

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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God's Little Ones



The Word of God is sharper than a two-edged sword; "I have spoken," "I change not," thus saith the Lord. Hear the echo! This is the Way, ringing through the ages of time.

It cuts asunder, divides truth from error with its crime.

I am glad the "Church of God" is chosen, protected on every side,

Christ is the Head, we are the Body, His precious Bride! The blessed Holy Spirit has the authority to rule, His subjects are made perfect, in His training school.

Jesus saves and sanctifies through His blood the members every one;

The Holy Spirit gently leads, all human control is gone. Rejoice! the schism walls of confusion are tumbling down;

As long as we stand true, man's trumpets cannot sound.

If we love the Lord, by His truth we will abide;

False teachers, divisions, and man-rule are all outside. "Beware of man," "Be not deceived," the Bible warns; Every error they bring forth, the heavenly Father scorns.

The God-called ministers' duty is to feed His holy flock, While the children of God stand steadfast on the Solid Rock.

Woe to those who stole the Church's name—love not their pernicious way,

Pray and weep for the unfaithful, for the Lord in His wrath will slay.

Look up, little ones, our heavenly Home is drawing near;

Praise His holy name, we have no need to fear.

Through trials and tribulations, we are kept in spotless white;

Jesus is coming soon, in His glory and with His might.

—By Lucille Richey

Faith adds its "Amen" to God's "Yea" and then takes its hands off, and leaves God to finish His work. Its language is, "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him," and He will work.

Facing the Red Sea



Those who are traveling on the highway of holiness and are bound for that Celestial City will at times in their life come right up to the "Red Sea." There isn't a bridge over the Red Sea. The only way you can cross it is by God making the waters stand back and become congealed while you cross over on dry land. Exodus 15:8, "And with the blast of thy [God's] nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as a heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea." There will be more than one "Red Sea" to cross on this highway of holiness. Again and again we come right up to its shore, but as time goes on and we see God working, our faith is mightily increased, yet each time we find that it takes new faith and courage to face it, as each time it is a new experience.

Recently I faced a "Red Sea" in my life, which is not the first time. The enemy of my soul was right there to keep me from crossing it. It wasn't that the devil tempted me to turn back, but tried to cause me to think God was not going to let me cross over it. He brought all kinds of thoughts to hinder my faith. You remember reading how the Israelites left Egypt, and how fear gripped their hearts as the cry went up that the Egyptians were coming from the rear with a huge army. The mountains were on either side and these defenseless people faced the Red Sea. They even saw their graves, as they felt certain they were facing death. Their imaginations gathered like a black cloud to crush them. But as Moses looked to God, he told the people to "Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation [or deliverance] of the Lord . . . today." Exodus 14:13, 14.

Recently, while visiting my nephew and his wife in Louisiana (Byron and Clarice Pruitt), I became very sick with several attacks which affected my heart. On April 8th, all that night and day, and up until the next morning, my heart beat so fast that I was very, very weak. All kinds of thoughts were presented to me from the devil. I would resist them, but they would come anyway. Many prayers were

offered for me by the saints there and in other places. I had to keep resisting the thought that I wouldn't live, yet I had no fear as I was ready to go. I searched my life and found it clear. That was such a comfort. I even tested myself about my feelings toward those who had grossly wronged me down through the years, but only a forgiveness and a deep feeling of love flowed toward each one. I was facing God and how precious it was to know I could see my Saviour "face to face" in peace. I would just keep committing myself into God's hands.

But up in the second night of this, the devil presented strongly the thought of whether my family would have me buried there or have me shipped back to Oklahoma. This seemed to startle me in a sense. The Lord then came to my rescue. He brought to my mind the incident of the children of Israel facing the Red Sea and asking Moses if there were not graves in Egypt and why he had brought them out to die in the wilderness. Then right behind this, came the precious Scriptures that I have quoted many times even to others, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." 2 Cor 10:5. I began to cast down that kind of imaginations, and as I would continually do that, my faith increased. Even though I still had to fight against the afflictions, from that time I had faith that I would get well and be able to go home.

Four days later I was taken to the New Orleans airport, and then flown home. God healed me and raised me up. The devil was a liar, and when I continually resisted his ideas and let my faith rise up as a defense against him, the Lord did a work for me. God heard the prayers of His saints. Byron and Clarice again and again would pray for me when I was suffering. Bro. and Sister Herbert Probst, Bro. and Sister Max Williamson and Bro. Bob Forbes came and prayed for me and spoke words of encouragement. Sister LaVerne Manuel, although not well in body, came and prayed, as well as my loved ones at home, and saints at other places. Surely it is wonderful to be in such a loving family of God.

Today (April 18th) I went to the office for the first time and as I started to return thanks at the table for the noon meal in the print shop kitchen, I broke down with tears of thanksgiving to God for helping me to cross the "Red Sea" in my life again, and bringing me back to the work I love to do so much.

Dear ones, God did this for me, as I looked only to Him and not to man. If you are facing a "Red Sea," be sure to cast down every imagination and let your faith be anchored in Christ. While lying on my bed I would think of all the times Jesus healed and go over those incidents. I would think of every Scripture I could to inspire my faith, as I wasn't able to read my Bible. Oh, how I did thank God for that Word of truth that was stored up in my mind. "Faith cometh by hearing, [or reading, or thinking], and hearing by the word of God." Romans 10:17. It

is God's Word that we have that builds up our faith which brings blessings to us from God. We can cross the "Red Sea" in our life and go marching on up the highway of holiness to that Celestial City, as God is our Deliverer. —Sister Marie Miles

God Knows Thy Works

"I know thy works." Rev. 2:2. "Thou hast left thy first love." Rev. 2:4. These are the words of Him "who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks" and knows the hearts of all men;—Him whose "eyes are in every place beholding the evil and the good." "His eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." Psa. 11:4. He "looketh on the heart." Therefore, these words are of great importance. They convey now the same message as they did to the church at Ephesus.

That the church to whom these words were spoken once enjoyed the fulness of God's blessings is an undeniable fact. Under the labors of Paul, they believed in Jesus Christ, received his baptism by immersion, and also the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Acts 19:1-6. Paul said to this church, "After that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Eph. 1:13. "Ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:2. She was divinely organized. Her ministers were placed in their office by the Holy Ghost. Acts 20:28. Here in this church God wrought special miracles by Paul (Acts 19:11, 12), and "mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." Acts 19:1-20. When the knowledge of the truth about the one true God was made known through her, the silver shrines and images of the goddess Diana were not much in demand.

The church at Ephesus was an example of a spiritual church. Paul uttered no rebukes against her; had no controversy to settle, but rather he wrote to establish her in the faith, gave her a very high and exalted view of the love of God, and the dignity and excellency of Christ, and made known to them the "mystery" that the Gentile converts now have equal privileges with the Jews. Eph. 3:9. Praise the Lord! He urged them to walk in a manner becoming their profession. Eph. 4. He taught them the ideal principles governing the Church—God's family.

They had patience, they labored for God, could not bear them which were evil, "tried them which say they are apostles and are not, and hast found them liars." Rev. 2:1-3. Yet He "who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks" saw that a sad declension had taken place among them and uttered, "Thou hast left thy first love." "I know thy works."

In the light of these thoughts, may the question, "Where art thou?" suggest itself to each believer in Christ, and also to every assembly called by the name, Church of God. God knows what was and what is. Is He pleased or grieved with your present experience or condition spiritually? Are you going for-

ward, growing "in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"? Do you still enjoy the riches of God's grace? Or do you now say, "Where is the blessedness I knew when first I sought the Lord?"

