

FAITH AND VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Day of Judgment

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favored sinners slain:
Thousand, thousand saints attending,
Swell the triumph of His train.

See the universe in motion,
Sinking on her funeral pyre—
Earth dissolving, and the ocean
Vanishing in final fire.

Graves have yawned in countless numbers—
From the dust the dead arise:
Millions, out of silent slumbers,
Wake in overwhelmed surprise.

See the Judge our nature wearing,
Pure, unfeeling, all divine:
See the great archangel bearing
High in Heaven the mystic sign.

See Redemption, long expected,
In transcendent pomp appear—
All His saints by man rejected,
Throng in gathering legions near.

Every eye shall then behold Him
Robed in awful majesty:
Those that set at naught, and sold Him—
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree.

Lo! the last long separation!
As the cleaving crowds divide;
And one dreaded declaration
Sends each soul to either side!

Oh, may Thine own Bride and Spirit
Then avert a dreadful doom—
And me summon to inherit
An eternal blissful Home!

Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee,
On Thine everlasting throne!
Saviour, take the power and glory,
Claim the kingdom for Thine own!

—Charles Wesley

What We Are Facing—

The Elements Shall Melt

"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. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." 2 Peter 3: 10-14.

We are nearing the end of the world. Do we realize what the end of the world is going to be like? We have a general description here before us. The heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The words used (dissolved and melt) are from the same Greek word "luisis" which gives us our English word "loosen." It is defined as "to loosen or break up." The elements of the earth and these heavenly elements of oxygen, and the sun, moon, and stars are going to be loosened. Notice in your encyclopedia how many elements there are in the world. The power that holds them together will be taken away, and the atoms of all material substance will fall apart with fierce heat. This world is being held back from the fire of God's wrath today. But when the Lord sees that man has gone far enough to merit complete destruction, His word will send the fires of destruction. Oh, what an awful and terrible day that will be! This is what we are facing. Oh, how we ought to live carefully and humbly before the Lord!

Terrible heat and destruction attend the splitting and loosening of the elements. World War 2 was hurried to a climax with the dropping of two atomic

bombs on Japanese cities. The first bomb dropped on Hiroshima produced a destroyed city and about 90,000 casualties. From this bomb, which measured about 10 feet in length by 2 feet and four inches in diameter and weighed about 9,000 pounds, great heat and power was exerted. A wedge of uranium was sent crashing into another core of uranium. This was done with such a force that the two parts of uranium were welded together, which set in motion and split multiplied billions of atoms. The loosening of the elements in that bomb generated heat that produced a fireball of millions of degrees. Concrete and steel ran freely together. Street cars were melted into pools on the spot. It was a terrible thing. That was just one bomb. Try to imagine the heat that will be generated as all the elements in the earth and sky are loosened. It will be an awful day! This is what we are facing.

Oh, how people talk about the world tomorrow and what is going to happen on this earth after Jesus comes again. But the sad truth of it is, they are mistaken for there will be no earth, such as this, after Jesus comes. This world is doomed for utter destruction! Transgression is so heavy on it that it is going to fall and not rise again. All the works that are therein shall be burned up. All the houses, buildings, streets, automobiles, appliances, inventions, and every other item of earth or of material substance will be destroyed! This is what we are facing.

Let us ask ourselves the question: Am I ready for this day of wrath? Is my heart cut loose from the material things of life that they can be dissolved and not affect me in the least? Is my treasure eternal in things above?

We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth. Yes, there will be a new world for us to live in forever. It will be unscarred by sin, unmolested and untempted by the devil, and unblighted by sorrow. It will be a dwelling place only for righteousness. What a blessed hope this brings to our hearts! Now we must look away from the things of this life and look forward to what will be in the new heavens and new earth. Seeing that we are looking for such things, how diligent we must be to be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless. This is what we are facing! —Leslie Busbee

WHAT IS HELL?

It is a place of "everlasting" punishment. Matt. 25:46.

A place of unquenchable fire. Matt. 3:12.

A place of everlasting destruction. 2 Thess. 1:9.

A place of everlasting burnings. Isaiah 33:14.

A place of "torment." Luke 16:28.

A place of "eternal fire." Jude 7.

A place of "everlasting fire." Matt. 18:8.

It is a place where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. Mark 9:44.

It is place where there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 13:42.

It is a place where the smoke of their torment ascendeth forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night. Revelation 14:11.

It is a place which hath enlarged herself (Isaiah 5:14)—to receive the millions whose names are not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Rev. 20:15.

The Way Of Escape

"Ye must be born again." St. John 3:7.

"Repent" and believe the gospel. Mark 1:15.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16:31.

Although sin one time made a great and terrible gulf between God and man, thank God, today the gulf is bridged and the way is open back to God and Home. The invitation is given to "come" whosoever will. —Ethel Meadows

Signs of the Times

"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom." 1 Cor. 1:22. The reason the Jews required a sign was because God brought them out of Egypt with great signs and wonders. And the reason God showed them such signs and wonders was because they were living among a people that knew not the true God. They worshipped gods made by man. One of their gods was called Ptah, who, according to Egyptian belief, was "the Mind of the Universe," who created all gods. Another was Osiris, who was god of the living and the dead. Another was Apis, the sacred bull. God used Moses and Aaron to bring them out of Egypt with great signs and wonders to prove to them and the rest of the world that He was the only true God. "And in very deed 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." Exodus 9:16. Here God was talking of Pharaoh who was ruler of Egypt at that time. God wanted His name exalted throughout all the earth, and He wanted to show them that the gods they were worshipping had no power, and that He was the only true God. So it seems that throughout their generations they required a sign before they would believe.

As Christ was reproving the Pharisees concerning their blindness of the Sabbath, they said to Him, "Master, we would see a sign from thee. But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas [Jonah]: for as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matt. 12:38-40. I believe that Christ was trying to teach them that the days of signs were over, and from here on they would have to accept His word by faith. Nevertheless, He told them that as Jonah was in the belly of the whale for three days and nights, so likewise was He going to be in the earth for three days and nights.

"The Pharisees also with the Saducees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven. He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?" Matt. 16:1-3. Then the disciples came to Him saying, "Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Jesus answered, "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many." Matt. 24:3-5.

"Then he said unto them, Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven. . . . And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring." Luke 21:10, 11, 25. "But as the days of Noe [Noah] were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt. 24:37. We shall read how it was in Noah's day. "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Gen. 6:5-8. "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch." Genesis 6:11-14.

