debt to pay to others. The Bible says, "O we no man any

thing, but to love one another." (Rom. 13:8). We owe love to others. If we can see others as souls and not see them as being in the flesh and all the sinful deeds they commit, the failures they make, the color of their skin, the oddities they have, or the conditions in which they live, we can pay our debt to them. Yes, we know that there are people, who commit horrible sins that need to be confessed to God to obtain forgiveness, but look past that sin and see the soul that we are to love. We don't love the sins they commit, but we love their souls. Oh, we want them to make heaven their home. Those who are "born again" and have the Spirit of God in them, have the love of God which desires not that any perish but that all come to repentance.

Why do those who claim to have the Spirit of God in them look down upon those who are in sin with disdain or with an "holier than thou" attitude? They either do not really have the Spirit of Christ or they do not understand that they are their brother's keeper and that they owe a debt to every soul they contact. When we understand this, we cannot draw away from others, regardless of how low in sin they have gone or what their station in life may be. "Know no man after the flesh," but know him as a soul toward whom you have a responsibility. Don't know them as being rich, poor, black or white, sinful, drunkards, etc., but as souls. We want all souls to make heaven their home and we need to do something to help them get there. —M. Miles

### God's Will to Heal

Many a sufferer today is kept in bondage through a lack of faith in God's will to heal. A common expression is this: "I do not doubt His power, but I am not sure about His will to heal me, and I always want to pray, 'Thy will be done.'" Let us keep our eyes upon Him as we see Him going about in His ministry. We will not forget that He is the voice of God to us. There is the instance of the leper who came to Him, saying, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." He was not sure as to the will of Jesus, but how quickly that was settled. "I will," said the Master, and immediately his leprosy was gone. How encouraging this is to us! What He said to the leper, He is saying to us. This is His will. His whole will of redemption is the very will of God to us. Every deed of His life is but that spoken will. He did it perfectly. He finished the work the Father gave Him to do. It is useless as well as dangerous to seek the will of God outside of what was thus spoken through Christ. He of Himself could do nothing. It was the Father who wrought the deeds of mercy through Him, all in accordance with His own plan. The blind men crying with loud voice, "Thou son of David, have mercy on us;" the centurion asking for the healing of his palsied servant; the nobleman pleading for his sick and fevered child; the woman pleading for her helpless demoniac daughter; the father for his son in similar affliction; the

woman weak and faint with an issue of blood; the man at the pool of Bethesda; the man born blind, and all the sick and infirm who were brought in great multitudes on beds and couches, who besought Him that they might but touch the hem of His garment—all receive the manifestations of the will of God toward them and us. Even the vilest of repentant sinners were dealt with mercifully.

To one who was guilty of death, because of her criminal life, He said, "Go, and sin no more." Every cry of humanity from obedient hearts was quickly heard, and that Hand of compassion and power was stretched forth in blessed deliverance, or the word only was spoken, and the work was done. Had you and I been there, dear brother, our needs would have been met as all others. Truly, they are just as fully met in that spoken word today, for the time has not changed it. Therefore, we must not doubt His will to heal us. How can we? If we let His Word decide it, there can be no room to doubt. Let us not permit human reasoning, nor any of the traditions of men to come between us and the definite expression of God's own Word. Believe Him, dear sufferer, and receive the benefits of His boundless provisions for full salvation and health. To doubt His will in this matter is but to rob you of your inheritance in Jesus. Great grace is our portion, but it can be obtained only through faith.

It is right to pray, "Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven." God grant that this may be answered in every heart and life of His people. Surely then every disease must be healed; for there is no such dreadful thing in heaven. There, nothing can enter but righteousness and purity. Sin and sickness, pain and sorrow, cannot exist there. God reigns supreme. So it must be in us here on earth, if we want this prayer to be answered. Therefore, let us ever believe that it is God's will to forgive all our iniquities, and to heal all our diseases; and by faith enjoy all the blessings of "Thy will be done."

—J. W. Byers

### THE SUSTAINING GOD

I have scaled some rugged mountains,  
I have crossed some swollen streams,  
I have stood upon the hilltops  
Where the golden sunlight gleams;  
I have traveled in the valleys,  
I have walked some stony roads,  
But I find in all my travels  
Jesus shares the heavy loads.

Whether things go hard or easy  
As the years go passing by;  
Whether we are shouting happy,  
Or sometimes we stop to cry;  
We may know the God of battles  
Never lets His children down,  
But will give us grace and courage,  
And at last a victor's crown.

—Walter E. Isenhour

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

**"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.

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

**FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE**

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044  
Office Phone 282-1479 Home Phone 282-2262

**STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION**

1. Title of publication: FAITH AND VICTORY.
2. Date of filing: October 1, 1971.
3. Frequency of issue: Monthly except August.
4. Location of known office of publication: 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Logan, Okla. 73044.
5. Location of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: Same as last named address.
6. Names and addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor:  
Publisher: Lawrence D. Pruitt, 1106 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla. Editor: Same as foregoing. Managing Editor: Same.
7. Owner: Faith Pub. House, Inc., 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. (This is a non-stock non-profit religious and charitable corporation.)
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders: None.
9. I hereby request permission to mail the publication named in Item 1 at the reduced postage rates presently authorized by 39 U. S. C. 3629. —L. D. Pruitt, Publisher
10. The purpose, function and nonprofit status: Have not changed during preceding 12 months.

11. Extent and Nature of Circulation:	Average No. Copies each issue During preceding 12 Months	Actual No. of Copies of single Issue Published Nearest to filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed	9741	7600
B. Paid Circulation— Mail Subscriptions	7510	5872
C. Total Paid Circulation	7510	5872
D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier, or other means	1414	723
E. Total Distribution	8924	6595
F. Office use, Left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	817	1005
G. TOTAL	9741	7600

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. L. D. Pruitt, Publisher

## *Keep the Names Coming on this Special Subscription Offer--*

### *Ten Names, Three Months for \$1*

In the October issue of this paper an order blank envelope was inserted in each copy with spaces for ten names and addresses of friends and neighbors whom you want to receive the "Faith and Victory" paper for three months, beginning with the January, 1972 issue. Request more order blank envelopes if needed, and send in all the names and addresses as soon as possible. This offer will expire Dec. 8, 1971. A premium will be given for every group of ten names and \$1.00 remittance. This liberal offer is made possible by the free-will offerings of the saints and lovers of the truth. This is your opportunity to be a missionary, aiding in your part of the Great Commission to the Church to carry the whole gospel to the whole world!

Please be sure to write the Zip Code number for every address. If you do not know the number, your postoffice will gladly furnish it for any city.

### **SEND TEN NAMES FOR THREE MONTHS' SUBSCRIPTION, ENCLOSE \$1.00 AND SELECT ONE OF THE PREMIUMS LISTED BELOW:—**

(If convenient, please enclose some postage to mail the premium to you. However, it will be sent whether or not you enclose postage.)

- Rays of Hope by D. O. Teasley. Written to help those suffering under the devil's accusations. Paper bound, 95 pages. Price, 50c each.
- Bible Chain of Truth by A. Marie Miles. Paper bound 168 pages. Price, 60c each.
- How To Resist the Devil by F. J. Perryman. Paper bound, 48 pages. Price, 25c.
- Steps Heavenward by R. L. Berry. Especially good for new converts. Paper bound, 123 pages. Price, 60c.
- Divine Physical Healing, Past and Present. Faith-inspiring Bible doctrine with 273 testimonies. Paper bound, 272 pages. Price, \$1.00.
- Just Mary by Effie M. Williams. A true story especially enlightening to young people. Paper bound, 96 pages. Price, 40c each.
- Around Old Bethany by R. L. Berry. An interesting true-to-life narrative setting forth Bible doctrines. Paper bound, 83 pages. Price, 40c.
- 1970 "Faith and Victory" papers bound in book form with an attractive heavy paper cover. Price, 50c.
- Christian Home Wall Calendar for 1972. Scripture text each day for meditation, beautifully colored. Retail price, 50c each, postpaid.