Do not rest upon your past Christian experiences, but let them stimulate you to greater activities for Christ. You had a bright Christian experience years ago. "Where art thou?" Take a panoramic view of your Christian life. Oh, there are so many who left their first love—so many from whom no one can receive spiritual blessings who once were channels through which God's blessings flowed! They have allowed the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to choke the love of God which was planted in their hearts, and thus they neglect their duties to God and His Church. Our love to God is not proven by what we were, but what we are. If one allows the tendency for fame to predominate one's life, first love for God will be lost. Thus, God's truth will be compromised to satisfy the carnal nature, and more emphasis will be placed on the material rather than the spiritual life.

There was something good in the church at Ephesus that God admired (Rev. 2:6), but this was not enough. They had left their "first love." There are many now with something good about them, but they have left their "first love" and should return to it to gain God's approval. "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth," and see the individuals or churches which have "left their first love," and so the exhortation: "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent."

—Israel Smalling

What Is Man?

"What is man that thou art mindful of him?" Hebrews 2:6. Man is a two-fold being, the outward and the inward man. In Gen. 2:7, it is said, "The Lord God formed man out of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." The forming of man's body came first, but it was just a lump of clay with no life. He formed all of the members of the body and placed them together in similitude of a living man, but yet they had no life. God then looked on the form He had made and it pleased Him. He saw it was good. As He looked, He perceived there was something lacking (as I write in my own words). God was not playing when He made man like making clay birds to break, but He had important ideas about man's future.

We find an allegory in Ezekiel, chapter 37. The prophet was taken by the Spirit of the Lord into a valley full of bones and they were very dry. This has a spiritual meaning, too, but follow the line of thought concerning man. God asked the prophet if these bones could live, and also instructed him to preach to the bones, as there was no life in them. But when he began to preach to them they came

together and stood up, but there was no life yet. God said, "Preach some more." As he preached, breath came into them and they stood up on their feet like a great army. He said, "They are the house of Israel." In Isaiah 57:19, God said, "I create the fruit of the lips," but there is no fruit of peace and praise in a dead man's lips.

Back to man, the form was there in the creation, but no life, action, love, moral courage, partnership, understandability, or dependability. God did not have pleasure in a physically dead man, for that would be like a wooden idol that could not speak. God had the plan and power. He used it to breathe life into man's nostrils and man became a living soul. Life to the body, life to the soul, because the body without the spirit is dead. Also, the soul without the Spirit is spiritually dead. The Spirit of God in man is spiritual life. "There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding." Job 32:8. Without physical life the body is dead. God said, "All souls are mine, but the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Mankind by himself is not much. The body goes back to dust and the spirit (of man) to God who gave it.

I believe by the Scriptures in Acts 17:28, 29, that there is something of God in all mankind, for there is a conscious entity co-existent with God. It is the conscience that came from God which will accuse or excuse one another in the day of judgment.

The breath we breathe is God-given. The blood in our veins, our power of thought, reasoning, and ability to invent are all God-given, so without God there is no knowledge or life. Even the stars, sun, moon, and planets prove the cause of God and His Son, Jesus, for in Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

When I think of the regularity of the movements of the elements of the sky, I wonder, what is man? Man was made for the pleasure of God. God had pleasure in, and because of, His creation. Should not man consider his frailty? Should not man render acknowledgement to God of His ownership of the whole earth?

Of all the creations in the universe, man is the greatest. What man has been able to create man out of a lump of clay? then bring him to life? Man has said we evolved from tadpoles. What would hinder man from going back to a fish, if this be the case? He is so frail that with one small bump he is gone. I had a couple of these bumps and came through by the power of God. Man is so helpless by himself. God is the source of all life. He told Hezekiah He would add fifteen years to his life because of the life he lived before Him. Man's life is like a shadow here—just for a little while. Life is in the hands of God. Man should give his life to God that He might be glorified in it. Since man came from the dust of the ground, he must soon go back to it, and his spirit back to God who gave it.

—A. E. (Gene) Harmon

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend campmeetings) by Lawrence D. Pruitt, assisted by Marie Miles and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

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EDITORIALS



Greetings to all our readers in the all-prevailing name of Jesus who said: "I am he that liveth and was dead; and behold! I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." Revelation 1:18. Thank God for that blessed hope and precious promise, "Because I live, ye shall live also." John 14:19b. Again Jesus said, "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." John 11:26. This is the blessed hope of the righteous. Physical death has no power to separate the believer from Christ. To be absent from the body means only to be present with the Lord forever. With bright anticipation we look for the glorious appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ "Who shall change our vile [decaying] body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body. . . ." Phil. 3:21a. Jesus is coming for those who love His appearing. Let us keep looking up!



An unusually large number of BLUE subscription renewal envelopes have come in, which indicates that people scattered abroad still recognize and appreciate the old-time Bible truth. Honest souls are disgusted with nominal Christianity, compromise and modernism, and are looking for that "pure religion" that satisfies the soul. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Again, Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and they follow me." Thank God for those who are hearing the voice of the Lord and following Him in the one true way.

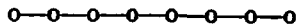


The campmeeting and evangelistic tent meeting season has already started. Sister Bonnie Matthews, co-worker at this office, left on April 16 by plane for Florida where she is laboring in the campmeeting at Goulds this week. The Lord gave her a special burden for that meeting. Also, Bro. Lewis Williams of Wichita, Kansas is in that campmeeting. We pray that these services will result in the salvation of many souls.

The next camp meeting will be the Oklahoma State meeting here at Guthrie, which will be in progress from May 25 to June 3. (See further information on another page.) On behalf of our pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, who has been caring for the local congregation since last November, we extend a cordial invitation to all to attend these services. Remember the dates, come and receive the showers of blessings which the Lord has for you. Saints, come praying for the salvation of souls here and at all the camp meetings throughout the summer. Time is running out, and what we do for precious souls all around us must be done quickly.



Brother Kenneth Probst of Vinita, Okla. is in a week's pre-Easter meeting at Loranger, La. where his father, Bro. Herbert Probst, is the pastor.



My sister, Marie Miles, is slowly recovering from a recent illness. Your prayers for her are appreci-

ated. In order to relieve her some from her office work load, Bro. Leslie Busbee is helping her to write the third quarter Bible Lessons. May the Lord bless and reward him for his sincere concern for all phases of the work of the Lord.

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Bro. Mayo Mitchell, aged 59, a long-time member of the church here at Guthrie, passed away on April 17 at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla. where he had been residing since his health failed. Bro. Mayo was devoted to the Lord, trusting Him all the way, and his passing was easy. Another soldier of the cross has won the crown. His funeral was held on April 19 at Jena, La. Never married, his earthly house was laid to rest beside his mother at Jena. May the Lord comfort his father, Bro. J. M. Mitchell of Pineville, La., and all the relatives and friends in their bereavement.

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The Lord is blessing in the spring meeting in Oklahoma City, Third and Phillips Streets. Brother Mark Spinks of Shreveport, La. brought a message there last Sunday, April 15. Bro. Woodrow Warren and other ministers are laboring in the meeting.

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Bro. T. V. McMillian sends word that Bro. and Sister Murphy Allen are holding a meeting at Neosho, Mo. this week just prior to Easter. Brother Allen recently took the pastorate at Springfield, Mo.

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Sad news was received that Sister Celena (Lacue) Whitehouse, aged 74, departed this life on March 21 at Louisville, Ky. after many years of ill health. As young people before they were married, she and Ervin Whitehouse worked here in the early 1920's, in the formative years of the Faith Pub. House. May the Lord sustain and comfort Brother Ervin, their children and relatives in their loss.

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Sister Carol Lasiter, who has been helping in the office work for the past year, is now unable to continue her work here because of a battle with her nerves and other afflictions. Pray the Lord to bless and prosper her in soul and body.

To fill this vacancy in the work, the Lord needs a consecrated, competent typist (unencumbered woman or man) to work in the mailing and bindery departments. The Lord's Printshop could also use another printer or printer's helper. Will you answer the Lord, "Here am I; send me"? (Isa. 6:8). Write us if you would consider this call of God.