Now we can compare the description of the earth at the time of Noah with our times. Isn't our earth today filled with violence? It is unsafe to go out alone on the streets at night in many of our cities. Hardly a night goes by in our large cities that someone isn't murdered. It is becoming so common that the courts are getting hardened to it, and are putting the criminals on probation and turning them back out on the street, because they don't have room for them in the institutions. Take a look at the bombings in Ireland, England, and other nations around the world. God is looking down on the doings of wicked men, and will bring swift destruction to all. Jesus said, "For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark." Now, isn't this what they are doing today? Every

where you go there are all kinds of eating and drinking places. You even see people driving their car with a drink in one hand. Children go to and fro with a bottle of soda in their hand. It wasn't like this when I was growing up. I never tasted a soda until I was 13 years old. Then I didn't like it as it burned my throat. I still don't like it, nor do I drink it. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; 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 17:28-30.

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves [Did you ever see a time when people were living more for their own selves than in these times?], covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." 2 Tim. 3:1-4. These things are being fulfilled before our eyes every day. Jesus warned, "Therefore, be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." If you knew when a thief was coming to your house, you would be home and watching for him. Then so it is with us, and Jesus told us to "Watch."

Then Jesus gave us another lesson from nature. When we see the buds coming out on the trees, we know that summer is nigh. So it is now, when we see all these things coming to pass, we know that Christ is soon coming, and this will be the end of all things. He said He would separate the sheep from the goats, and there would be weeping, and gnashing of teeth. Are you ready for His coming?

The world is looking for some great man to get in power to deliver them from all their troubles. But the Scripture says that seducers shall wax worse and worse. 2 Tim. 3:13. You needn't look for things to get better. They are going to get worse, and we have seen only the beginning of what we are going to see, if God lets this old world stand. Sin is on the rampage and is no respecter of persons. It degrades the rich as well as the poor. Our only hope is in Jesus. He is able to deliver and carry us through.

—Earl B. Bliss

It is God's will that we eat, drink, sleep, etc., but to be intemperate in these is to destroy spiritual life. We should be guided by a sense of the divine will, and not by a sense of human desire. To yield to the lower will of sense is to be soon abandoned to self and destitute of grace. —C. E. Orr

Final Success

I used to ask God if He would come and help me; then I asked God if I might come and help Him; then I ended by asking God to do His work through me.

—Hudson Taylor

“FAITH AND VICTORY”

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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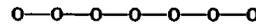
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EDITORIALS

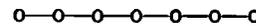


GREETINGS and best wishes to all our readers, which include several thousand new recipients of this paper made possible through gift subscriptions from their friends. In this new year of 1974, may our heavenly Father bring you many temporal and spiritual blessings.

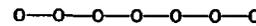
Remember that “the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” Prov. 4:18. Again we read, “Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.” Mal. 3:16. The Psalmist David calls to one and all, “O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.” Psalm 34:8.



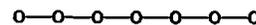
We are pleased to report to those readers who so faithfully co-operated in mailing us the special three-month’s subscriptions that a number of the new readers have already written expressing their appreciation for their first copy. Some have subscribed for a year or three years. Be encouraged to know that your labors of love are bearing fruit. If you sow the gospel seed “beside all waters,” surely some will germinate and grow. We will never know in this world what is the final yield. Our prayer is that many will be saved and find an abundant entrance into that eternal Kingdom above.



On Dec. 30, the 67th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie closed with victory. This 10-day holiday meeting was very profitable in the salvation of souls and the edification of the church. The preached Word was heart-searching, accompanied by Holy Spirit conviction, and many souls found victory at the foot of the cross. A number of believers followed the Lord in the ordinance of water baptism. Ministers were present from this state and other states, and the Lord used them in proclaiming the whole truth, so the hearers are without excuse. The spirit of love and harmony prevailed for the advancement of the cause of Christ. The attendance at this meeting was much better than expected considering the gasoline situation. The Guthrie congregation welcomes you to come again anytime and worship the Lord with us.

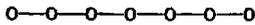


Word has just been received that one of our long-time readers in Georgia, Sister G. P. Ivey, departed this life on Jan. 5, 1974. May God comfort the relatives in their bereavement.

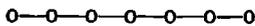


This February issue marks the completion of 51 years of publication of this monthly paper in the interest of Christ and His Church. We humbly acknowledge the sustaining hand of God over this gospel publishing work ever since its beginning here in Guthrie in 1923 when this writer’s parents, Fred and Mary

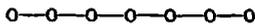
Pruitt, and co-workers, were led of the Lord to publish the gospel by the printed page. From that meager beginning a half-century ago, the Lord has expanded the facilities for the increasing demand for gospel literature. To Him be all praise and honor.



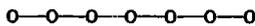
Bro. Ira D. and Sister Ruby Stover of Tulsa, Oklahoma, appreciated the many friends and saints who remembered them on their 50th wedding anniversary in December. They received gifts, cards, and letters from 17 states. Their address is: 6304 S. 97th West Ave., Tulsa, Ok. 74107. Their new phone number is 918-446-7025.



Those who have the information on the 1974 campmeeting dates, please mail it now to this office so we can publish the entire list in the March issue.



The Guthrie congregation welcomes Bro. and Sister Waldo Eck. They formerly lived near Covington, and were in the Enid, Okla., congregation. Their present address is: 217 Foster Drive, R. 2, Box 152, Guthrie, Ok. 73044.

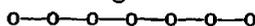


A Call to Fasting and Prayer . . .

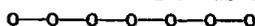
Bro. Murphy Allen, pastor at Springfield, Mo., writes: "We are having fasting each Wednesday and prayer from 10:30 a. m. to 1 p. m. here at the chapel. We felt the need of praying for the needs in general. These prayer meetings have been a blessing to our souls. It seems it would be good for all the congregations of the saints to have an agreement of prayer at this time each week."

For a number of years, the saints here at the Guthrie chapel have had a mid-day prayer meeting on Tuesday of each week. After this suggestion came from Bro. Allen to us, our pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, has announced the change for fasting and prayer to each Wednesday from 10:30 a. m. to 1 p. m.

If there was ever a time when the Church should be fasting and praying with a soul-burden for this perverse generation, it is now! The economic, political, and religious conditions of the world are in chaos. Fasting and intercessory prayer are urgently needed that more souls can be rescued from utter ruin, and that the Church will be filled with more love, grace, and gifts of the Spirit in order to withstand the final onslaught of the evil forces in this great "battle of Armageddon"—right against wrong, and truth against error. Let all the congregations enter into a special agreement of prayer on each Wednesday for all these urgent needs—local and general.

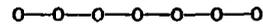


Bro. Wm. C. Hughes, aged 90, of Hammond, La., departed this life on Jan. 21, 1974, at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla., where he had been a patient since last November. May the Lord sustain the bereaved relatives and friends in their loss.