(The above listed retail prices, postage paid, are for the information of those who may want to purchase any of these items separate from this special offer.)

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

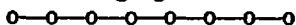
## EDITORIALS



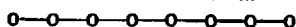
The response of our readers in mailing in the lists of names for the special three-months subscriptions is very encouraging, and we want to express our appreciation to everyone who is co-operating so faithfully in this gospel extension effort. The subscription envelopes are arriving daily, and we would like to have the one that was put in your paper last month, so don't disappoint the Lord and us—just take a few minutes to write ten names and addresses of your friends, relatives, and neighbors, enclose \$1.00 and mail it to this office. Please keep them coming, as it brings pleasure to the Lord and us in anticipation of reaching several thousand new people with the gospel message during the months of January, February, and March of 1972. Write us for more subscription order blank envelopes to fill out with additional names, or type or print plainly the lists of names on a sheet of paper and mail them in promptly. A premium of your choice will be mailed to you for each list of ten names and addresses. Be a home missionary in this manner, and the Lord will bless you abundantly for your labor of love for souls. Please send in all names by December 8. Thank you!



Ministers from near and far attended the three day ministers' meeting held at the Guthrie chapel on Oct. 5, 6, and 7. The meeting was profitable, and the date of Tuesday, Oct. 3, 1972 was set for another session next year. The expenses of the current meeting were met, and we extend our thanks to each individual and congregation for their donations.



While waiting for a visa to go to Nigeria, Bro. George Hammond attended the ministers' meeting here at Guthrie, Okla. Since the visa did not arrive by Oct. 14, he and his wife left on that day from Guthrie for the Baja Calif., Mexico mission field, driving their Volkswagen Camper Van along with Sister Opal Kelly in her pickup truck. She was returning to her mission station at Ojos Negros, Mexico where Sister Carrie Sheppard is also laboring. May the Lord bless and prosper all the efforts of the mission workers in that field.



**"But where are the nine?"**

Jesus healed ten lepers. "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Luke 17:15-18. Leprosy is a terrible disease, so contagious that the person is isolated from society. It would seem that all these men would have been very grateful to Jesus for their miraculous deliverance from this dread disease. Yet nine out of the ten went on their way, no doubt taking their healing for granted, and failed to be grateful enough

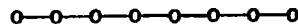
to return and give thanks to the Lord. Ungratefulness is a great sin in the world. One of the works of the flesh is listed as being "unthankful." Many are like the hogs eating the acorns under the tree, but never take time to look up to see where they are coming from.

"This stranger," this Samaritan with whom the Jews had no dealings, was indeed grateful for his healing and with a loud voice glorified God. The Jews who were healed should have set the pattern of thanksgiving, but no, it was this Samaritan who was a "stranger" to the divine covenant which the Jews enjoyed. To him Jesus said, "Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." Praise and thanksgiving is a means of reaching the throne of mercy when nothing else will. Try it often. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 150:6.

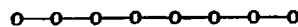


Brother William A. McCoy, minister of Dayton, Ohio, and Sister Evelyn Gibson of Guthrie, Okla. were united in marriage on October 2, at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, Okla. with Bro. Sam Abbott officiating. After attending the ministers' meeting at Guthrie, the couple returned to Dayton, Ohio where they are at home at 621 Tyron Ave., 45427. Phone 513-236-1983.

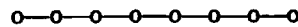
Both of them have had many years of service in the gospel work, and may the Lord bless this union with happiness as they labor together in His cause.



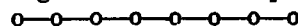
The book, "The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress," by H. M. Riggle, which has been out of print for a long time, is now in the process of reproduction. Consisting of 488 pages in a cloth binding, the volume is expected to be available about Dec. 15. Watch for further announcements.



The annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here at Guthrie, Okla. will be held this year, Lord willing, from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2, 1972. A more complete notice will appear in the next issue. Plan to attend this largest mid-winter gathering of God's people in the central area of the United States.



Bro. and Sister Mart Samons were in a revival meeting at Enid, Okla. from Oct. 8 to 17. Some souls were saved and the saints edified. On Sunday night, Oct. 17, they began a meeting at the Church of God chapel on N. E. 23rd Street in Oklahoma City where Bro. Archie Souder is the pastor. A large attendance and good interest is reported.



Bro. and Sister Ostis B. Wilson of Albany, Ore. attended the recent ministers' meeting here. After a few services at Shawnee, Okla. and points in Louisiana, they returned to Guthrie and Bro. Wilson began a meeting here on Oct. 19, to continue through Oct. 26, Lord willing. The Word is going forth clear and definite for the edification of the church, and we are expecting many more rich treasures of truth before the meeting closes.

Sister Brenda Downer of Garden City, Mich. has heard and answered the call of God to labor here in the Lord's Printshop. She arrived on Oct. 14 and is taking hold of the work very nicely. May the Lord bless and reward her abundantly for her consecrated services. We welcome her to the "Faith and Victory" family. She had attended the Monark Springs and Myrtle, Mo. campmeetings last summer where she accepted more light on God's Word.

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

"Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few: Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." Matt. 9:37, 38. Even as it was in Jesus' time on earth, so it is today, and even more so, that consecrated gospel workers are few and far between, compared to the great need. Not many are willing to launch out by faith and trust the Lord to supply their temporal needs. In these days of high wages and financial income opportunities, the temptation seems to be too great to our professing young people and very few ever make a rock-bottom consecration and get a real vision of the great work of God. Perhaps some older saints have not set a very good example before them of consecration and sacrifice for the cause of Christ. Could this be some of the reasons why there is a lack of, and a crying need for, pastors, evangelists, missionaries and workers in all phases of spreading the gospel of Christ?

Jesus commanded: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things [temporal needs] shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. However, the general tendency in this age is for people to seek material things first and God's will last—just the reverse of what Jesus enjoined. Our Lord, just prior to His ascension, gave to His Church this commission: "Go ye unto all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. This is still the unfinished task of the Church and remains a challenge to every professed follower of Christ. What will our answer be when our Lord returns and we stand before His judgment bar? Can we testify then that our consecration was 100% to do God's will? David of old asked this searching question, "And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?" 1 Chron. 29:5. Consecrate means: to set apart for God's service on the altar of sacrifice. Who will answer the call, meet the challenge and shine as the stars forever and ever?

The Lord's Printshop, at this time, has an urgent need for a volunteer consecrated man (or men) to learn the printing trade, and especially to operate the presses. The Lord has promised and does supply the temporal needs of all those who consecrate their lives to His service and do all to the glory of God. It is essential that one have a real God-given burden for the work of God, a clear vision of perishing souls and a feeling of the responsibility of the debt he owes to the unsaved. If God is dealing with you about

this urgent need of the publication of the gospel literature to this perishing world, write us at this office.

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

Our consolation is: "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and as we face the future our faith and confidence is firm in Him who has promised to be with us all the way as we observe and teach all that He has commanded. Our dependence is upon the Lord for wisdom and guidance in getting the gospel literature out to this world of mankind which is waxing worse and worse in sin, and we solicit your continued prayers to this end. —L. D. Pruitt

## OBITUARY

George Edwin (Eddie) Sprague, the son of George and Emma (Bacon) Sprague, was born Jan. 15, 1912 in West End, Illinois and departed this life to be with the Lord at his home in DuQuoin, Ill. on Sept. 27, 1971 at the age of 59 years.

A retired mechanic and welder, Bro. Sprague had been in failing health for the past year. During this time God dealt with his soul. He responded, was converted and found the joy and peace of sins forgiven and his name enrolled in the Book of Life. His wife, Sister Thelma Sprague, had prayed for his salvation many years and greatly rejoiced in God's great love and mercy to him.