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On March 24, Wife and I flew to California to see relatives and saints, and to return in a car belonging to Sister Bonnie Matthews. Last September she flew out here from Los Angeles to help in the gospel publishing work, and now she desired to have her car.

While in that area, we were privileged to have a good visit on March 30 with Bro. Robert and Sister Lois Longley in their home at Cambria, in sight of the Pacific Ocean. Being here at the office in the

early years of the publishing work, Bro. Longley has always seemed to be a part of the Pruitt family. In the March issue this writer mistakenly listed his age as 78, when in fact he will be 80 years old on Oct. 9, this year. Both are still active, but not well. I am certain they would appreciate your prayers that they may finish their course with joy and victory. Their address is P. O. Box 852, Cambria, California 93428.

Returning to Guthrie on April 3, we felt refreshed by the change of a few days from the continual routine of long hours in the office work. But it did not take long to get back "in the harness," as the mail had stacked up a few days before we returned.

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Our deep sympathy is extended to all the relatives, and especially to Bro. Don Williamson of Olla, La., whose beloved wife, Juanita (Sallee), departed this life on April 18 after an illness of many months. The Lord relieved her suffering many times in answer to prayer, but in His infinite wisdom He called her Home from this world of trouble. May the "God of all comfort" speak the words of consolation to each sorrowing heart.

Bro. Randall Flynn, our co-worker and cousin to Brother Don Williamson, and his family went to Louisiana for the funeral which was to be held at the Loranger chapel on Saturday, April 21, with burial in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

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The Fourth Edition of "Revelation Explained" by F. G. Smith is on the press. The 464 pages will be bound in a cloth cover, and F. G. Smith's tract, "That Blessed Hope," will be printed on the last five pages which were blank in the original edition. The two wall charts by Bro. Smith on the Revelation will be printed, folded and inserted loose inside the back cover of each book. We expect the book to be ready by July 15. The price is \$4.50 each, postpaid. Your order will be accepted now and it will be filled and shipped as soon as the books are available. Our terms are cash with the order.

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A reader in Indiana asks this question: What is this "Key '73"? Answer: From the information I have obtained, it is a co-operative effort of a number of sectarian churches to reach every person in the United States with the gospel during this year of 1973. I am not aware of the full implications, but I might add that it indicates a further gathering of "Gog and Magog" together to compass "the camp of the saints." Rev. 20:8, 9.

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A note for historical researchers: The late Bro. C. E. Orr started the "Herald of Truth" paper in California about 1913, and later thirteen representative ministers took control. The last issue was dated September 6, 1922 at Carthage, Mo., when and where its publication was suspended. The following year, in March, 1923, my late father, Fred Pruitt, began publishing this "Faith and Victory" paper here at Guthrie, Okla. However, he was never con-

nected with the "Herald of Truth" operation. Contrary to a recent published report, my father did not take over the "Herald of Truth" and change the name to "Faith and Victory."

In 1932, Bro. C. E. Orr merged his later publication, "The Path of Life," with the "Faith and Victory" and edited the last six pages of this paper until his death in September, 1933.

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It is no secret that sin and iniquity is increasing by leaps and bounds. The proposed "Equal Rights" amendment to the Constitution is a move to degrade and destroy the family unit as we know it in these United States. Legalized abortion (murder), television shows of violence and immorality, and the women's parade of undress have contributed to the tidal wave of increased crime and degradation which is sweeping over this country. How terrible to see the multitudes rushing headlong on the broad way to the eternal pits of hell! How long God will withhold His final wrath, He alone knows, but His great mercy and longsuffering will run out—the line will be crossed. That time is surely very near. Let us pray fervently and labor untiringly to rescue every soul possible.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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

OBITUARIES



Ella Henkel Bailey was born at Amite, Louisiana, on October 25, 1887, and passed away at Hammond, La., on March 18, 1973, at the age of 85 years. She spent her entire life in this area.

She was married in 1912 to Bolivar Ellis Bailey, who preceded her in death in 1960. To them were born two sons and two daughters. She was preceded in death by one daughter, Mrs. Leonard (Louisa) Harper, in 1960. Surviving are two sons, Merrill and J. D. Bailey, and one daughter, Mrs. William (Imogene) Null, all of the community. She leaves 19 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

In early life she was converted to her Christian faith, attending the Oak Grove Church of God near Lorange for many years. She was known as one who enjoyed life. Hard work was a great pleasure to her. Her family remembers her as a beloved mother and grandmother.

The funeral was at Thomas Funeral Chapel in Hammond, La., with burial in the Oak Grove Cemetery.

—Herbert V. Probst

Flossie Florilla Atha was born May 5, 1888 at Baker, Oregon, and departed this life to be with the Lord on March 29, 1973, at Pacoima, Calif. at the age of 84 years, ten months, and 24 days.

The writer, O. B. Wilson, first met Sister Atha in the summer of 1941—almost 32 years ago—at which time she was living in Ontario, Calif., and worshipping with the Church of God congregation on Ninth Street in Pomona. Later, she moved to Pomona and was there for a number of years until failing health rendered her unable to live alone and care for herself. Then, in 1966, she

moved into the Church of God Senior Citizens' Home at Pacoima where she lived until the time of her death. My wife and I were managing the Senior Citizens' Home at that time and for the next few years, and had much association with Sister Atha and were often in her room praying with and for her. She was a woman of good faith and trusted God fully for all her spiritual and physical needs.

She always attended our services in Pacoima when she was able, and when not able she would go down to the living room of the Home and listen to the services over the public address system which was installed in the Home to carry the services from the church chapel.

She loved the Lord and His Word. She lost her eye sight more than 20 years ago, but instead of just folding up and quitting, she learned to read the Braille System at that age and had a complete Braille Bible and was faithful in reading its pages as long as she lived.

She also learned to cut dress material by pattern and to sew and make her own dresses by hand and did beautiful work. She was laid to rest in a dress that her own hands had made which she had finished a short time before her death and had never worn.

So far as my knowledge could perceive, she was true to every ray of light God gave her until the time of her death. Jesus said, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." In this confidence we feel that Sister Atha has entered in to rest and received her crown of life.

She was a widow for a number of years. She is survived by two daughters: Mrs. Helen Gatke, of Big Bear City, Calif., and Mrs. Pauline Doolittle of Yreka, Calif.; nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Ostis B. Wilson at the Todd Memorial Chapel in Pomona, California, on April 3, 1973, with burial in the Pomona Cemetery.

James L. West was born in Morgantown, Ky., on May 31, 1878, and departed this life at Lovington, Illinois on March 16, 1973, at the age of 94 years, nine months and sixteen days.

On December 27, 1905, he was married to Lettie Fortner. To this union eleven children were born, four of whom preceded him in death.

Sister West writes that about three weeks before her husband passed away, he asked for prayer, that he wanted to get saved. He prayed through, asked forgiveness of individuals, and testified that everything was all right now.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Lettie West; three daughters, Mrs. Claude (Eva) Harrington, Grand Rapids, Mich., Mrs. Josephine Wade, Anderson, Ind., and Mrs. Anne Kline, Terre Haute, Ind.; four sons, Leon, Albuquerque, N. Mex., Noble, Anderson, Ind., Joe, Columbus, Indiana, and Walter, Red Oak, Iowa; 18 grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

Funeral services were held at the McMullin Funeral Home, Lovington, Ill., with burial in the Hampton Cemetery near Sullivan, Illinois.

(Editor's note: Pray for dear Sister West in her bereavement and for her physical condition. Bordering on pneumonia, she is being cared for at present in the home of her daughter in Terre Haute, Ind. On April 1st, she was 89 years old, hard of hearing and has cataracts on both eyes. Her mailing address is Lovington, Ill. A card or letter from you would bring cheer and comfort.)