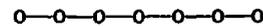


The shipment of 5,000 pounds of printing paper, which was scheduled for delivery on Nov. 1st last

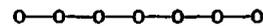
year, has not arrived by this date of Jan. 24. Though it is expected any day, please continue to pray that future orders will come through at the proper time to avert any delay in our printing schedules.



A letter from Sister Bonnie (Matthews) Riley, our former co-worker who was married to Bro. Jackie Riley here at Guthrie on Dec. 28, informed us that the Lord gave them a safe trip by auto to their home in Goulds, Fla. They are engaged in personal witnessing and tract distribution. Pray that their labors will be effectual.

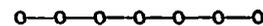


After an absence of several months, Bro. George Hammond returned from Wisconsin to this office on January 22 in his Volkswagen van. He is helping in the shop and office work wherever needed. May the Lord bless and reward him for his sacrificial interest in precious souls and the cause of Christ.

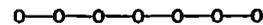


Hold to the King James' Version . . .

In our judgment, people should not rely upon the modern versions of the Bible. They are biased, misleading and deceptive. Particularly, the popular, paraphrased "Living Bible" by Ken Taylor is not only misleading, but also the language is crude, vulgar, and revolting. If you do have a copy, read 1 Samuel 20: 30, and you will be ready to dispose of that version. Also, the "Scofield Reference Bible" should be avoided because the references, helps and footnotes teach false doctrines, such as the earthly, millennial reign of Christ.



In February, we plan to have available a reprint edition of the book, "Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing," by R. R. Byrum. It consists of 108 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is 50c each, postpaid. This booklet, out of print for many years, should help one to discern the anti-cleansing heresy.



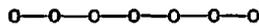
This month we expect to have in stock a reprint of the 1914 edition of the excellent book, "What the Bible Teaches," by F. G. Smith. It contains 576 pages in a nice cloth binding. The price is \$5.00 each, postpaid to you. Order your copy from this limited edition and we will mail it as soon as it is ready.

Presently in stock is the book, "Prophetic Lectures on Daniel and the Revelation," by F. G. Smith. It contains 260 pages. The price on the heavy paper binding is \$3.00, and the cloth binding is \$4.50 each, all postpaid. Order your copies **TODAY**.

Another reprint edition of the book, "Birth of a Reformation," by A. L. Byers, is expected to be available in March, 1974. Bound in a nice cloth cover, it contains 496 pages. The price is \$4.50 each, postpaid. You may place your order now, with remittance, and it will be filled when the books are completed.

Listed in our book stock are many of those excellent old books written by the pioneer ministers of the Church of God Reformation which have been out

of print for many years. More of these old books of vital truth will be reprinted and added to our stock as time, means, and help permit. Watch for publication dates in future issues of this paper.



All of the workers at this gospel publishing plant and office are sacrificing time and talents, accepting a nominal allowance for living expenses, to advance the cause of Christ in the salvation of precious souls, but they are happy to have a part in paying "the debt that we owe"—the debt of the gospel light—to the unsaved world. They are laying up their treasures in heaven, along with all of you who are so faithfully sending your offerings and ordering gospel literature to help pay the cost of paper, postage and operating expenses. It is a pleasure to be "workers together" with the Lord in His great cause. Let us "watch and pray always" that we may see the end of this Christian race with victory.

—Lawrence Pruitt

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- Oxford Bible, black face type, Jesus' words in red, 100,000 chain references, concordance, subject index, maps, family record, India paper, size 5¼"x8 5/8" with Pin Grain Morocco cover.... 19.95
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- World Bible, approx. 6½"x9½", LARGE print, red letter edition, maps, in genuine leather 16.00
- Same as above, except with all-black letters and imitation leather cover 10.95
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- Pocket New Testaments, zipper, 2¼x4¾x7/16 3.50
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How To Resist The Devil by F. J. Perryman. 48 pages bound in heavy paper cover. Price, 25c each, or 5 copies for	1.00	Gospel Anthems, 100 choice hymns in shaped notes, all selected from "Evening Light Songs," heavy paper binding. Price, 50c per copy, 5 copies for \$2.25, or 12 copies for	5.00
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A True Story in Allegory by Lottie L. Jarvis, missionary to India. First published about 1920, this booklet of 30 pages describes how the subtle spirit of compromise works to accomplish its purpose. Price, 15c each, or eight for	1.00		
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Rays of Hope by D. O. Teasley, Written especially to instruct those who suffer under the accusations of the devil. 95 pages, paper bound50
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Birthday, Get-Well, All-Occasion, Sympathy Cards (Scripture text) state kind, cost per box	1.25

(All of the above items are postpaid at prices quoted.)

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

OBITUARIES



Delbert Denney was born February 3, 1903, in Seymour, Missouri, and passed away January 4, 1974, in Wichita, Kansas, at the age of 70. He had lived in Wichita for a number of years, and in June of 1970, he and Dorcas Adams were united in marriage.

Last summer he heard the truth of the gospel, and on August 19, he received salvation with joy and gladness. He appreciated the blessed change and enjoyed the new life with Christ. He attended services when his health would permit, and found joy in the service of the Master. He was faithful the few months he was privileged to know God personally, and he is now resting in paradise.

He leaves his wife, Dorcas; one sister, Lottie Miller of Seymour, Mo.; other relatives, friends and saints.

Whether in the morning or late in the eve

We are hired in to God's Vineyard,

We will each receive from our Master and Lord

A crown and a great reward.

So, although Brother Denney hired in late,

He still found sweet rest for his soul;

And because he was obedient and faithful, too,

He shall triumphantly reach the goal.

The funeral services were conducted at the Church of God chapel in Wichita, Kansas, by Bro. Lewis Williams. Interment was in the Highland Cemetery, Wichita.

—Shirley Knight

Mary Almeta (Douglas) Gaines, daughter of Benjamin and Hattie Douglas, was born on August 1, 1903, at Conway, Arkansas. She departed this life to be with the Lord at Tulsa, Okla., on December 30, 1973, at the age of 70 years, four months and 29 days.

In Almeta's early life her parents moved to Boley, Okla., where she attended school and graduated from that highschool with honors. She attended Langston Universi-

ty where she completed requirements for a teaching certificate.

Mary Almeta accepted the Lord as her Saviour at the age of 13 years. She was a kind, obedient and pleasant child. To know her was to love her.

In the early 1930's, she moved to Tulsa, Okla. On April 5, 1938, she was married to Manyles D. Gaines. To this union three children were born, two sons and one daughter. Sister Almeta was a loving and devoted wife and mother.