In addition to his widow, Thelma, of the home, and his mother, Emma Sprague, of Cambria, Ill., he is survived by four daughters: Vesta Ward, St. Charles, Mo., Linda Craddock, Hurst, Ill., Elizabeth Robinson, Carterville, Ill., and Mary Sprague at home; three sons: Glenn A. Sprague, Carterville, Ill., Gary L. and Timothy J. Sprague, at home; four sisters, two brothers, and 13 grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Willie Murphey at the Neal Memorial Chapel in DuQuoin, and interment was in the Hinchcliff Cemetery near Cambria, Illinois.

o

## ASSEMBLY MEETING AT HAMMOND, LA.

The annual Assembly Meeting will be held, Lord willing, on the General Southern Campground in Hammond, La., November 21-28, 1971. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. We are looking to the Lord to send the Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing.

There will be three services daily with meals served in the dining hall located on the campground. Dormitories are also located on the grounds. Meeting expenses will be met by free-will offerings. The campground is located in the southwest part of Hammond, La.

For more information, contact Bro. Max Williamson at area code 504-345-4566 or Randall Flynn at 504-345-1856. Come praying for a prosperous meeting.

—Randall Flynn

o

## LOS ANGELES MEETING NOTICE

Our annual Fall meeting at Los Angeles, Calif., will convene on Friday, Nov. 26 at 7:30 p. m., continuing ten days nightly through Sunday, Dec. 5. Three services

will be held on Saturday, Nov. 27 and Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 and 4.

Spirit-filled ministers will be present to expound the full gospel.

All are welcome. Our chapel is located at 1381 E. Walnut St., Los Angeles, Calif. Phone 746-9474.

For further information, contact Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85th St., phone 752-1135 or Bro. Alvin Lucas, 918 W. 62nd Place, phone 759-3962.

—Sis. Leon Phillips

### SPECIAL SERVICES AT MYRTLE, MO.

A gospel singing will be held at Myrtle, Mo., on Saturday night, Nov. 6, followed by all-day services there on Sunday. Sister Margaret Eck, the pastor, invites everyone to these services, and especially urges the young people to come. Plan to be present and worship the Lord in song and prayer.

## Foreign Field Reports

### REPORTS FROM MEXICAN MISSIONARIES

Valle de la Trinidad, B. C., Mexico—Dear Brother in Christ: The Lord is blessing in the work here. A young fellow who was using drugs (pot and LSD) has given his heart to the Lord. He thanks the Lord for a clean heart and clean life.

A few days ago, I was telling an old sick man of the Lord and he would answer me with a devilish laugh. I could just feel the presence of the devil, but I didn't back off. I started singing, "What a Friend," and rebuking this spirit. His laughter turned to bitter weeping and the power was broken; then he gave his heart to the Lord. I was so thankful, as I believe he has very little time left.

Your humble servant in Baja, Calif.—Tomas Mendoza

La Mision, B. C., Mexico—Dear Bro. James: We are thankful for an opportunity to work for the Lord. My wife is having good success with the children's meetings here in La Mision. The brethren here are encouraged.

We had to leave the Dodge truck in Ojos Negros as it wouldn't pull over the mountain. We need to put rings in it, and maybe it would be good to trade it for a smaller car. Thank you for your prayers.

Your Brother in Christ, —Miguel Gaspar

### NATIVE WORKER IN INTERIOR MEXICO

Uruapan, Mich., Mexico (Oct. 1)—Brothers in Christ: We are progressing on our chapel building and the devil is mad, but the Lord is on our side. A few weeks ago the Catholic elders held a meeting to plan action to remove us from this town. As they were talking of a plan to do us harm, fear came upon them and they fled one by one to their houses. We know that the Holy Spirit made them dumb as they were planning to hinder the work of God.

We have a little daughter, 5 days old. All is well with my family.

Pray for us and the hungry souls here in Michoacan. God is blessing us in services at San Lorenzo in the home of Bro. Francisco Narajo. Following is his testimony that he sends to the brethren there.—Irineo Rama

Brethren, I give thanks to God, for He has changed my heart and chosen me for His glory. I have a burden

for souls that don't know what salvation is. My desire is to take the gospel to them. I have suffered much since I have accepted Christ. But I have joy in my soul because I know that Christ has my name in His book of life.

When my father learned that I had "changed my religion" he wanted to kill me with an axe. My old father was in a drunken rage and there was an axe leaning against the wall close to him. He started for the axe, and at this moment I thought, "Christ, if this is your will that he do this to me, let him do it, but if you need me to be your servant here, you will cover me with your hand." Then he turned to me and said, "Francisco, if your God hears you, He better come to defend you right now." Lo, when he reached for the axe, it was not there; it vanished at that instant. My father, in a rage, said, "Where is the axe? Who has taken it?" I said, "My Christ has taken it." He said, "Your God has protected you today, but get you and your family out of my house and never come back, for I will kill you." He beat me with a stick and we left. I am now happy with Christ. I have another Father and a house not made with hands.

—Francisco Narajo

### LETTER FROM MEXICO MISSIONARY

Patzcuaro, B. C., Mexico (Oct. 6)—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the precious love of Jesus. I am so very grateful for that love, and all of its benefits. Just Monday the Lord brought me a real blessing through a hard trial. . . .

Ana seems to be so much more settled in the things of the Lord since she was baptized. She takes an active part in the services and carries a burden for the work. She is a real blessing and help to me.

The saints here are encouraged and pressing on in spite of some open ridicule and persecution they meet. They have precious testimonies . . . We surely need your prayers.

I am so grateful to the dear Lord and all of His people who helped pay for the pick-up truck. It is all paid for and the title is now in my name. It is indeed something marvelous to me, how the Lord undertook. It was paid for one year previous to the dead line. I have endeavored to keep it and my life fully consecrated to the Lord's service and now feel more responsibility. I want to thank each and every one who prayed for this big step of faith and all who helped pay for it. I trust that when this life is over we will hear the Lord say, "Well done." Then it will be worth all the sacrifices.

Thank you for the offering. Bro. and Sis. Gonzales were very grateful, too. He wants to go south to see his parents, as he feels a burden for their souls.

May God bless you each day and in every way.

Much love and prayers,

—Edith Cole

(Mailing address: P. O. Box 1425, Calexico, Calif. 92231.)

### NIGERIAN MISSION REPORTS

Southeast Nigeria (Oct. 4)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ who gave His dear life for our redemption on the cross at Calvary. . . .

We received your encouraging letter of Sept. 7th with a big thank you and the contents delighted us. . . .

We are pleased to report the good news of the third quarter's communion services just concluded. On Sunday, 19th of Sept., the ordinance was held at Ikot Akpan Eda (for Section Two) and at Nduo Eduo (for Section Three).



Services at Ikot Akpan Eda were attended by Pastor M. U. Ekpo, Evangelist M. A. Uko; Bros. I. B. Ubara, and S. Akpakpan, J. U. Ekpo and E. U. Etuk. Good attendance was found and 331 sat at the Lord's table.

At Nduo Eduo, Pastor J. U. Etuk, Evangelists J. J. Udo, F. U. Uffort, Bros. E. E. Udo, E. B. Ubara and A. J. Ubaha attended. Partakers of the emblems of the body and blood of the Lord numbered 300. Bro. B. U. Udeme was there to keep record.

Lastly, the same occasion, held at Nya Odiong (for Section Four), was attended by Supt. Udoka and his assistant, Evangelists S. U. Udo, Stephen Akpan, J. S. Ukpung, S. U. Uffort, S. P. Akpan and D. U. Ekpung. Two hundred members participated in the ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

We also noted seven converts that were present in the services and commended them to the Lord to set His eyes upon them in the day time and at night. Also Bro. B. E. A. Inyang, who had been afflicted with a stroke (along with others), knelt down at the altar for prayer to God to heal them all. We appeal to you all to join with us for continued prayers until their petitions are answered.

We are doing everything we can to speed up the gospel to every creature while the Judgment is a bit delayed.

Yours because of Christ, —Nse B. Umanah

Southeast Nigeria (Sept. 28)—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the co-workers in the Lord's Printshop: Greetings to you in the mighty name of our dear Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ whose suffering and death for mankind brought hope for eternal rest in heaven with Him.