NOTE OF THANKS

We express our deep appreciation to all the dear saints, loved ones and friends for the many acts of love and kindness shown to us during our recent sorrow in the passing of our precious son, Alan Wayne. May God bless you each one and reward you as only He can.

—Bro. L. D., Sister Lois, and Curtis Chrisman

In Memory of Alan Wayne, Gone To Bloom Above

God gave us a little bud,
To brighten up our day.
He brought us much enjoyment,
As we watched him play.

God in His wondrous plan,
Though we may not see,
Took him to Heaven,
With our Lord forever to be.

In our hearts He planted deep,
This precious little one.
And as from us He takes, we weep,
Lord, may "Thy will be done."

Now safe in the arms of Jesus,
After ending his earthly story,
Alan—just as a rose,
Budded here to bloom in glory.

—Neta Eck

"Evening Time"

Lesson I—The Gospel Day

"At evening time it shall be light." These words are found in Zech. 14:7. In the natural world, for every evening there has been a morning. And so it is with the Gospel Day. This being the evening, there has been a morning, a time which had its beginning when Jesus, "the Sun of Righteousness" came on the scene in the first century A. D., imparting knowledge concerning Himself and His Father (God).

In the book of John 1:6-9, we read, "There was a man sent from God whose name was John, the same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light. He [John the Baptist] was not that Light. That Light was the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." That same true Light is the same that shined so brightly in the morning time, and is the same that is shining today in the hearts and lives of true believers.

"Oh," you ask, "is there any difference in believers?" Oh, yes, a vast difference! True believers believe, accept, and practice the unadulterated Word of God. It is the food upon which their souls survive. They are happy as they sing:

"Brighter days are sweetly dawning,
Oh, the glory looms in sight!
For the cloudy day is waning,
And the evening shall be light."

—Ethel K. Miles

Campmeeting Dates for 1973

Following are the Church of God camp meeting dates for 1973, and more complete announcements of each will appear in later issues at the proper time:—

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—May 25 to June 3.

Holly Hill, S. C.—June 1 to 10.

Tulsa, Okla.—June 8 to 17.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 22 to July 1.

General Southern at Hammond, La.—June 22 to July 1.

Akron, Ohio—July 6 to 15.

Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico — July 10, to continue as long as the Lord leads.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 20 to 29.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—August 3 to 12.

Bakersfield, Calif.—August 3 to 12.

Boley, Okla.—August 17 to 26.

Blackford, Ky.—August 17 to 26.

California State at Pacoima, Calif.—August 24 to September 2.

Fresno, California—September 7 to 16.

○

OKLAHOMA CAMPMEETING AT GUTHRIE, OK.

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, May 25 to June 3, 1973, at the saints' chapel located on the corner of Sixth and W. Warner Streets, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this 39th annual campmeeting on these grounds. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Dining hall and dormitories are on the grounds. Expenses will be met by free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting—the salvation of souls, sanctification of believers, and the divine healing of bodies.

Contributions should be sent directly to the treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, Rt. 2, Box 34, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, 1014 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, phone 405-282-2421. The phone number at the chapel is 282-5499. Come and hear the old-time reformation truth, and let us worship the Lord together in the unity of the Spirit.

—L. D. Pruitt

○

CAMPMEETING AT TULSA, OKLA.

Our camp meeting here in Tulsa, Okla. will be held, Lord willing, for ten days, June 8 to 17. We invite the saints and sinners to come and be with us in the meeting. We want the saints to come and help us fight against sin, and sinners to come and get saved.

Everyone who comes will be cared for. All who can, please bring your bed linens and pillows. We are looking to the Lord to give us a Spirit-filled meeting from the beginning to the end. We ask each one to pray much for this meeting. The chapel is located on the corner of Norfolk and Pine Place.

For additional information, contact Brother Lewis Williams (pastor) at 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kansas,

phone (316) 264-8481, Bro. M. D. Gaines, 2932 N. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, Okla. 74110, phone (918) 425-8946, or Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 N. Main, Tulsa, Okla. 74106, phone (918) 584-6838.

CAMPMEETING AT HOLLY HILL, S. C.

The camp meeting of the Church of God at Holly Hill, S. Carolina, will be held June 1 to 10, Lord willing. Everyone is welcome to attend these services where the gospel will be preached in its fullness. The meeting will be supported by free-will offerings.

For further information, contact Brother Hudson Crummie, R. 1 Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059, phone (803) 496-5231, or Bro. Oneal Pratt, phone 496-5176.

OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO CAMPMEETING

Sister Opal Kelly, resident missionary in Mexico, announces that a camp meeting will be held, Lord willing, at Ojos Negros, Baja, Cfa., Mexico, beginning on July 10 and continuing as long as the Lord directs. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further information, contact Sister Kelly at the address below.

Every Tuesday Sister Kelly has all-day services at her mission station at Ojos Negros; sewing in the morning, lunch, Bible study in the afternoon, and then she takes them home. On Sunday, April 8, there were 53 in meeting, eleven of whom were new people.

Pray for Sister Kelly and her mission work, as well as for all the missions in the various fields worldwide. Her address is Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico.

MEETING REPORT FROM WICHITA, KANSAS

We thank the Lord for another good meeting here in Wichita, Kansas. The Lord was so faithful, and sent the precious Word of God with power, and there was real conviction in the meeting. However, we must sadly report that only two people sought for salvation, and we pray they will continue on with the Lord.

The preached Word of God was rich and searching, and the saints were well fed. Bro. Woodrow Warren was with us for most of the meeting. Brother Mackey Francisco, Brother Leslie Busbee, and Sister Katherine Williams also attended and delivered messages. We are grateful for all of the out-of-town saints who came to help in the meeting.

We will still be praying for the sinners who hardened their hearts again. —Submitted by Shirley Knight

EVANGELISTIC MEETING AT KOKOMO, MISS.

Lord willing, Bro. Mart Samons of Kentucky will conduct an evangelistic tent meeting at Kokomo, Miss., which is on highway No. 98, thirty-one miles due east of Macomb, Miss. The meeting will be in progress from May 4 to 13, 1973. A hearty invitation is extended to all the people in that area to attend these services and hear the old-time gospel of salvation.

After the above meeting, the tent will be moved to the Hammond and Loranger, La. area where gospel services will begin on May 18, Lord willing. The location of the tent has not been decided.

For further information on these tent meetings, contact Brother Bob Forbes, R. 3, Box 25E, Kentwood, La. 70444, whose phone number is 504-229-8543.

TENT MEETING AT GREEN BANK, W. VA.

Bro. Mart Samons will hold a tent meeting, Lord willing, at Green Bank-Arbovale, W. Va. from June 8 to 17, 1973. Everyone is welcome. Especially we would like the saints to come from different places to help in the meeting. Pray that the Word of truth will find an entrance into honest, hungry hearts.

For further information, contact the undersigned.

—Tom and Shirley Carpenter

R. 1, Box 10A, Arbovale, W. Va. 24915

YOUTH SERVICES IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The young people of the Oklahoma City congregation, Third and Phillips Streets, hereby inform you that all-day youth services will be held here on Sunday June 24, 1973. We desire all who can to come praying and be prepared to exercise themselves in the Lord as He leads. For further information, contact: Bro. Charles Gilbert Kelly, phone 848-7240, or Brother Charles L. Chandler, phone 427-8938. —Bro. Herman Kelly, pastor

Prayer Requests

Ky.—Continue to remember dear Sister Baldrige as she has much pain and is up in years.

Ga.—“Pray for my brother, Friendly Green, for the healing of his eyes. . . I am still trusting for my complete healing.” —Sister P. R. Bowers

Ore.—Remember Sister Ruby Hutchinson in prayer for healing of some afflictions on her body.