She leaves to mourn her passing: a devoted husband, Manyles Gaines; two sons, Manyles B. Gaines, Jr., and Rozell E. Gaines; one daughter, Mary L. Thomas; five grandchildren; three brothers, Leroy, Alfred, and David L. Douglas, all of Tulsa, Okla.; a host of other relatives, friends, and the saints.

The funeral services were conducted at the Church of God chapel, Norfolk and Pine Place, in Tulsa, Okla., by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by Bros. Woodrow Warren and Mackey Francisco. Interment was in the Crown Hill Cemetery, Tulsa.

The overflowing attendance at the funeral and the many floral offerings indicated the high esteem in which she was held by her many friends.

Remarks in Memory of our Beloved Sister Almeta (Douglas) Gaines

California—About the year of 1926, I first met Miss Douglas at summer school at Langston University in Oklahoma. She was then a young lady in her early twenties—yet sober, patient, calm and settled like a matron of many summers. Her supply of Christian graces seemed never to run out. She was kind, gentle, humble, and sweet, and those rare graces of modesty, prudence and discretion were always in evidence. Deeds of charity and sharing with others were part of her Christian life.

Well do I remember the 4th of July that summer in Langston. The student body in general were spending as much as they could to have an old-time Fourth of July celebration. But not so with our departed Sister Almeta. She came through town on her way to the place where I was lodging, searched her purse and bought a pint of lemon or orange sherbet. In humility and love she shared it with me, her older sister in the Lord. As we mingled our prayers and praise to the Most High, what a feast we had for soul and body! Yea, just a little foretaste of the joy to be had when all of life's toils are ended and we meet in that heavenly Home so fair!

—Aged Mother Ethel K. Miles

DATE CHANGE FOR BAKERSFIELD REVIVAL

The Bakersfield, Calif., congregation has changed the dates for their winter revival meeting from February 8 to 17, as previously announced, to February 15 to 24. For further information, see the notice in the January issue of this paper.

—Robena Montgomery

WEEK-END MEETING AND SINGING AT BOLEY, OKLA.

Lord willing, there will be a week-end meeting at Boley, Okla., beginning Friday night, March 1st, through March 3, 1974. Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p. m. On Saturday night, March 2, there will be gospel singing. On Sunday, March 3, will be all-day services.

We extend a warm welcome to all nations, one and all, to attend these services. Let us come with a prayer

in our hearts and songs of praises on our lips, "for it is good to sing praises unto our God." Psalms 147:1.

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name." Malachi 3:16. Praise the Lord!

Yours in His great name, —Katherine Williams
905 N. E. 15th Street, Oklahoma City, Ok. 73104

THERE IS POWER—IN ABUNDANCE—IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

A noted news analyst recently made some comments relating to the energy crisis, saying that we will probably harness sources of power which we have never considered before. He mentioned a current of water in the Gulf of Mexico the flow of which, he said, is equal to ten times that of the Niagra Falls. In spite of this, I doubt that it is possible from the surface to see that powerful current flowing. To experience the mighty power available there, a person would have to get down into it. But, seen or not, it is there.

I liken this to the workings of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit may not make a lot of noise, or a big show of things, but there is a mighty power there to keep us, to direct us, to mold us, to prepare us for heaven. I desire to tap this great source of power in such a way in my life that I may help others to come to Christ. May this be the prayer of each one of us. —Gene Beisly

Report From The Field

La.—Dear Sister Marie: I greet you, with love, in the Lord. Take away the great love of God, and we have very little left. Really, we don't have anything left that is worth anything. I surely want to be careful and keep myself in His great love, and not let it grow cold, as I do fear many are doing today. The Bible says that the "love of many will wax cold."

I reached home on Jan. 6. I'm thankful to be home and to be as well as I am. I have some cough which developed just before the Pacoima, Calif., Assembly meeting began. But I was blessed on the whole trip. I endeavored to stay in the center of God's will.

I went to Gladstone, Oregon, for a three night's meeting, also visited in the homes of the saints who had formerly lived in Pomona, Calif. I visited at Jefferson, Ore., and was there for five services. I surely trust there was some good accomplished. We have no other desire than to be blessed of the Lord, and be a blessing to souls. We surely realize, as the scripture says, "Without me ye can do nothing." We see the condition of so many souls today who are so far from the Lord. So many are going on, seemingly so thoughtless and unconcerned about their souls, yet knowing eternity is ahead of us all, also the judgment, and that we will have to answer for our lives in this world. In the Judgment Day we will hear the Great Judge of all hearts say, "Come" to heaven's glory or, "Depart" to hell's awful destruction. Our prayer is, "Oh, Lord, help souls to repent and be saved."

We can't help but see much spiritual lethargy in this evil age of time. It's sad to see some seemingly caught in the snare of being overcharged with cares and things of this life to the point of neglecting the soul and spiritual life. This also is a burden on my heart. We feel like crying out, "Beware of the snare" that God's

Word warns us of that would come, and is here. We need to take heed regarding it so we can be counted worthy to escape. Luke 21:34-36. We cannot go our own way and God's way, too, and get to heaven. But God's way is a way of separation from the world, and even our own way. When we want our own way so much, we are not able to understand or go God's way. If we aren't careful, we will seek His approval on our will instead of seeking to know and do His will. Sometimes, folks say, "I want the Lord to show me His will in the matter," but He has no opportunity because people are too set to have their way in the matter. Then finally, many times, conclude their will is God's will. Therefore do they bring great trouble, grieve the Lord, and lose spiritually. We all need to be more careful on this line lest we lose our souls.

I also visited a few days in the homes of all my three children. They were all so sweet to me, also their companions. Living so far from them is a real sacrifice. I did so much appreciate their love in helping me to be with them again.

The Lord blessed me to be able to attend most of the Pacoima, Calif., Assembly meeting. I felt blessed of the Lord to be there. I trust all souls were benefited because of the meeting. I also was in Pomona, Calif., one Sunday with the saints there. I did stop at Redding, Calif., at 3 a. m. in the morning. Hazel, my sister, and Howard met me there at the train. I was glad to visit them two days and nights.

I felt the Lord took care of me all the way. The same train I took out of Redding, Calif., wrecked a few mornings later just out of the town of Redding and 84 persons were injured, many badly, as the news said. So we never know all that our great God does for us. We know only a small part.

I am glad to be home again, but regardless of where I am, I do want to keep close to the Lord and please Him. I realize that at the longest I have yet to live, my life is almost gone. I'm convinced it is not fanaticism to say it is going to require a careful and diligent life of watching and praying, more than ever before, to keep saved and please God in order to make heaven.