I was very grateful yesterday afternoon when your long expected letter of the 13th of Sept. was delivered to me. . . . Glory be to God who crowned the various campmeetings in the States with success and untold blessings from on high.

On Sunday, the 19th, I officiated and administered communion to 300 souls at Nduo Eduo Nsit, Uyo section, which I now supervise. Evangelists J. J. Udo, in charge of Ikot Obio Inyang congregation, and F. U. Uffort, in charge of Nduo Eduo congregation, assisted from start to finish of the services. General attendance was 376 souls. Indeed the Lord anointed the sermon for the day with words that pierced through every believer's heart like daggers. The theme of the sermon was, "Life and growth in the work of Christ." Oh, how I desire to work harder to please Him, for when I am discouraged, He has a way to encourage me. His gifts are that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ until we attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. This we must know, and having come to the state of this realization we must hold fast that which is good. For we know that the time is fast approaching when we shall no longer have this opportunity. But by that time we must have learned the most sound doctrine and reliable method of keeping ourselves from all deceitful wiles.

Yours in His love and service, —Jackson U. Etuk

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

## MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Oct. 1)—Beloved Bro. Lawrence Pruitt: Warm greetings to you and to all beloved saints in the precious name of Jesus, "Alpha and Omega, . . . which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Thank you for your good letter dated Sept. 7, 1971 and its contents. We are highly obliged to heaven and to you for all kinds of support, especially for your prayer support. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

As I mentioned in my last letter, a three days' gospel meeting was conducted in the chapel at Thrikkannamangal on the first week of September. The clear, fine atmosphere was a special blessing which gave an inspiration for the arrival and attention of a large crowd in all the meetings. Bro. V. I. Thomas and a group from Niranam, Bro. P. Mathew and another one from the new station, Avoor, etc., participated in the meeting. Bro. M. K. Samuel, pastor at Thrikkannamangal and other brethren there, entertained the guests. Spirit-filled saints were appointed by heaven to speak from the Word of God. The church was edified, but, as you said in your letter, it is sad that many are not saved because they would not accept the gospel invitation. Satan is leading them by millions in a train bound for hell-fire. Darkness is spreading fast which can be removed only by the gospel light. A great battle is on, not against flesh and blood, but for the souls of men. The gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation, is the only force that can overcome the evil power of communism.

Sorry to note that you are short of help in the printshop to get out more gospel literature. We earnestly look to the Lord to send consecrated workers to fill the vacancies. It is a long distance; otherwise, we would have rushed there to help you in the shop. Similarly, we continue to appeal to God with broken heart and contrite spirit for your complete healing. May the Good Physician touch you with the balm in Gilead.

Thank you for sending me the photograph and other information concerning the small group of Bro. K. Sudersana Rao in Andhra Pradesh, India. Andhra is hundreds of miles away from Kerala. I have contacted him by letter.

Now, brother, the prevailing burden in my mind is about our brethren in the new station, Avoor. Bro. P. Mathew appeals again for the urgent need of a place or a shed to assemble for worship. God is the only one able to prosper the funds.

By the grace of God all believers here are in spiritual progress.

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

## Prayer Requests

Ala.—"My chest is in a painful condition. When I use my arms, it causes extreme pain. There were a few days that I could not use them at all. . . . I want you and the others there to be agreed with me in prayer that God will heal this condition if it is His will. If not, that He will give me grace and strength to bear up under it."

—Sis. Frances S. Everhart

Penn.—Sister Avis Tinsley has an affliction that causes her severe pain and makes her very nervous. She can't sleep very much. She is trusting the Lord and really needs healing to her body. The Lord has touched her at times but she needs complete healing.



She desires prayer for some of her loved ones who need to be saved.

Calif.—“We are still looking up and claiming His promises. . . . Prayers in our behalf are appreciated more than we can possibly tell. I am still doing what God told me to do—praise Him for healing.”—R. F. Wilson

Kansas—“I need healing for my body. I know God is able to heal me. Please pray for me.”

—Shairy Christian

There are many more urgent requests that come to the office, and we do pray that God does not forget a one, but bless all according to each need. We do thank the Lord for how He does answer prayer. Recently the Lord has made the first part of the eleventh chapter of Luke very precious to my soul. He gave me some deep thoughts that did so encourage my soul. Jesus told about a person going to his friend at midnight and asking for three loaves of bread to set before his friend who had come to visit. The thought that came to me is the phrase, “go unto him at midnight.” There will come a midnight hour in all our lives. But we need to go to Jesus at that time. The man knew that the friend of his had the bread and then he knew that he was his friend. He was assured of these two things, therefore he kept knocking, waiting and then knocking again. He would not be turned away. He knew his friend understood him and that he was a friend who would have compassion, eventually, upon him. That is just like Jesus. “Go unto him at midnight.” Go with faith and assurance that He will help you. Remember that midnight is really the budding of the dawn. It does not stay midnight, but time moves on. The dawn does come. Dear ones, if you are in affliction or need, just keep knocking, waiting and then knocking with faith. Jesus said, “Because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.” . . . “Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Luke 11:8, 9.

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

## From The Mail Box . . .

Penn.—Dear Sis. Marie, greetings in Jesus' dear name: He is so precious to us. Today is sunny and bright with the crisp air of Fall. This is a beautiful time of the year with the leaves turning all colors, and how God does give beauty to enjoy! Praise His name!

Mother [Sister Dona Campbell] is getting more feeble. Her knees won't hold her up, so we have to lift her. . . . I do pray God will give us strength. Some days she can do pretty good, and then other days she can't stand at all. She is a wonderful Mother and it takes a lot of patience and time to work with her.

Please pray for my brother who lives here with Mother. He has been off one week of work and now has started the second week. He is having terrible pains in his stomach and can't sleep. . . .

An offering is enclosed. May God bless you in all you do for Him. I hope to read of someone coming to help there at the Printshop.

Your Sisters in Him, —Eva Cox and Mother Campbell

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all at the Shop: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. We are so thankful for the saving and sanctifying grace that the Lord has extended to mankind. We are so thankful that the mercy

of the Lord has permitted us to be made partakers of these wonderful graces.

We have been very happy to have Bro. and Sis. Ostis Wilson in this area for a few night's meeting. Also Bro. and Sis. Ira Stover are here, too. We have heard some real rich truths. We appreciate the Word and appreciate so much those who are giving their time and talents to the work of the Lord. It is truly our desire to see the work of the Lord prosper. It seems there are so many things in the world today trying to draw the attention of the saints away from the Lord, but we must be very watchful that we do not let anything attract our attention that would not be uplifting to our faith and trust in God.

Lord willing, our Assembly Meeting here at Hammond will be starting on Nov. 21. We hope that as many of you that can come, will do so. We love the saints and would like for all to be here. We do not know how much longer we will be privileged to meet together in public worship. Surely we need to take advantage of every opportunity that we have.

Please find enclosed an offering for the work of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,

—Randall and June Flynn

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

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in the dear name of Jesus: May He richly bless you and the co-workers is my prayer.

I have sad news for you. My mother, Mrs. Ethel Grogan, passed away Sept. 17, 1971. She was ready to go. I miss her so much and am so sad without her. Please pray for me. I live alone since my dear husband is dead also.

I'm still praying for Bro. Lawrence that he will be healed.

My mother loved the “Faith and Victory” paper and I love it, too. She was a dear mother to me and loved God's truth with all her heart.

With love,

—Gertrude Vansandt

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

Tenn.—Dear Brother Pruitt, greetings in Jesus' dear name: I trust this finds all well there, and the Printshop operating efficiently. I know you have been short on help, and trust the Lord will soon provide the needed help, if not supplied already.

Enclosed is an offering for the work, and I pray that God will supply every need and keep each of you encouraged in the great and good work you are doing for Him and His Church, as well as ministering unto and reaching many that are lost.

With Christian love,

—Charles B. Williams

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

Ark.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Marie, greetings of love in the name of our Lord and Saviour: We trust you are well in body and encouraged in the Lord. We are doing pretty well, for which we want to give praise.