Ala.—“Pray for my grandson. . . Here is a copy of some words I accidentally found in his room: ‘I know that someday everyone will have to die. . . I have heart trouble, spiritually and physically, and that alone is enough to worry a man’s mind insane. I’m blind in one eye and expect to be blind in the other anytime. High blood pressure and both kidneys badly infected, and also my nerves trouble me.’ Please pray for his salvation and healing, also others of my family need to be saved.” —Mrs. Leora Fink

Calif.—“My husband’s uncle is in the hospital. The doctor has told his wife that he has only a year to live at the most. He is in his early forties. They have four children. [His wife is not well.] I desire to see this family saved.” —Sister Candice Rich

Texas.—“Pray for my nephew and his wife. Both have cancer. . . They are asking for prayer. Neither one is saved.” —Dolly Williams

Ill.—“As I sit and read my ‘Faith and Victory’ paper, it is an inspiration to me and increases my faith. . . I am asking the saints’ prayers for the healing of my body from sugar.” —Sister Cordelia Sivals

Tenn.—“I always get help when I write for prayer. . . I am suffering, and I suppose it is arthritis in my back and neck. I sleep very little at night. . . I love to read my ‘Faith and Victory’ paper.” —Mrs. May Ralston

Calif.—“Please pray for me. I have pains in my right side and stomach, also pray for my unsaved loved ones.” —J. A. Chapel

Illinois.—“Pray for me, as I have numb spells. My stomach and back hurt.” —Nellie Woods

Mexico—Bro. Tomas Mendoza sent in some requests for prayer for some unsaved ones that he has been visiting, and for his mission work in Mexico. He planned to attend the meeting at Sister Edith Cole's mission at Patzcuaro, Mexico which was held during Easter week. He thanks the saints for their offerings they have sent to him to advance the gospel work.

N. Carolina—"We need prayer. I am lame in my left foot and leg. A step broke with me and caught my leg and foot. The swelling and pain is great. I can't stand or walk much. My husband is sick much of the time and his eyesight is almost gone."

—Mrs. Shady Strickland

Saints, do remember a home that needs to be restored. For a number of years the husband tried to live for God and many times he would come to meeting and bring his children, but the wife would not come. At times she would turn to the Lord, but did not live consistently. Finally, the husband gave up and went into sin. Their home was broken up. As time went on, they had their many problems and both tried again together to live for God, but soon broke up again. Recently, I received a long distance phone call from the husband who was at the hospital. The wife had taken an over-dose of sleeping pills. Oh, how my heart bleeds for this couple. The devil is at the bottom of it all. Do pray earnestly for this couple. I believe that deep in each of their hearts they want to live for God.

We have many other requests that come to the office by phone and the mail, so do remember them to God also in your prayers. God's people love one another and need one another. It is precious to trust the Lord for the healing of our bodies, for the salvation of our loved ones, and problems, etc.

A mother has an unspoken request for the healing of her baby who has a serious birth defect. She is begging for prayer.

Several Sisters in the Lord are living with husbands who drink, and this is so hard on their nerves. Do pray for these dear Sisters. Some Brothers also have wives who need God so much. These are serious problems and surely God can give grace and help to His children as they love and serve Him. God surely is taking note of all these things. Those who are under the influence of the devil will do all kinds of things to those who are near to them because they have to obey their master. God does have deliverance for them if they would only desire it.

—Sister Marie Miles

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN PASTOR

Midwest Nigeria (March 28)—Dear Brother Pruitt, greetings in the most holy name of Jesus—the head that once was crowned with thorns, but crowned with glory now. Praise Him forever!

Your letter dated March 3, 1973, came to our hands safely with its enclosures. Thanks be to Him for the good work He is directing you to do.

Both congregations at Abbi and Utagba-Ogbe are doing fine. God continues to add souls to these congregations, especially at Abbi whose accommodation is presenting a big problem as the chapel is always over-taxed in its seating capacity. We definitely need to enlarge the building. Join us in praying that God may provide the means with which to do His work.

The leaflets and pamphlets for Sunday School are being steadily received. We need as many tracts as you can afford. The area of distribution is now very wide. Our copies of the "Faith and Victory" should also be increased. Please continue to supply us with Sunday School quarterlies.

Yours in Him,

—Titus U. E. Enu

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (March 22)—Dearly beloved Bro. Pruitt and all other dear saints there and abroad: Greetings again in the most precious name of Jesus, the Light of the world and Lord of Glory. "But our God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Thank you very much for your good letter dated March 5, 1973, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. Thank you very much for the sponsoring letter which you sent on February 26, and I trust that I shall get the passport and visa very soon. I hope every help will be supplied at His appointed time of my trip.

Our tri-monthly meeting was on Saturday, February 24, at Thrikkannamangal. All gospel workers and many saints from all centers of our work assembled at Bethel Chapel, Thrikkannamangal, and had a very happy meeting with spiritual graces and blessings to enrich our spirits. Similarly, we enjoyed very much last Sunday night when we had a meeting in the home of a former Hindu who was recently converted to Christianity by our labors here. Praise the Lord, he is a member of the Church of God now. We continue our work among Hindus even as Paul worked at Athens, Ephesus, etc., to pull them out of the fire. We preach to them, quoting the speech of Paul on Mars' hill at Athens, that "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands. . . ." Many are being convicted and convinced. May God work among them through His Holy Spirit miraculously. The sole aim of our work here is to save or win as many souls as possible while it is day. Your valuable prayers are always appreciated.

Yes, I am distributing Malayalam Bibles to the poor and needy as you directed, and the tracts will be out of the print shop very soon, ready for free distribution. More and more tracts can be translated and printed as funds allow. Tomorrow, I start to Avoor and Niranam to visit beloved saints there. No word is seen in your letter about the chapel at Avoor. No doubt, you are praying for its fulfillment. Surely the words of Paul

MISSION REPORT FROM INTERIOR MEXICO

Michoacan, Mexico (April 3)—My dear brethren in the Lord: This is in answer to your letter which we received March 21. We are very thankful for your letters, and we thank the Lord that we are well.

We desire your prayers for the work here and the believers in this place. We are visiting in San Lorenzo and Sitimicuaro where there are souls who have found the peace of God. We pray without ceasing for the missionary work, that each day we would carry a burden for souls, to win them to Christ. We feel that time is short, and that it is necessary to extend our labors to the souls that do not know the Lord. We have this desire and carry a burden for them.

—Your Brother Irineo Rama, who loves you with Christian love.

to the Philippians are really comforting to all the children of God, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Let us rejoice in the Lord always for everything.

I was very glad to know that our magazine, "Faith and Victory," completed fifty successful years and thus another "Ebenezer" is set up. Surely your beloved father and mother worked hard, suffering a lot of testings and trials for the glory of His mighty name. "Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:7, 8).

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

The Spirit of the World

(Part 3)

The distinguishing characteristic of the true Church of God is that it obeys all the Bible and is led by the Spirit of God. This is why my heart is continually stirred to endeavor to obey God perfectly and be led by His Spirit continually in everything I do and say. There are so many counterfeits, so many almost like the true, that unless we obey God in all the light He reveals and yield to Holy Spirit leadership in every phase of our lives and services, the glorious beauty of the Church (which is never dimmed in reality) will be obscured to those who are looking on. And though the compromising elements of this day have served to obscure to others the light of the true saints of God, yet when the forces of evil completely encompass the camp of the saints, only those who are pure, spotless, and standing for all the truth will be able to stand.

We must be very watchful and prayerful and have Holy Ghost discernment if we expect to reach heaven without having our minds and hearts moved away from the soundness of the gospel and into the rudiments of this world and the traditions and philosophies of men. There is a movement afoot among us to deviate from, and refute as truth, some of the teachings, traditions and practices of the Church of God. There is a spirit in the world to this effect, and it will enter the heart of anyone who is without the Spirit of God, and those who neglect to accept and walk in the light of God's Word. This spirit is behind such thinking as: "Who is D. S. Warner anyway? Why, we are in a different age. We've gone beyond his teachings, which have become just tradition anyway. Traditions are only customs and can be changed when the people want to change them. Besides, most of the things held and taught back there are not needed now; they're obsolete and must be altered to fit the people of this changing, modern age."