We pray for you, Bro. Lawrence, Sister Maybelle, and all the workers, and the work there. I trust many souls will make heaven because of the printed page. I do enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper. . . .

May the Lord bless you, —Sister LaVern Manuel
R. 1, Loranger, La. 70446

Prayer Requests

Del.—"Pray for my granddaughter, Marilyn Del Duca, who has multiple sclerosis. I need prayer for better eyesight, and general health. I am 73 years old."

—Mrs. Minnie Kuhl

N. York—"I desire the prayers of the saints for my body."

—Ella Hemphill

Mo.—"Would you please pray for my healing. I have diabetes, a mild heart condition, and gall bladder trouble. I believe God is able and willing to heal." —Mrs. R. Austin

Okla.—Please pray for the healing of Sister Betty Smith (wife of Bro. Chas. Smith) who has suffered a stroke on her right side.

Nigeria—"I read the book, "The Corrupt Tree" and through this book God showed me my sins, and helped me to confess them. In this article . . . on adultery, God spoke to me much from it, and showed me my errors. He

let me feel sorry about my sins and weep about them. I feel sure that He forgave me and healed the wound. . . . Pray that God may forgive my wife's sins and heal our marriage." —Nse Etim

Calif.—"My son and daughter asked for prayer to be saved. . . . Remember others of my family."

—Jessella Ausbie

S. Car.—"Pray much for me for a cancer on my lip. I know God can heal it."

—Eddie Driggers

Kansas—"My sinus seems to be affecting my hearing; also my eyesight is not so good, but when a person is 78, I suppose some things are expected." —Amy Hunter

Calif.—"Pray for my healing. Have the saints to pray."

—J. B. Jones

Okla.—"Sister Ruby Stover hasn't been well of late and has been in bed some. She needs a touch from the Lord. Bro. and Sister Stover both have worn their bodies out in the work of the Lord. They still carry a burden for God's people and His work and need a healing touch, as they are not young anymore. We deeply appreciate their labors for God. They have been a great blessing to many souls down through the years. So do pray for them that the Lord will bless them in their bodies."

Mo.—"Pray that the Lord will heal my nerves and bladder trouble."

—Lily Mae Glass

Idaho—Remember Sister Ruby Marken's mother in prayer. She has been sick for a long time, but she is looking to the Lord. The Lord does touch her, but let us pray for her complete healing. She doesn't have to suffer such awful pain at times, since we have such a great Healer in Zion.

La.—"Please pray for the healing of my body. The Lord knows what my trouble is. I do not know."

—Mrs. J. B. Wells

Ohio—"Please continue to pray for me. I need help [in my body] so much."

—Mrs. L. J. Roush

La.—"Sister Dora Doolittle surely needs special prayer. She suffers so much with her feet and can hardly walk. She goes in a wheel chair at times now."

—Sister Audrey Baumgartner

Ga.—"Please remember my weak body to the Lord. I am not feeling very well. . . . 'For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.' 2 Cor. 5:1."

—Sister P. R. Bowers

Md.—"Pray for me. . . . I have something wrong with my stomach. . . . I don't know what my trouble is, but I am trusting in the Lord. Pray for my unsaved loved ones. I feel so burdened for them."

—Sister Myrtle Warner

Mo.—"My nerves, or whatever I have, don't seem to be any better. It surely has been a battle. I need the prayers of all the saints everywhere."

—Mildred Swain

Calif.—"I am a shut-in, a widow, and can no longer go to church. I have diabetes, high blood pressure, and arthritis. Please pray for me, that God will heal me of this painful arthritis. He has in times past and I know He can again."

—Pauline McCoy

Tex.—"Mother [Sister Jewel Whitley] was doing very well for a while, but seems to have a setback. . . . God is very merciful and gives her relief. Do keep her (and all of us) on your prayer list."

—Twyla Gayle McMillian

Colo.—Pray for Bro. Reinhart Wollert who recently suffered a stroke.

The Apostle Paul said, "When I am weak, then am I strong." He had prayed three times that the "thorn in the flesh" would be removed from him, but God told him that "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is

made perfect in weakness." "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in mine infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Cor. 12:7-11. Now some teach that Paul had weak eyes, which was his thorn in the flesh, but we do not have any record of that in the Bible. He plainly says that he would take pleasure "in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions." All of these things put together was his "thorn in the flesh." When Paul was first saved, God told him that He would "shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." Acts 9:16. So he found trouble awaiting him in nearly every city, but his conclusion was that, "When I am weak, then I am strong."

Dear ones, in all of our problems, afflictions and distresses, we find that we are driven to our knees. If all things would go well, we might become slack and not pray as we ought. Furthermore, when these things come upon us and we fight the good fight of faith, then we grow stronger in the Lord as we win victory after victory. Each event is a stepping stone in our experience with God.

—Sister A. Marie Miles

Foreign Field Reports



Gospel Workers at 12th National Nigerian Campmeeting

Southeast State, Nigeria (Jan. 2)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, workers in the Printshop, and saints everywhere: In this New Year of 1974, we send you greetings in the name of our Lord of lords and great King of kings whom the Jews crucified, and His holy blood washed our sins away. Praise Him!

We ended the 12th annual campmeeting on Dec. 16 very profitably and successfully to the glory of God. We are thankful to God that He protected the attendants who came from far and near on their way to and from the meeting. Bro. Titus U. E. Enu (who supervises the gospel work in the Kwale district) attended this meeting with Bro. Josaiiah Orgwu. They were very cordial and helpful to us and the work. The Word of God was preached with anointing that penetrated many hearts during indoor and outdoor services. The sick were healed in answer to the faithful prayers of the saints.

Eighty souls followed the dear Lord in water baptism by Bro. M. U. Ekpo on Sunday, Dec. 16. Brother Ben E. Udoka administered the emblems of the Body and Blood of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, to more than 900 souls after giving this Scriptural advice: "Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." 1 Corin-

thians 11:27, 28. Then we closed with victory and praises to God.

Special prayers were offered for Bro. Pruitt's recovery from sickness, for the progress of the gospel work there, and for God's approval on the proposed coming of Bro. George Hammond to our midst.

We hereby express many thanks to the Church in America for both spiritual and financial help rendered to us throughout the year of 1973, and pray our great Master to reward you abundantly.

We need 100 Efik language Bibles (which cost \$1.50 each) to distribute to many inquirers. I pray and trust God to supply this need.

We are praying for all of you. Earnestly pray for us, for disease is swiftly spreading and has claimed many lives since this new year has begun.