We are sending an offering in memory of our dear late Bro. Fred Pruitt's birthday on Oct. 4. [He departed this life in June, 1963 in his 82nd year after many years' service in spreading the gospel by pulpit and press.]

Bro. Lawrence, we are still praying for the Lord to heal those afflictions that you are enduring.

Love and prayers,

—Oscar and Margie Wall

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

Mo.—Dear Ones, greetings in Jesus' name: . . . We have been blessed with reasonably good health and have been having good encouraging times in the Lord from service to service. We surely give the Lord all the praise for the blessings of everyday life and His pro-

tecting care over us and our property. We have had a pleasant summer and the most beautiful fall harvest season. The farmers are gathering the best crop that they have had in years.

We remember all of you in prayer.

—Bro. and Sis. Leslie Adams and boys

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

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers there: Greetings with much Christian love. May God bless and reward you all for the work you are doing.

Pray much that our God will continue to bless and keep His hand over all of us.

Christian love,

—J. M. Mitchell

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

Colo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Marie and co-workers: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus our blessed Saviour who saves, sanctifies, heals and keeps us from all sin. We are glad to report victory just now through the blood of Jesus. Wife and I are both doing very well in body and enjoying the blessings of salvation. . . .

Bro. and Sis. Wollert are both doing well.

Check is enclosed to be used where most needed. May the Lord bless you is our prayer. Remember us in prayer.

—The McEndrees—Ed and Addie

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

Ind.—Dear Brother Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings in the name of our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ. I enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper so much. It is so encouraging to read the wonderful testimonies and answers to prayer. May God bless you as you continue in His service.

Enclosed is \$ . . . to use where you feel it is needed most.

Christian love,

—Sue Morrison

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

Illinois—Dear Sister Marie and all: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I hope this finds all well, and enjoying the blessings of our dear Lord. He is so good to us.

Sister Marie, please continue to pray for me. I am not feeling a bit good this week. My eyes and nerves still bother me at times. I try to keep going, although at times it is hard. I know Jesus is near at all times.

I am enclosing an offering for the Lord's work. I trust it will help the gospel to go out to others that have spiritual needs. May God bless each one there.

In Christian love,

—Mrs. Truman Pitts

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

La.—Greetings in Jesus' name: Today finds me saved and encouraged to press on for the Lord. He is so good to me, blesses me and takes care of me as I live alone. Everything in this old world is so dark and shaky. There is no refuge only in the dear Lord.

I don't write much, but I pray for you all at the Printshop. The paper is food for my soul. I surely enjoy it.

I am enclosing \$1.00 for three years' renewal. Use the balance in the Lord's work.

Remember me in your prayers. I have some burdens for my unsaved children and grandchildren. Pray the Lord to get hold of their hearts.

Yours in Christ,

—Mary Bush

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

Georgia—Dear Sister Marie, Bro. L. Pruitt, and the helpers in the Printshop: Greetings in the name of our great God who said, "I am that I am." Ex. 3:14. I do trust all are well in body and soul. I am well in my soul, but my body is a little on the weak side, although

I am grateful that I am as well as I am. Praise the Lord! When things go well with me, I thank Him. When things don't go well, I thank Him. . . .

I often repeat what Bro. Fred Pruitt wrote to me in a letter long ago. He wrote, "I give my troubles over to the Lord, for they are too much for me." Yes, I have learned to give my burdens over to the Lord and pray Him to help me. I have learned, as dear Bro. Fred Pruitt said, that they are too much for me. "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth." Psa. 121:1, 2.

Pray for us as we are praying for you.

Christian love,

—Sister P. R. Bowers

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

Va.—Dear Saints: I know God knows best, and He does everything right. . . . He gave us strength to stand. This Sunday morning still finds it hard to understand that Sister Bessie Faudree won't be back. But I know she never weakened on any point. I lived and worked with her for nearly 24 years. I never saw her take a dose of medicine. . . . I was right with her. The last thing she said was to rub her back. I saw Sister Laura Powell and Sister Faudree, and I know what it means to go all the way. This is the hardest trial I ever had to stand—to know she has gone. But I know she is in God's hand.

I thank the saints for their prayers. Ask God to keep me that I may stand in every way as these two sisters did.

Your Sister in the Lord,

—Sister Nannie Connell

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

Ind.—Dear Sister Miles: I am sending a small offering. I am a widow and don't have much of this world's goods, but I am happy serving the Lord. I receive and enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory." I look forward each month for it. If my subscription has run out, you may apply some of this on my subscription. I don't want to let it run out. I remember to pray for you and the work there. Please remember me in prayer.

—Mrs. Elizabeth Swafford

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

Calif.—Dear ones at the Publishing House: I hope all is well and every day brings new blessings.

I love the "Faith and Victory." I am so thankful I can read the Bible. I can truly sing, "Sweeter as the years go by." I am 87 and very well, only lame. I am very happy. I found the Saviour when 15 years of age. Oh, how I love Jesus!

Thank you.

—Mattie Smith

(The writer of the above letter is the mother of Bro. Harland Smith whom the Lord called Home a few years ago after laboring faithfully and strenuously for a number of years in the Mexico mission field.)

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

Illinois—Dear Sister Marie and all: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. Thank you all so much for your prayers, thoughts, and the nice card. I appreciate the song that was taped by Bro. Willie, too. It is good to hear your voices and to know you were singing especially for me.

Oh, we appreciate Bro. Murphey's coming at this time. He was surely a blessing to us all, and the message at the funeral was so timely and comforting. I felt like surely the Lord did order his coming to be with us at this time. I hope and pray that the seed sown will take root and bring forth increase in time to come.

I am doing very well, but I am nervous and somewhat unsettled. Some times I am so lonesome when I

think that Ed is gone—but I have hope of seeing him again. Then when I weep I thank God again and again for His mercy and grace that saved Ed, even after he had destroyed his own life with cigarettes. How good God is—and greatly to be praised! I thank Him for His goodness and mercy to me. . . .

Do keep us on your prayer list. I feel my need before the Lord, and I am burdened for my unsaved loved ones.

We pray for you at the Printshop. May God direct in all things and supply every need there. Enclosed is an offering for the work.

With love,

—Thelma Sprague

## Testimonies and Answers To Prayer



Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie, Bro. Lawrence, co-workers, and saints everywhere: Greetings of much love.

First, I want to thank the Lord for saving my husband, delivering him from all his habits, giving him faith to trust the Lord for his body after twelve years of taking several kinds of pills daily. The Lord gave him joy and peace, and a testimony to all, bearing the fruits of the Spirit of the Lord for 3½ months before he was called Home.

Next, I thank all of you for praying for him. Surely, God manifested His great mercy and love in answer to prayer to save him. Even when he was sick, the Lord eased the pain, even though his prayers (and he asked our prayers) were for the Lord to take him. Our loving Father who doeth all things well, saw best to do that.

Also, I thank all who sent get-well cards, sympathy cards, letters, telegrams and offerings. All has meant so much at this time. I feel as Paul said once, "Sorrowful, yet always rejoicing." I want to say I appreciate those who came and conducted J. W.'s funeral in Louisiana—Bro. Charles Smith, assisted by others, and Bro. Stover's service in Pomona, Calif. God so sweetly blessed in every way.

Now, I earnestly ask the saints' prayers everywhere that I may hear the Lord's voice, obey His Word, and stay in the center of His precious will. Also, pray that my unsaved children will be saved. —Lavern Manuel

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

Maryland—Dear Sister Marie: A few months ago I wrote for prayer for my husband who had a sore like a skin cancer on his nose. Thank the Lord, it is much better. I thank you all for your prayers, and still keep praying for him that the Lord will give him more faith. Please remember us all in prayer, and my unsaved loved ones.

I'm sending some names for the paper, also a little offering to be used as you see fit.