When there is a lack of Holy Ghost motivation and leadership in a person's life (and this is the cause of all major and lasting problems among us. See Matthew 25:1-13. Half the virgins did not have the Holy Spirit. Inbred depravity is at the root of

most all lasting conflicts, contentions, split-offs, and holding out for one's way), he is unable to keep balanced thinking and to clearly see the difference between Bible-inspired teachings and traditions, and those advocated by men. A person has little vision or discernment without the Holy Spirit. He is the only One who leads, teaches, and guides us into all truth. And the truth He teaches is in obvious harmony with the Word of God, and in harmony with those teachings, practices, and traditions perpetrated by Holy Spirit-filled men and women. Beware of any "light," thinking, or practices which refute and are out of harmony with those established and widely accepted by Holy Spirit-led men and women of God. Paul exhorted the saints to hold fast to the traditions he had taught them. These were Holy Spirit inspired traditions, and they were to avoid those who taught contrary to them. When the Holy Spirit reveals more light or truth, it never contradicts that light or truth already revealed. It may extend, amplify, deepen the significance, present a broader application, but it will always be in harmony with that already revealed. Traditions of men can be changed, but the Church of God teachings and traditions are not man-made, but Holy Spirit dictated. This Holy Spirit leadership is what distinguishes the Church of God as being the one and only true Church. Now, any tradition that is instituted by man with no principle of Bible truth behind it, is not a Church of God tradition. It may be practiced in some congregations, but it is not indigenous to the Church of God and may be changed. Before attempting to change what is thought of as only tradition or custom among us, be sure to have a clear understanding as to whether it is tradition based upon Bible principles of truth, or just custom practiced for convenience, or by habit.

Modest dress, refusal of medicine because of faith in God's power to heal, simplicity of life and the practice of self-denial rather than self-indulgence, the holy kiss, feet-washing, taking the sacrament from one cup, are all based upon principles of Bible truth and are not just customs among us.

The opposite of the trend to change and deviate from the established truths, practices, and traditions of the Church of God is to become so steeped in traditions, and what the saints do, that we fall into a form and overlook the essential need of Holy Spirit anointing and power. We must be careful not to pride ourselves in the fact that we are measured to the standard, and we do just like the saints of old did and taught. With this pride comes an attitude of condescension and derision toward those who either haven't measured to the standard or who do not know the traditions passed down. With this pride comes a loss of the grace and power of God, leaving one with only form and tradition and no power. The spirit of this age is so unbalanced that we, as saints, must have the divine enablement of the Holy Spirit in order to keep our garments pure and spotless.

—Sister Bonnie Matthews

(To be continued)

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Kentucky—Dear Sister Marie, we send greetings of much love in Jesus' dear name: We do appreciate His goodness and mercy, and the many blessings He daily bestows upon us.

We do trust the Lord has healed you. . . . We are still praying for you and Bro. Lawrence. Surely, the enemy is working hard to hinder this truth from going forward, but thank the Lord, he is a conquered foe.

Curtis' father is still very ill. Curtis stays with him at night. Someone has to be with him all the time. . . . He was 75 years old in January. Surely, God has been good to him and came to his rescue many times in answer to prayer. We desire your prayers for him and Mom both, as she is not well and this has been very hard on her.

Last week-end [March 24] Curtis' sister came and stayed with her folks, so we all went to W. Va. We stopped by Spencer and saw Sister Flora Hinzman. She had fallen and cracked a bone in her back. She had suffered much, but was much better. She is a precious Sister and has a real burden for the cause of God there. It was too late to have meeting when we got to Green Bank, so they all gathered at Bro. and Sister Carpenter's home with their Bibles, pencils and papers and a long list of questions. We had a good Bible study, and tried to give a Bible answer for all their questions. It did our hearts good to see them so eager to learn more about the truth. . . .

The Lord has been so very good to us this winter. Only one of the children took the flu, and the Lord kept the rest of the family from taking it. Curtis has had better health this winter than he has had in about four years. . . .

We desire your continued prayers.

Christian love, —The Curtis Williams' Family

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

W. Va.—Dear Sister Miles, greetings in Jesus' name: I am slow about writing as this is the first letter I have tried to write since I fell on March 1 at 8 a. m. as I was taking a bunch of letters to the mail box. I fell across the steps. I have a broken bone in my back. . . . I am improving, but slowly. I walk a little with a walker, but it is painful. Please keep praying for me. I am in bed, have a cast on, and am quite uncomfortable.

Bro. and Sister Curtis Williams visited me, also Diane Buzzard and Sharon Fowler. They sang so sweetly for me and had prayer. I love the saints, Sister Miles, and through writing you in 1970 I have met so many of the saints and appreciate them so much. If we stay true to the Lord, we will all be together where there is no more sickness or suffering. I hope and pray you are well.

Yours in Christ,

—Flora Hinzman

Rt. 2, Box 22, Orma, W. Va. 25268

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

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' precious name: I was reading just recently that in order to grow we need two things—food and exercise. Spiritually, our food is the good Word of God, our blessed Bible, and our exercise is our prayers and testimonies. I surely want to grow, so I thought a testimony would be some exercise for me.

First, I thank the dear Lord for the good reading material we can have, how through the dear saints of old, also the different ones now, the Lord has left us

good instructions and encouragement. I am reading "Rays of Hope." It is so good. I have been blessed and helped through it. It is surely a book of encouragement.

I thank God for all the dear saints I have met. I love and appreciate them all. I have never met you there at the printshop, but feel like I have known you for a while. I have written often for your prayers, and you sent out the good soul food each month to me—the "Faith and Victory" paper. I surely thank the Lord for His care and protection throughout the winter. With five children, we had very little sickness all winter, not even much colds. He is so good to us. "For how great is his goodness and how great is his beauty!" Zech. 9:17.

Remember me in your prayers that I may always grow in the Lord and be what He wants me to be.

I pray often for the good work you all are doing. You are laying up treasures in heaven.

Christian love,

—Sister Virginia Myers

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

Virginia—My dear Brother Pruitt and co-workers, greetings of Christian love to each one. Here I am in Virginia with 1218 miles separating us. I had a safe trip. God protected me all the way.

The sweet fellowship, courtesy, unity, and love shown to me while at Guthrie will never be forgotten. The truth you preach and the truth for which you stand, I love with all my heart. Don't give up, don't let down. The truth will stand.

I thank God for the marvelous grace of God that let me live to meet the saints, to hear the Gospel that saved me from sin, delivered me out of a mixed-up married life, and brought me out of Babylon to where I could be fed in a green pasture.

Keep preaching the truth against Babylon, against double marriage, immodest dress, short hair for women, long hair for men and worldliness in every form.

The Church of God is a pure and clean Church. It is a cause for rejoicing to know a man can be saved from sin, and his sins be removed as far away as the east is from the west, to be remembered no more forever, to be cast into the depth of the sea. . . . There is where my sins are. Bless God!

Give all the dear saints my best regards.

In Christian fellowship,

—Wm. J. Preston

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

Oregon—Dear Sister Marie and all at the Printshop: I greet you in Jesus' dear name, and all the saints scattered abroad. Oh, I am so thankful to the dear Lord for all He has done for me, soul and body. I still need help in body, but my trust is still in Him.

The Lord blessed our souls in our recent revival meeting here at Jefferson. Bro. Charles Elwell surely brought us some real stirring messages. Six singers came from Pacoima, Calif. Two of these—Bro. Eugene Fields and Sister Mary Lawson—brought us good messages and we enjoyed the good singing, too.