Yours in Him, —Nse B. Umanah, field secretary

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MISSION

Southeast State, Nigeria (Dec. 23)—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings to you and all the dear saints scattered abroad in the ever-abiding and adorable name of Jesus Christ who came down from heaven above to die that we miserable sinners on earth might be saved. Praise Him forever more!

I am writing toward the eve of Christmas to close the year with thanksgiving to God for sparing my life and those around me, and for the blessings we received throughout the year. . . . You will rejoice with us for the Lord has blessed us with a bouncing baby boy on the 15th of last August. Both mother and child are doing well in health. Praise God!

Our annual National campmeeting came and closed on Dec. 16th with rich spiritual blessings, too many to mention. Indeed, the Lord blessed greatly this year. He did marvelous things this year in our congregation at Ikot Esen. Ten new converts from our congregation were baptized during the campmeeting. This came as a result of our unceasing prayers and soul-winning evangelism. Praise the Lord! The gospel work is still advancing and souls are being saved. We pray earnestly for the salvation of souls, for the time is short. Pray with us. In the New Year ahead, I pray that the Lord would redouble my strength to be able to reach the unsaved with the message of salvation, for still there are many wallowing in ignorance and superstition, and still bowing down to gods made with their hands. . . .

In Christian love, —Jackson U. Etuk

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Dec. 22)—Beloved Bro. Pruitt: Most loving and happy new year's greetings to you and all the church in America. Thank you very much for your good letter dated Dec. 2, 1973, and the enclosures were noted with maximum gratitude. Thanks for your valuable prayers and financial help for our campmeeting at Karikkom. Yes, the church at Karikkom is now very busy with all kinds of preparations for that campmeeting. Continued prayers are expected.

Yesterday, a "Macedonian call" reached me from a distant place by the name of Karuvatta, a non-Christian center. A few men of God wish to conduct a gospel meeting there and they appealed to me to come and hold a four-day's meeting. They are very eager to understand and follow the teachings and doctrines of the Church of God. God willing, I plan to go over there to conduct a gospel meeting from Jan. 10 to 13. . . .

Outside and inside of the so-called churches live and die millions of people whom the Lord loves. Jesus came as the Good Shepherd not only for those who are in the fold, but also for those who are living outside. John 10:16 gives us the heart of Jesus. "I have compassion on the multitude," said the Lord. If the compassion of Christ fills our hearts, no obstacle is too great for us to overcome, no ocean too wide to be crossed, no suffering is too hard to be endured. "Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days." (Eccl. 11:1).

We continue to pray God's blessings upon all meetings taking place in the church there. I shall send copies of new tracts printed without much delay.

Praises to God that He brought us victoriously to the end of this year of 1973, delivering our souls from death, our eyes from tears, and our feet from falling. "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." (2 Cor. 2:14).

Your younger Brother in Christ, —John Varghese

LETTER FROM MEXICAN MISSIONARY

Valle de la Trinidad, B. C., Mexico (Jan. 3)—Sister Marie and Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who reigns in the hearts of those who keep His commandments. Thanks to my God for the power that He gives us in His Son to overcome the devil and the world. Glory to my God for the blood of Jesus that takes away the sins of sinful men. (John 1:29). Brethren, we have Jesus our powerful King who gave us the victory and takes us from victory to victory.

In these days of so much trouble, all the world is shaking, and it looks like it will disintegrate. What can we do? The only thing to do is to look to Christ seated on His mediatorial throne and remember that we are not of this world. We have precious promises of a better country. (Heb. 11:10, Heb. 11:16). Yes, my beloved, look on things above where all our hopes should be. People all over the world have become so materialistic, and they are despisers of God and the truth. Very few people want to have an inheritance in the skies. It is like this all over the world.

Please pray for me. I need your prayers very much.

I want to thank all of the saints for the help you gave to us this past year. May God bless each and everyone in soul and body.

Love and prayers in Christ Jesus.

Your smallest Brother, —Tomas Mendoza

What Is Truth?

A number of years ago I was riding on a train and had a conversation with a woman who was telling me about her search for truth. She told how she went from one group to another seeking truth. One group told her to sit every afternoon at her desk and meditate and wait for a message from God with her pen and paper. She said she did this, and one afternoon a great rumbling seemed to come down the stairs, and her hand began to write. She said that part of the message came true, but her arm was limp. Of course, she did not feel good about that, so she quit going to that place. One day, she said she was trying to do her washing and something said to her that if she would tell her family and others how her

arm became limp, that it would be all right. So she did, and her arm finally got all right. So she went to another group—still searching for truth. She said she finally found the group that she was with at this time, and she felt she had found it, but she had only yielded to a deceptive spirit. She told me about some strange ideas she had, and when I tried to refute them by Paul's writings in the New Testament, she said that Peter even told us that Paul wrote things hard to understand. Then I quoted some things that Jesus taught us and she ended by saying that no one could live up to that. She still had not found the truth. We were, by this time, at our destination. I got her address and sent her some literature, but I did not hear from her.

This is an example of so many people in the world today. They are going from one man-made organization to another instead of looking into God's Word to find out what is truth. (I might add that many are trying to find truth in a lot of revised versions instead of the King James version of the Bible. I feel that the King James version was ordained by God. It has worked in the lives of thousands down through the years, and has been the means of taking them to heaven.) It is not unusual for a person to want to know what is truth since there are so many voices in the world.

Jesus made a statement at His trial, in answer to the question from Pilate whether He was a king, by saying, "To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?" John 18:37, 38. Before that and ever since, people have been asking the question, "What is truth?" Jesus answered that question in John 17 in His prayer to His Father for His disciples. He said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:16. So the Word of God is truth. The New Testament teachings are what we are to live by in this day. We need to search the Word, and then we will find out what is truth. Truth is that which squares with the facts. Personally, I have searched the Word and obeyed it, and it has worked in my soul. It brought satisfaction and peace to me.

If you will forget all of these man-made organizations and revisions of the Bible, and just take God's Word and begin to obey it, you will be led into a relationship with the Lord that will bring peace to your soul. Take the book of John and begin to read it, believe it, and obey it, and you will find peace with your Maker. So many are so overly concerned with man's interpretations that they can't take the naked Word of God.

One couple got saved, and later I visited them. The man didn't know much about the Bible, but as soon as I entered the house he said, "What do those black horses and white horses mean that are spoken of in the Bible?" He had started reading in Revelation, which is the last book in the New Testament. I told him that he started at the wrong end. He should start reading the first book of the New Testa-

ment, and when he had measured up to all of it, then the Revelation would become clearer to him as he lived for God and waited for the Holy Spirit to reveal it to him.