A Sister in Christ, —Mrs. J. I. Rambo

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

S. Dakota—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of tender Christian love to all of you at the Print Shop. "The Lord is my strength and my song, and he is become my salvation: He is my God, . . . and I will exalt him." Ex. 15:2. "The Lord is long suffering, and of great mercy." Numbers 14:18.

My hope and prayer is that the Lord has sent the needed help and good consecrated workers, so that the gospel will continue to go forth in ever-increasing volume in these dark and sinful days.

Since I have become a shut-in, I miss many of the evils going on in the world about me, which is one of

the blessings of afflictions. I have been reading and meditating in the book of Job. I have never before understood and received so much blessing from it as at this time. So much beauty is in it, and it has revealed to my soul riches in Christ Jesus, our blessed Saviour. Poor Job, in all his great sorrows and afflictions, he had not one human friend to comfort him, and God, whom he had served so well and faithfully, could not be found for help and comfort, though he looked to the right hand and to the left. Yet he could say, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him," also, "When he has tried me, I shall come forth as gold." What a lesson of patience, steadfastness, and complete trust and abandonment to God this is to us who have the prayers and comforting words of the saints, and the assurance of our precious Saviour seated at the right hand of God interceding for us!

It seems that I have received a touch of healing for the sores which covered my body and they are slowly healing. The growth on my face continues to increase in size.

For some time I have been impressed for an anointed handkerchief while the minister's meeting was in progress. The Lord has brought to my mind the many times He has healed me, especially the time you and Brother Murphey came up from Mission, S. D. and prayed for me, and I was cured of the flu and that dreadful cough. I am so very grateful for the prayers of the saints and the encouraging cards and letters. May the dear Lord bless and reward everyone is my prayer.

I still need prayer. This great trial has drawn me closer to God and is teaching me needed sweet lessons, and my desire is that the Lord will be glorified through it all.

I am enclosing this small offering. Use it for foreign missions or foreign literature, wherever the need is the greatest.

Please send the anointed handkerchief if it is the Lord's will.

May the dear Lord supply all your needs, and keep you in health, and very courageous to send forth the true gospel message that is such a blessing to souls.

Lovingly and prayerfully, —Sister C. A. McFarling

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

Colo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' holy name. I promised God that I would testify to His healing of my eye that I lost the sight of a few years ago. On Sept. 19, I had a pain in my blind eye. It continued, and on the 21st I took my need to the Lord and left it there. In the afternoon, I felt better than I had for several days. The pain left and hasn't returned. I thanked God then for healing the pain in my eye, and I still thank Him for it. Praise His name! —Fred B. Allen

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

Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie and co-workers: Greetings in Jesus' name. It has been 26 years since I gave my heart to the Lord. How well I remember the day! I was sick and tired of sin, but couldn't find a way out. Then I became acquainted with Jesus. Oh, glorious day! When I asked forgiveness and forsook the old way, Jesus saved and set me free from Satan's yoke of bondage, and He has been my Lord and Saviour from that time on. Truly old things passed away and all things became new.

Jesus has been my helper down through the years. Through each and every trial and hard place, He has always been so close, to guide and comfort. Surely, I don't know what I would have done without Jesus. His

Word tells us that He will never leave us nor forsake us. I've proved this to be true, each and every day. Oh, this way grows sweeter every day!

I thank the Lord we were privileged to attend the Monark Springs and Myrtle, Mo. campmeetings this year, and to be with God's people once again.

We thank the Lord for helping Ralph's parents this summer when they were in a car-trailer accident. The Lord came to their rescue and helped them at the time, and He has continued to help them. They are getting along real well. We thank each and every one for their prayers for them and kindnesses to them. May the Lord richly bless each one. How good it is to be in the family of God! Each one is so concerned about the other's burdens and problems.

Would you please remember my husband, Ralph, in prayer? He just doesn't feel good so much of the time, lately. I'm so thankful that God is a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God. He supplies all our needs spiritually, temporally, and physically. I'm especially rejoicing that He has saved some of my children. Praise the dear Lord!

I do desire to please the Lord in all I do, think or say. I covet your prayers for me and my family.

Yours in Christian love, —Sis. Dorothy Wilkins

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

La.—Dear Sister Marie: This is a beautiful day which the Lord hath made and we are rejoicing and glad for the Lord's love and mercy extended toward us!

God wonderfully answered prayer in Steve's behalf last week and touched his body. It was so precious to know we were being carried to God's throne by our brothers and sisters in Christ! One has said, "Fiery trials make us stronger Christians." I thought how good that statement is for us. We pray to become stronger in the Lord. He knows what we need to help us become stronger, so He sends it! Therefore, He is answering our prayers! Please continue to pray for Steve [my husband] and some other burdens we have. . . .

The enclosed check is to cover five sets of "The Beautiful Way" paper for a year. . . . Please use the remainder in the Lord's work there.

Christian love, —Audrey Henry

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

Ky.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, greetings of holy love in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords: First of all, I want to say we do greatly appreciate you dear ones in the Lord and highly esteem you for your work you are doing for the Lord through sending out the gospel by the printed page. You are doing a far greater work than I will ever be able to do, so we want you to know we are behind you with our prayers to God that He will stand by you dear ones there at the Print Shop and give you grace in the face of every foe to be more than a conqueror in and through Him who has all power both in heaven and in earth. . . .

In serving the Lord, we must go through some hard places and meet up with some hard things in our Christian life, but God knows best and is only preparing us for greater things ahead of us. First, there must be a valley and then a mountain, and if there were no battles, there would be no victories to gain.

For some time now we have been going through some special training—in "boot camp," so to speak. What the battle ahead will be like, I do not know, but the Lord is surely preparing us for greater things ahead. There are many new and strange trials coming in the way of the church, but what about those ahead?

Will we be ready for them? Will we have on hand the tools or the graces with which to stand?

For the past two or three weeks, we have been showing some improvement in body, for which we thank and praise the Lord. We feel, or believe, the Lord is going to bring us through this lung disease and place our feet on higher ground.

Bro. Lawrence, we would be so glad to hear that the Lord had healed you of the afflictions on your body. May the Lord richly bless you and give you grace to stand.

We aren't able to do very much, but as the Lord wills and gives us strength we want to do a little visiting. We might even get out to Guthrie, if the Lord permits, for the Assembly Meeting.

Give the saints our love and do remember us yet in your prayers. We will be continually remembering you there.

Christian love, —Bro. Curtis Williams

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

Texas—Dear Sister Marie: The Lord healed Lisa of kidney infection. She had complained a long time with her back hurting. I took her for a physical examination. The doctor said she had a kidney infection. I took her the same day to Sister Ellis' home and we prayed for her. I also called Mom, and you all prayed. I know the Lord healed her right away, because I could see immediate improvement. She stopped saying her back and neck hurt. She started eating better and she acts like she feels good. I surely thank the Lord for His healing power. The Lord has touched my body, too. I feel a lot better.

Mom [Sister Helen Lambright] was sick last night. She has been having some kidney trouble. She is real nervous sometimes at night and can't sleep. . . . Do pray for all of us.

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

Ky.—Dear Sis. Marie, Greetings in Jesus' name: I want to tell you that the Lord worked it all out about the children's immunizations. . . . It is state law in Kentucky that religious convictions will be honored except in case of an epidemic. We surely thank the Lord for this, as we had no intentions of having them immunized. We appreciate your prayers in our behalf. . . .

Thank you for sending the tracts, especially the one about "The Seventh Trumpet." The truths in it are clear and definite, and both Gordon and myself agree that it is Truth. We have heard many explanations and opinions that have been confusing.

The Lord surely protected us on our return trip from Kalamazoo, Mich., over the week-end. Gordon changed a tire and forgot to tighten the wheel lugs. The Lord helped us to discover this before the wheel might have come off. Surely He is good to us.

Christian love and prayers, —Sis. Sybilla Humphrey

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

Oregon—Dear Sis. Marie: I greet you in Jesus' dear name. I can report victory in my soul, and so thankful for what the Lord has done for my body. I am not completely healed, but my trust is in the Lord, live or die. On October 6, it will be 14 weeks since this leg began to hurt on Wednesday after the Jefferson, Ore., campmeeting closed on Sunday. I have been to service only three times since the campmeeting. I surely do miss it and trust I can soon be able to go. . . .