I do trust the Lord has touched the afflicted ones there. We are earnestly looking to the dear Lord that He will work in a wonderful way in your behalf. Pray for us.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Emma Busch

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

Missouri—Dear workers at the Printshop, greetings in Jesus' dear name. I praise the name of Jesus for doing so much for me—healing, salvation, and grace to sustain me through trials. Oh, how we need Him today of all days, for we can see the workings of Satan, as he is loose, seeking whom he may devour. My Lord

is my life and my salvation, and of whom shall I be afraid? If He is for us, who can be against us? Praise His precious name!

In recent weeks I suffered a relapse of the flu and bronchitis. Naturally, the relapse was worse than the first. It kept hanging on. Our faithful little group of saints were praying for me. I didn't seem to get any better. I finally wrote Bro. Willie Murphey and staff to pray for my healing as well as a few others. My congestion broke up and finally I was able to stay up and do a few things to care for myself. I felt the Lord's presence and knew He was healing me. I began to praise God from whom all blessings flow. He is the Keeper of my soul and the Healer of my body. How can people live without Him?

We were blessed to have Bro. and Sister Murphy Allen and Brother Gordon Humphrey with us in prayer service last Wednesday night. Then on Thursday and Friday, the group helped Bro. and Sister Allen to pack and get ready for the trucks to move them to Springfield, Mo. as they have purchased a home there. . . . I pray that the dear Lord's work in the vineyard there at Springfield will prosper spiritually through the efforts of Bro. and Sister Allen. Our loss is their gain. Just remember us in prayer that the Lord will see fit to send us a minister.

Yes, I am glad I am one of the family of God, and feel free to call upon our Sisters and Brothers in time of need. Christian love, —Sister Lillian Dinkens

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Indiana—Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: I thank the saints for their prayers, and the Lord for answering. I am feeling much better, but still have trouble with my food not wanting to pass.

Brother and Sister Wm. McCoy came from Dayton, Ohio and we had prayer together, after which I had him to anoint me. I was so weak from not eating, but the Lord strengthened me and I began to eat again. They told me that Bro. and Sister Ira Stover were coming to hold a meeting at Dayton and asked me to come, which I did on Sunday, April 1. I enjoyed the meeting and was happy to see Bro. Stover and wife again. . . .

I am so thankful that I am able to eat some food. I am holding on to God to finish the work He has started. I am putting in for more faith, the kind of faith Jesus said we should have, that if we had faith as a grain of mustard seed, we could command "this mountain" to be removed into the sea and it should be done. But regardless of whether I obtain that kind of faith or not, I am still doing all I know to do, and the Word teaches us that "having done all, to stand." So I am still standing and waiting on God to bring me to higher heights and deeper depths. I am thankful that God loves us enough to let these trials come upon us to cause us to dig a little deeper and become more interested in Him and His ways.

The Lord surely does bless my soul. Just yesterday I was praying in earnest, and I said, "Lord, help me to love you like you love me." And all at once He blessed me so much that I couldn't say another word for about five minutes. I just had to sit there and laugh. Everytime I would try to say something, the Lord would bless me so I couldn't pray. I surely appreciate the great love He has for me.

May the Lord richly bless you in your labors for Him. I remember you to the Throne every day. Keep looking to Jesus, and still remember me when you pray.

Love to all,

—Earl B. Bliss

S. Carolina—Greetings in the dear name of Jesus: I want every saint of God to pray for me that I ever stand true to God. I was sick. The dear saints at Holly Hill anointed me and prayed the prayer of faith for me to be healed. The Lord healed me of that sickness. Thank the good Lord!

I have a lump and a burning in my stomach, and I want the saints to pray for me that the good Lord will heal me completely. I am fully trusting Him for my healing. I know that He can and He will heal me. Pray that I will grow in His grace. Pray for the camp meeting at Holly Hill in June. Remember my unsaved children and their children. I am working with them trying to get them to Christ.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Corrine Russell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Georgia—Greetings of love to you and the saints scattered abroad: I am happy to report victory over sin and doubts. I am praising our loving Lord for His consecrated people who give their time and talents to send out these wonderful printed messages.

The Lord is my doctor. He heals my body, and keeps me living clean, sanctified wholly.

Pray for me and my children. My birthday was on the 8th day of April.

May God bless each of you.

—Elizabeth McNair

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From The Mail Box . . .

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints there and everywhere: Greetings in the blessed name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I am so happy to be a part of the Body of Christ. I always believed that Jesus built only one Church. But in the last few years, it has been made so plain to me, and I am so happy that I am a part of that Church—the spiritual Body of Christ. For many years I was so hungry for that Body. No people seemed to see it like I did. But thanks be unto God, I got hold of a "Faith and Victory" paper a few years ago. Praise God, I knew that I had found the Church.

Bro. Pruitt, I trust you are much better in body and happy in soul. Wife and I have our good days and some not so good. I haven't been feeling very well for a while. Remember us when you pray.

I am sending you a small offering to help dear lost souls to get saved. Use it where you need it most.

Yours in the service of our Lord, —Nathan Mobley

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Pa.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and staff, greetings of holy love to each one. My thoughts go out to you there every day, as your tracts and papers are all around my room to remind me of you, and I find courage in the face of being isolated here—just the Lord and I. I am kept rather occupied writing to so many others who are older than I am. God knows those who are His. Praise Him forever!

I will be 79 years old on May 29, but, thank God, I am in good health.

May God bless all of you.

In Him,

—Sister Sara Aldinger

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Tenn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: We send greetings to each of you in the name of the Lord, and trust that all are well and yet enjoying the blessings of full salvation. We know you have many needs, prob-

lems, and responsibilities, but when the Lord is with us, we're not alone in these endeavors, and certainly He will stand by us to the end, if, by faith, we trust Him, be obedient and stay in His will.

We are truly thankful for the good work you are doing in getting the good news, the gospel, to the people. There are yet souls hungry for the pure, rich Word in its beauty and simplicity, so be encouraged to carry on and do all that is reasonably possible in these closing days. Times, indeed, are becoming perilous, and I think we'll see this evil trend accelerated as the end nears. Already, evil works and influences are moving at a faster pace than I ever expected to see in my life time.

In the world we'll have tribulation, but in Jesus we can have peace, joy, happiness and all our needs supplied. He has been so wonderful to us, and we truly thank Him and desire to live close to Him, walk carefully in His way and be faithful to the end.

Enclosed is an offering to help in the work. May God richly bless and reward each of you for your tireless efforts in the greatest work on earth—God's work.

In Christian love, —Charles B. Williams

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

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie and all saints everywhere, greetings in the precious name of our wonderful Lord! What a mighty God we serve! He is so gracious and His mercy is to usward all the day long. Praise His name!

We returned just last week from a visit to Riviera Beach, Fla. My two sisters live there. We went last year and my husband wanted to go back. It was so beautiful to see God's handiwork in the lovely flowers and green trees. The palms were swaying in the wind. It was cloudy most days, and the wind blew, but it was a warm wind. We enjoyed our stay anyway.

I am praying for you to have strength each day for the tasks you would like to do, and for your brother's healing. God is able and He is still on the throne, and Jesus is there making intercession for us, and I am so glad for that, as I couldn't live without Him. That nagging pain left, and I do thank and praise the Lord for it.

May God bless you as you write for the "Bible Lessons" and the "Beautiful Way."

Your Sister in His service, —Eva Cox

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

Maryland—Dear "Faith and Victory" friends: I want you to know I still love to read the good books and papers, but my hands are such that I can hardly write. So please remember me in prayer that I will be able to write again. Please send me the free sample of tracts to read and pass on to others.

If I am here until May 15, I will be eighty-five years old. My eyes are also failing. May God bless you.