Now we have established the fact that Jesus said God's Word is truth. He also said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." John 6:63. Some became offended. Today many are offended at Jesus' words and turn back like some in His day. But when Jesus turned to His disciples and asked, "Will ye also go away?" Peter answered, "To whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:67, 68. So, dear ones, do not look to man-made organizations and the many false prophets speaking in the world today, but to God's Word. There you will find the way to receive eternal life.

—Sister Marie Miles

From The Mail Box . . .

S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the saints at the Printshop: This letter leaves me with much courage to press on for the Lord. Though the way seems dark sometimes, God is able to fight the battle for us. Praise His name!

Bro. Lawrence, pray much for the eradication of a cancer on my lip. I know God can remove it. . . .

Your Brother in the one family of God,

—Eddie Driggers

Illinois—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: Greetings in our Saviour's name. I hope this finds all well at the Printshop, and wishing you a happy new year in the Lord. What we have done for the Lord in the past year is all that counts. . . .

We are sending an offering to be used where most needed to help get the gospel out to this world. God has blessed us in many ways the past year. May He bless all of you this year.

Pray for both of us for physical needs.

Your Bro. and Sister in the Lord,

—John and Louise Matlock

Indiana—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings of love in the Saviour's dear name. I am so thankful that I can say that God has come to my aid again. I have felt your prayers and am able to eat again. I appreciate the saints and their prayers.

I wish I could have been there in the meeting during the holidays, but things did not turn out like I had hoped they would, so we are content with whatever state the Lord lets come our way. We may not understand everything, but our faith is in the One whose wisdom is much greater than our own, and who never makes a mistake. We are committed to Him. . . .

Love and prayers,

—Earl Bliss

W. Va.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of Jesus who is able to save and to keep saved in this present world, right in the midst of all unbelievers and ungodliness. We are so thankful our God still rules. Praise His name!

We do hope all are well in soul and body at the publishing house. We are so thankful for your courage and faith that have been so great to help thousands in

this present world. May the Lord richly bless each one there as you labor printing and sending out tracts and papers.

Everyone here at Green Bank is doing real well. The Lord is blessing in every service. We are still praying and looking to the Lord to send someone to W. Va. to help us. Bro. and Sister Samons are planning to spend some time with us this winter. . . .

Please pray for the church in W. Va. as we desire to be a light house for souls in this lost world.

In the One Body, —Bro. James White

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Tenn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings of love from East Tennessee. We trust this finds each of you happy in the Lord, . . . and encouraged not only to continue the remainder of your lives, but also by God's help and guidance to prepare and encourage others to carry on this good work after you have finished your course, that its helpfulness and influence may not perish from the earth. . . .

We are so thankful for God's love, mercy and grace to us; that we have access to His bountiful storehouse for our every need through faith and obedience to His will. Be encouraged amid the trials and adversities of this life. He knows just how to deal with each one of us to get us to heaven. . . .

He wants us to be His people, His Church in whom He can dwell, communicate, love, teach, discipline, lead, direct, depend upon and trust to carry out His mission and work here in the world.

I trust that the upcoming new year, with its new opportunities, challenges, and responsibilities, will find each of us busy and faithful in whatever position He has placed us in His Body, the Church.

Enclosed is an offering for whatever needs are pressing.

With Christian love, —Charles B. Williams

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Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. We are still praying for you that the dear Lord will heal you completely. We hope all the workers there are well.

I am in fair health for my age. I do have some afflictions. Wife is still gaining in strength, but not very much in weight. She weighs about 97 pounds. Her face is filling out some now.

Use the check as you see best.

Yours in the true faith, —Bro. and Sister Floyd Hines

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La.—Sister Marie, greetings of Christian love to each of you there at the office. I trust each of you are enjoying rich blessings from the Lord as you faithfully labor in printing and sending out the gospel. . . .

Bro. Lawrence, we are earnestly praying according to your request in the January issue concerning your healing. Surely, when the Lord speaks the word and commands the affliction to go, it will have to go as in Matt. 8, when the centurion told Jesus just to speak the word. . . .

I trust the Lord will supply all the help that is needed, and also that He will take care of the paper shortage.

Christian love to all, —Alta Flynn

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Oklahoma—Greetings to the Printshop workers: Our loving Lord has blessed us with His divine mercy and love. We are in another year that we have never known before. No one but God knows what is in store for us. However, we have a promise of eternal life to those who have been washed and made white in the blood of the Crucified One. Thank God for the blood.

My heart goes out in gratitude for the ministry of the Church of God who will declare the whole counsel of God and not compromise with the cunning tricks of the devil. The rich Word of God in the Guthrie holiday meeting was food to my soul. I love the blessed holy way that leads to heaven. That kingdom of peace is reigning within as we possess it right here when He saves from all sin. "Christ is mine and every longing satisfies abundantly. He's my joy, my hope, my glory—He is all, yes, all to me." Oh, praise the Lord!

When we take time to count our blessings, there is no time for murmuring and complaining. Jesus is so good to us. Think of how we were salvaged from the wreck of sin and degraded living by the hand of the Almighty who lifted us up and also out of the horrible pit of sin and placed our feet on the solid Rock, Christ Jesus! Oh, glory, what a blessing!

Much love, —Erma Johnson

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Mich.—Dear saints there and everywhere: The season's greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. When I think back how the dear Lord has helped me through the past years and healed me so many times, I give Him all the honor and praise. By the grace of God I can report victory in my soul.

When I saw my sister a couple of years ago, I thought there was no hope for her physical recovery, but the dear Lord has done wonders for her. It pays to trust the Lord.

When my daughter had her vacation, we went to Florida by car. When we were driving in Tampa, it seemed that a car would hit our car in the rear. My daughter looked back again as we heard a squeaking noise, and the car was facing the other way. I know it was the Lord that protected us.

May the dear Lord bless and keep all of you at the Printshop, and heal all the sick and afflicted ones, is my prayer.

Christian love, —Sister Martha Ruhl

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Calif.—Dear Sister Miles: I thank the dear Lord for letting us see another new year. I am not feeling well, but I have it all committed in the Lord's hand.

I had a dream last Saturday night. It seemed that two strange-looking women came into my house. I said to them, "I know who you are. You are angels. I know you came after me." Then I waked up. I was feeling so sick, but the dear Lord helped me to be able to go to service the next day.

Enclosed is my offering for the Printshop and the foreign mission field.

Christian love, —Elizabeth Lima

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Ark.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of Christian love to you, all at the Printshop, and the saints abroad. My prayer goes up for you and Bro. Lawrence that God will complete your healing. . . .