May the Lord bless you all. Pray much for me.  
Love and prayers, —Sis. Emma Busch

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

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

**Protected From Serious Injury . . .**

Bro. Austin McMillian, minister of Neosho, Mo., was driving home early Friday morning, Oct. 8, after attending the Guthrie ministers' meeting when he accidentally ran into a horse on the highway a few miles east of Guthrie. His car was demolished, but the Lord miraculously protected him from serious injury, only a minor cut on his head. He went on home that day and the next day he was able to be at his work for the City of Neosho. Thank the Lord for His great hand of mercy!

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, my sister, Marie Miles, was driving across a Guthrie street intersection and was struck very hard by another car on the right front door. The Rambler car she was driving was badly damaged, but the Lord protected her also from serious injury. She was shaken up, unnerved, and had some pain in her neck, back and side, but now seems to be recovering rapidly in answer to prayer. We truly thank the Lord again for his mercy. "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord."

—Editor

---

## The Fear of God

---

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:13, 14. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Prov. 9:10. A lack of the fear of God is the cause of all human woe. Without regard or reverence to the Creator of heaven and earth, mankind has drifted into the perverted condition that curses his life and existence.

"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate." Prov. 8:13. To fear God is to respect and reverence His nature and person. To fear Him is to be disposed to submit to His laws and obey His statutes. It is to regard the reward of His favor and mercy as a treasure above all things. It is to be convinced of His love, goodness, wrath, wisdom, and power. It is to be indignant of all that is contrary to His nature, and to abhor all manner of sin and transgression against His will. It is to sense that He sees and observes all things, and that we are ever beneath His all-seeing eye.

"Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him." Psalm 33:8. It became God's plan to manifest Himself in great power, might, and wisdom so that the entire world could be convinced of His reality. He called one man, Abraham, and by a miracle of His own power made of him a great nation of people. After allowing this nation to be in bondage to the Egyptian rule for over four hundred years, God Almighty purposed to deliver them and give them an inheritance in the land of Canaan. This He did, but not

until after much great and marvelous dealings with Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. By great signs and wonders He strove with the heart of this wicked ruler to free His people from bondage. Through the plagues and signs that He wrought, His name was to be given fear and respect by the nations, as He said to Pharaoh: "For this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth." Exod. 9:16. And it was evident, as we have recorded in Bible history, that the God of the Israelites was to the nations of the known world a God to be feared. Any nation or army that engaged in combat with Israel soon tasted what it meant to fight against their God. Through this people, Israel, God's name was declared to the nations of the world.

While enroute to the Canaan land the children of Israel received from God by the hand of Moses His laws and judgments. In these laws were revealed the disposition of God toward His people and the way of life that was pleasing in His sight for the sons of men. This law revealed that He was a jealous God, exacting from every mortal supreme love and devotion. Since He was the true and the living God, there was to be no other god before Him. All other gods imagined by the mind of man was declared to be mere human fancy and not reality and truth. Thus they were to be hated and destroyed. This law declared a Sabbath rest for His people. It charged children with honor and obedience to their parents. It outlined to men the standard of honesty, truth, purity, uprightness, faith, and godly simplicity. No other set of laws by men have equaled the standard of these divine judgments imparted by the God of Israel to His people. These laws together with His divine manifestations were exhibited to the world in Israel.

God has truly manifested Himself so that men can fear Him. Truly it is only the rebellious and stiff-necked who can deny God in the face of all that He has done for the children of men. The fear of God is ever making her appeal to the heart of man. "Today if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart." Psa. 95:7b, 8a. If one will but consider the issues involved, reason and conscience will reprove them of sin and constrain them to yield to the fear of God.

"Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent." Acts 13:26: In the fulness of time God sent forth His Son to be the Savior of mankind. His Son was Jesus of Nazareth whose ministry before the people was approved of God by signs and wonders which God did by Him in the midst of them. In this Jesus was revealed the salvation of God. This salvation was first offered to the Jews who were descendants of Abraham. But their hearts had become so hardened through the deceitfulness of sin, they rejected the Prince of Life. They clamored for His death, and were not satisfied until they saw Him a Roman prisoner and put to death between two thieves on a cross. But God

raised Him from the dead, and Jesus revealed His risen glory to those who believed on Him before He was taken up to the right hand of God. And according to His promise He sent forth upon His followers the power and glory of the divine Spirit to operate and motivate His people as the Church or His body in the world. But though the Jews rejected the message of salvation, it found a great welcome in the hearts of men from other nations who feared the God of Israel. And when the Gentiles heard that the salvation of God was offered to them, "they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Acts 13:48.

It appears evident in all of this that only those who truly feared God received the message of His salvation. Through the work of grace their hearts and conscience were purged from dead works to serve the living God. Through their faith and desire to serve God, the Holy Spirit wrote upon their hearts the precepts of the law of God. It is the same today. Only those who truly from the depths of their hearts fear the Lord can receive of His grace for the salvation of their souls. We are convinced as we meet this awful age of mankind that the fear of God is far from many people, even those who after a form of godliness believe in Christ. How true was the Psalmist's words in 50:16, 17, when he spoke in the Spirit: "But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee?" There are many who profess the favor of God who have no vision of His fear. They respect not the standard of His word and in their seeking for Him, His laws and judgments are not before their minds. The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom and without the fear of God there is no wisdom. Psalm 19:9 tells us that the "fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever." The term here "the fear of the Lord" is used as a connection with His law, testimonies and statutes. Thus, we see that we cannot truly fear God except in the light of His Word.

"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth." Psalm 34:11-16. Here is the fear of God entreated upon us. Only in fearing God are we assured of life, both now and life eternal. Peace and good are the supreme objectives of the man who fears God.

As we meditate upon these things we are surely convinced that true wisdom is the fear of God. The fear of God will bring one back to the nature which God intended for man to possess. Its fruit is happiness and eternal good. It is the whole duty of man.

—Leslie Busbee

## Jesus' Second and Final Coming

"But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:29, 30. The same day Lot was saved out of Sodom the wicked were destroyed; so shall it be at Jesus' coming. Verse 27 says, "The day that Noe entered into the Ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all." Verse 30 says, "Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." In the light of these Scriptures, the Scripture in Matt. 24:40, 41, "One shall be taken and the other left," is merely speaking of the separation of the saint and sinner at the Judgment Day at Jesus' coming. This separation is also spoken of in Matt. 25:31, 32, etc., "When the Son of man shall come in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: And before Him shall be gathered all nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats."—The Judgment Day. In John 5:28, 29, we read, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which ALL that are in the GRAVES shall hear His voice and SHALL COME FORTH; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." ALL shall come forth, both saint and sinner, at the resurrection when ALL that are in the graves SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE. "Every eye shall see Him: and they also which pierced Him." Rev. 1:7.

"I will raise it up at the LAST DAY," John 6:39. "I will raise him up at the LAST DAY." John 6:40. "The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the LAST DAY." John 12:48. Both saint and sinner are to be raised at the LAST DAY, also judged in the LAST DAY, not a thousand years after the last day. What Jesus is really teaching in these Scriptures is that the wicked are to be judged and the righteous are to be raised at the LAST DAY.

Paul, speaking in 1 Thess. 4 of the resurrection and Christ's coming, is teaching that living saints have no advantage over the dead saints, but that the dead saints will arise first, and both living saints and dead saints will be caught up TOGETHER (verse 17). This fourth chapter does not mention the resurrection of the wicked, but the fifth chapter does speak of that day coming as a thief to the wicked (verses 2 and 3), then verses 4 and 5 speak of the SAME DAY as not coming as a thief to the Christian. Paul still carries the same thought of the ONE day for both saint and sinner in his second letter to the Thessalonians (1:7-10) where he speaks of His coming "in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that KNOW NOT GOD, and that OBEY NOT the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with EVER-LASTING DESTRUCTION from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power." When? "When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) IN THAT DAY."