A Christian friend, —Mrs. J. I. Rambo

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Ark.—Dear saints of the Printshop: Greetings in the name of our Lord who calls us from our cares of this world and bids us look to Him and do His will. For some time now I have been burdened to do something more for the Lord who has done so much for me. I know I can distribute tracts that others might come to truly know our Saviour. For this reason, I am sending for these tracts. I wish to place them where the Lord leads and where someone may benefit from them. I only wish to be "faithful in a very little" (Luke 19:21) that heaven may be my reward. I love the Lord and wish to be His faithful servant.

I desire the prayers of the saints as I seek to consecrate myself fully to the Lord. —Doug Walters

La.—Dear ones at the Print Shop, greetings in Jesus' name, the only name whereby man can be saved. We are thankful for God's great love and mercy to us.

We appreciate your work and every effort put forth to reach lost souls. We are thankful how the Lord has blessed the past 50 years of service in the printing work, and pray the Lord's continued blessings to be upon it. We have appreciated knowing Bro. and Sis. Fred Pruitt. The fruits of the Spirit manifested in their lives have been a real encouragement to us. The "Faith and Victory" paper has been a real blessing in our home for years.

We are sorry to see Sister Marie so frail in body, and trust God will give her a complete healing touch. We are also praying for Bro. Lawrence's complete healing. We know our God is able.

Christian love, —Kenneth and Virgie Flynn

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

Calif.—My dear Marie: I trust this will find you much blessed of the Lord in body and soul, too.

When I got the March "Faith and Victory" and saw the headlines, "Golden Anniversary," I had to do a little rejoicing and praising the Lord for how He had blessed and prospered the work and efforts of your dear father and mother (and they look so good in that picture). Then, of course, I'm thankful for your and Bro. Lawrence's faithfulness in continuing the wonderful soul-saving work of sending out the Gospel by the printed page. I surely do praise the Lord with you. . . .

We bought the place [your father's farm in New Mexico] from your folks, and it was that money that helped your father start the Print Shop. We have received every copy of the "Faith and Victory" since the first one was printed, and, oh, the good, enlightening and encouraging articles, testimonies, and editorials that we have had to feed our souls! May God abundantly and richly bless your souls, heal your bodies, and provide your every need. Much love and prayers continually,

—Sister Vera Forbes

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus: I am so glad to know Jesus today and desire to please Him and not the world. There is no peace outside of the Lord. I get so hungry to meet with the saints and hear a good message from God.

I was so sorry to read in the "Faith and Victory" paper that you had been sick, but I am so glad you are feeling better and I trust you are much stronger now. . . .

I'm enclosing . . . to be used for the Malayalam Bibles in S. India that Bro. John Varghese wrote was needed. I'm also enclosing . . . for the work there wherever it is needed most.

I'm always glad to get my "Faith and Victory" paper, but because of my eyes burning and watering so badly I can't read it through at once like I used to. I'm still trusting the Lord will see fit to heal my eyes. I desire your prayers for my eyes and my unsaved family.

Christian love, —Norma Allen

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers at the office, greetings in Jesus' name: We were surely happily surprised to see you and your dear wife at her brother's 45th wedding anniversary observance on March 25th at San Bernardino. . . . Thank God for the few moments of greeting we were permitted to have.

We are both growing old and feeble, but our heavenly Father is blessing us in many ways. Our eyes are upon Him, and we are seeking to be led and directed by His

Spirit. He has blessed us thus far, and we are satisfied. Amen.

Enclosed please find an offering from the Lord to be used as you see best. May the Lord bless each of you, soul and body, is our prayer.

—Ulysses and Ella Phillips

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

Virginia—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of love in Jesus' dear name: I enjoyed your nice encouraging letter so very much. I was so sorry to hear of your illness, but I thank the dear Lord for sparing your life, and I'm so thankful you are feeling better.

I enjoyed the March paper. It was so interesting to read about your parents and others. I would like to have had the opportunity to meet them. . . . I have wanted to come to Guthrie ever since I knew about these things. . . .

My nephew passed away on April 6th. Bless his heart, he surely seemed to suffer a lot. We will certainly miss him.

It is almost camp meeting time again, and I do hope and pray I can attend at least one. You just can't imagine how lonely it is living where you never see any saints.

May God bless all of you there as you labor for Him. Enclosed you will find . . . to use for the work of the Lord.

Love and prayers, —Sister Lillian Bohannon

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

Va.—Greetings in Christian love: I am enclosing a small gift to be used as you see fit. The Lord has been so good to me I want to do something for Him.

In Christian love, —Della Naff

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

Mich.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' dear name: Praise God for His precious Son who died on the cruel cross for our ugly sins. What would we do without Him? How sad our lives would be!

We were very sorry to hear about your heart attack, but are so thankful the good Lord spared you for His blessed work and for lost souls. May God bless you with great strength in both soul and body. We are praying also for Bro. Pruitt that the Lord will heal him soon.

It was a surprise to see the 50th anniversary edition of the paper. I never realized it had been going that long. How wonderful! We pray it will go forth until the Lord comes to gather His loved ones Home. As I looked at that lovely picture of your dear parents, how it touched my heart! Tears filled my eyes to think they have been gone that long already, but the thought came to me, how much they are enjoying heaven together and waiting for their family to join them, and that they would never want to come back here in this hard old world of sin. I know you miss them terribly. . . .

We thank you for your prayers, for it surely keeps us going. You always were such a comfort when I had my sad time, but it's all healed up now. It was hard at the time, but I can see it was all for my good and I thank the good Lord for it.

We are sending a small offering to use where it is most needed. We wish all of you a very blessed Easter and God's richest blessings in soul and body.

Much love and prayers, —Sister Olive Gettersson

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, greetings to you in the name of Jesus, "which is our hope." 1 Tim. 1:1. We thank you for your courtesy in sending our order of books and tracts. At this time the majority of them have been

given out personally and sent through the channel I mentioned in the last letter. That channel brought back a little opposition. Nevertheless, we know that "all things" (not just some) work together for our good.

We are still remembering the prayer requests and the work of the Lord there.

In His service, —Norman and Carmen Simpson

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

Wisconsin—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers, greetings in the precious name of our Lord who is so dear to us. How precious is His great salvation!

I pray that every one at the shop and in the Guthrie congregation are well in the Lord. I received your letter and appreciated it very much. I pray that the work there is going well. I surely do miss being with you folks.

I had a nice trip up to Crivity to see Bro. and Sister Atwood this week end. . . .

I surely enjoyed copying the tapes that Sister Pruitt loaned to me. I'll bring them back when I come. I hope to be there the last week in May, if the Lord wills.

Give my love to all. May God continue to bless and care for each one of you.

Love in the Master, —Bro. George Hammond

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

Calif.—Greetings to the children of God everywhere, and especially to those who publish such a lovely magazine—no ads—only words of God and helps to Christians.

Use my 93rd birthday contribution as needed. "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy," has been my life-long song. How wonderful the words of Jesus, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end. . . ." Matthew 28:20.

I am listening for His call. My eyesight is failing, but thanks to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, I can still read the "Faith and Victory."

Please pray for me, as I pray God's richest blessings on all, and especially those who greeted me on my 92nd birthday.

Love in our risen Lord, —Mary J. Ramsey
669 S. Union Ave., No. 216,
Los Angeles, Calif. 90017

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Sacrifice of Praise

Praise ye the Lord;
Praise Him in the heights;
Praise Him, sun and moon;
Praise Him, stars of light.

Praise Him, ye heavens,
And waters in the seas;
Praise Him, ye cedars,
And all ye fruitful trees.

Both young men and maidens;
Old men and children, too.
Praise the name of Jesus;
In all ye say or do.

Let us praise the Lord,
With all honor to Him above;
Praise Him for His power,
And for His mighty love.

—Effie Miller