This carries out the same thought that Jesus gave in Luke 17:29, 30, "THE DAY Lot went out of Sodom the wicked were destroyed. Even thus shall it be in THE DAY when the Son of man is revealed."

Paul, speaking of the resurrection in 1 Cor. 15: 22-24, says, "For as in Adam ALL DIE, even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterwards they that are Christ's AT HIS COMING. Then cometh the end." "Cometh" is in italics in the Bible which shows that it is a word supplied by the translators, so this should read, "Then the end." Time will be no more. The Judgment Day is at His coming. The SAME DAY Lot went out of Sodom the wicked were destroyed; "Even thus shall it be IN THE DAY when the Son of man is revealed." Luke 17:30. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35.

In 2 Peter 3:4-10, Peter speaks of Jesus' coming, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein SHALL BE BURNED UP." When? At His coming. Heaven and earth—all that we can see—are to be burned up AT HIS COMING. This is not speaking of heaven where God dwells, but the aerial heavens (Read Gen. 1:8). In Rev. 20:11 we read, "And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them." This is at the one and only future coming mentioned in the Bible.

"Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matt. 24:44. "And what I say unto you I say unto ALL, WATCH!" Mark 13:37. —Sel.

## The Israel of God

"And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God." Gal. 6:16. One of the names given to God's people was Israel. God called a man named Abram out from his own country and kindred, and gave him a promise of everlasting inheritance and blessing. He told him that he would become the father of many nations. This promise was given when Abram and his wife, Sarah, were past the time of life for producing offspring. But Abram believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness, therefore his name was changed to Abraham, which means "father of many". The substance of his inheritance was his faith in the promise before it ever came to light. In the process of time a son was born to Abraham and Sarah, and he was called "Isaac" which means, "laughter," because both Abraham and Sarah laughed at the first thought of the possibility of their having children. It seemed, to the human standpoint of view, ridiculous to think of such a thing. But realizing in their hearts the faithfulness and power of God, they both believed that it would thus be, and it

was. Isaac was born, and in him the seed of Abraham was called. Thus the Israel of God had its start. "They are not all Israel, which are of Israel; neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children; but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called." Rom. 9:6, 7. The Israel of God is thus named because it consists of people who lived and were blessed by the power and virtue of their faith in the promise of God.

Tracing on the course of Israel we see the child of promise, Isaac, grow to manhood and married to Rebecca. Before her two sons were born, God spoke to her and revealed that she was carrying twin boys and that "the elder shall serve the younger." This was done for the purpose of God as Paul said in Rom. 9:11, "For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth." Ordinarily the older son would receive the blessing of the father, which blessing in the case of Isaac would have been the promise of eternal inheritance given to Abraham his father. But God, in a measure to exalt His own purpose and reject the custom of men, placed the blessing upon the younger. This was all revealed in a figure when the two boys were born. For Jacob the younger reached out and laid hold on the heel of Esau the elder. Thus another law of the Israel of God showing us that God Himself is the Planner and Designer. But for Jacob to actually overcome the wrath and rule of his older brother was to mean something to him. Having supplanted Esau (the word Jacob means "supplanter" or deceiver, one who takes by the heel) twice by fraud, it finally came to be Jacob's challenge to triumph over his brother in the right way by the help of God. And so it was that when he returned from his sojourn with Laban, his mother's brother, word came to him that Esau was soon to meet him with an army of four hundred men. All his means and art to supplant his brother abandoned, he prayed earnestly to God for help and deliverance from his brother. See Gen. 32:9-12. Sending a present to appease the wrath of his brother, and sending on his family and goods ahead, he was left alone where there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. Reckoning this man to be a messenger of God for his aid, he held him fast saying, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me." And although wounded in his struggle, Jacob prevailed in gaining the blessing that he needed. "And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed." The word Israel means "a prince, one who prevails." Can we not see that each of these principles that is revealed in these three generations is essential and a vital element of the term "Israel of God"?

But this is not all. Jacob's family of twelve sons received each one a portion in the inheritance of their father Jacob. From these twelve sons sprang the twelve tribes of Israel, with each tribe bearing a particular significance in the Israel of God. When Jacob lay dying, he blessed his twelve sons. The



utterance of this blessing is recorded in Genesis 49. Contained in this blessing are essential points of spiritual value. After the long and eventful leadership of Moses, before he departed from them, he blessed them. This blessing is recorded in Deuteronomy 33, and once again one can discern great spiritual truths contained in his message. Time and space would not permit a thorough discussion on this point, but for example notice the blessing of Zebulun in Gen. 49:13, "Zebulun shall dwell at the haven of the sea; and he shall be for an haven of ships." Is this not one great attribute of the true Israel of God? Salvation is a haven for the sin-tossed soul. Notice the blessing of Issachar: "Issachar is a strong ass couching down between two burdens; and he saw that rest was good and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute." This pictures the theme of serving, which is surely a great aspect of righteousness. Similar and various such thoughts are presented in each of the other tribes mentioned.

We must understand that the real character of Israel was that of the heart. It was the spirit of faith and obedience to God that constituted the Israel that God designed. "He is a Jew [Israelite] which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God." Rom. 2:29. There were definitely those in the course of the history of Israel that were thus before God, and it is surely evident that many were not true Israelites in heart. Saul was an Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, but he surely did not prove to be a true Israelite. He was an example of many of like condition of heart. There was a time when the prophet Elijah felt that there were not any true Israelites left. But God encouraged him thus: "Yet have I left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." 1 Kings 19:18. Here was the Israel of God, beyond the reach of the prophet and what men could see! God had preserved them from the idolatry that was abroad in the land.

Then we notice in the prophets the promise of God to Israel of a King, a Shepherd, a Saviour. "And He said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth." Isa. 49:6. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2. This promise was a consolation to the faithful Israel. Jesus Christ of Nazareth was truly that King. At His birth in Bethlehem there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem saying, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews [Israel]?" This same Jesus, when beginning His ministry to the people, said this to Nathanael: "Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Recognizing His divine bearing Nathan-

ael exclaimed: "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel!" John 1:47-49.

Paul was given opportunity at Antioch in Pisidia to say a word of exhortation to the people. He arose and gave a brief summary of the history of Israel from the time of their delivery from Egypt. He spoke of faithful David, and said, "Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus: when John had first preached before his coming the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel." Yes, Jesus came as a Saviour to Israel. Paul went on: "Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, unto you is the word of this salvation sent." "And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that He hath raised up Jesus again." Acts 13:16-41. The promise of God unto Israel was fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. And because many of the Jews were not true Israelites and rejected Christ, the salvation of Israel was offered to the Gentiles who received it gladly. Thus it is proved to us that all nations of men can be of Israel if they will humble themselves to the same faith and obedience that characterized their father Abraham. John the Baptist rebuked Israel saying: "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." Luke 3:8. When the Jews said to Jesus: "Abraham is our father" He replied, "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham." John 8:39.

This is all a very serious message to us today. It means much to be a part of the Israel of God. It means much to be a true saint of God. Too many hold a high profession, and fail to bear the fruits of such a profession. There are three things that will avail more than a form of religion: (1) Faith that works by love, Gal. 5:6; (2) A new creature, Gal. 6:16; (3) Keeping the commandments of God, 1 Cor. 7:19. These qualities make up the Israel of God. It would do us well to diligently consider each one of these essential marks of a true Israel. Remember, it matters not how much we profess, God knows whether we are a true Israelite or not. "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob (Israel), saith the Lord. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the Lord." Isa. 59:20, 21. A true Israelite never covered his or her sins. They were always confessed and open. Thus when Jesus came He provided deliverance for the contrite and penitent. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13. "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9. To those who meet this condition for cleansing from sin is given hope of eternal life in the resurrection. But this hope is only for Israel. Dear reader, are you an Israelite indeed? —Leslie Busbee