I am happy and encouraged in the Lord, as He has made known to me what He has assigned to my heart and hands to do. Oh, I am so willing. Pray for me. . . .

May the Lord bless all of you in His work.

Your Sister in Christ, —Cherry R. Alba

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W. Va.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus: I feel encouraged more than ever to serve my blessed Saviour regardless of the trials and tests. How would we know whether or not we could overcome trials if we didn't have them? Surely, there is a way of escape with each trial.

It seems like the devil is using deceit to trap so many poor souls. He has so many deceiving spirits. Parents are being deceived in what they allow their children to do in little "no harm" things, like the card games they play, along with using candy cigarettes done up in real cigarette brand boxes. Long before they reach adulthood the bad habits are pretty well started.

Bro. Jim White of Green Bank, W. Va., is expected to come over sometime, with others, for prayer meeting.

Kenneth is doing fine. He hasn't had any more seizures. Praise the Lord!

I trust this finds all of you dear ones there well in both soul and body. Pray for us as we do for you.

Christian love, —Erma Clevenger

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Penn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Sister Miles: I'm thanking the Lord that I am still encouraged to go on. I hope to do more for the Lord in this new year than ever before.

I am trusting the Lord that you both feel better in your bodies.

Please renew my subscription for three years.

Yours in Christ, —Sister Mary Johnson

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Illinois—Dear ones at the "Lord's Printshop": I want to write a few lines with the check for our Sunday School lessons and the "Faith and Victory" papers. We surely enjoy them all and get much help spiritually from them.

It seems there is always something especially for us in each issue. But, of course, God knows just what we need and when we need it. He's been so good to us.

We've both had the flu this winter, but thank God for answering prayer in our behalf. Our relatives all thought we should go to the doctor, but I told them we had the best doctor anyone could have. He's always there when we call and never too busy to hear us or to come when we need Him. We don't have to go sit for hours and wait in line for an appointment. Bless God, he is a very present help in time of need—to His believing children! I surely want to live for Him. He's done so much for me.

I'm still praying God will make it possible for us to come to Guthrie sometime. I want so much to go to your campmeetings sometime. You were all such a blessing to us when you stopped by.

We pray much for all of you and trust God will give complete healing to Bro. Pruitt. May God bless all of you as you labor for Him! We love and appreciate you.

Love in Christ, —Sister Harry Romoser

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Kansas—Bro. Pruitt: We surely thank the Lord for being saved and encouraged to live for the Lord.

We are sending this donation to be used where the Lord sees fit. We are praying for you and the saints there at the printshop.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,

—Carlos and Carol Arriaga

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Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and King. I pray and trust that this will find you and all my Brothers and Sisters at Guthrie happy and encouraged in the Lord. Sometimes we see some discouraging things, but the words of a song keep coming to my mind, "The strife will not be long; this day, the sound of battle, the next, the victor's song." Praise God! If you feel that verse like I do, it brings forth springs of strength and wells of thanksgiving from your heart. . . .

Thank you all for your prayers for our daughter, Mary Ann, the night I called [during your Assembly meeting]. I thank God that He heard and answered and she

is alive and well today. Her fever was a little above 105 degrees that night. . . . I thank God that we "know in whom we have believed."

May the approval and glory of the living God rest upon your work of getting the truth of the gospel out to enlighten the eyes of those held in the bondage of darkness throughout the new year.

Your Brother in Christ,

—Jim Broker

R. 1, Box 45, Forest City, Mo. 64451

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Indiana—Dear Bro. Pruitt, all the workers at the Printshop, and all saints everywhere: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus whom we love so dearly. I hope all of you folks are fine and happy in the Lord. I hope you, Bro. Lawrence, are much improved in body. Jesus is our great Physician.

As for wife and myself, we are about as usual. We have our aches and pains, but realize we can't always be young. Yet we are happy in the Lord. I told my wife that I never was more satisfied in my life than since I found the Church that Jesus built. Praise God forever! I surely do thank the blessed Lord for the light on the church.

I am sending a small offering to be used where you need it most. . . . If we have Jesus, we have the greatest gift one could receive.

Your Brother in the service of our King,

—Nathan Mobley

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La.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings of love in the name of our Lord and Saviour, the One who shed His precious blood for even unworthy me! Oh, I do love Him, and the whole desire of my heart is to live to please Him in all I do or say. I surely want to press on for Jesus. We are too near the end of the way to turn back, and what is there to turn back to anyway? Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. There is set before us life and death. Jesus is life and sin is death. I am so glad for the great gift of God's dear Son and how He ever sought after me and brought me out into this true, holy way—the Bible way, the only way that leads from earth to heaven. Oh, praise the sweet name of the dear Lord!

My foot and ankle have improved so much since last year. They hardly ever pain me, but are weak and I need strength to be able to put more weight on them. The Lord is so good to us, and we are so thankful for what He has done and is doing for us and others, too.

I have a very bad cold and cough at the present time and covet your earnest prayers. We are thankful for God's praying people. God still answers prayer. My faith is fixed in Him. Do pray for me that my faith fail not, but will increase.

We were glad to get the "Faith and Victory" paper, also "The Beautiful Way" papers and "Bible Lessons" book. I had to shed tears when I read some of the testimonies and articles. God is so good to hear and answer prayer for His needy children.

May God bless you and yours, and each one at the Printshop this new year in a very special way, is our prayer. Continue to pray for me, and I also have some unspoken requests. Christian love, —Effie Miller

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Ky.—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: I really enjoy the "Faith and Victory" paper, especially I like to read the testimonies. May God bless all of you in His work.

Pray for my children who need the Lord. Remember Sister Mabel Dunaway in body, also myself.

Yours in Christ,

—Sister Mary A. Hughes

Testimonies and Answers To Prayer

Okla.—Dear saints, greetings in Christian love: As I have been working at the linotype and setting the different letters that have come in for the paper, I have noticed how many mention remembering all the workers at the Printshop. The thought went through my mind, "They have been praying for you, too." This has touched my heart deeply. I have been longing for the time to arrive when I, and we as a family, could feel that it was time to testify of the Lord's dealings with us. The time has arrived. Thank God! I am sure that we have felt the power of your interceding prayers in our behalf though you may not have known of the great need in our trial. Just recently, it seemed that the darkest of midnights had surrounded us and the powers directly from hell had assailed us, but at last deliverance has come! Tears of joy flow freely even as I am setting this now. Thank God for the unspeakable gift of His Son, and salvation, and victory!

To write in detail about our trials would be like writing a book and there is hardly room for that, but I will say this: About the last week-end of the Guthrie, Okla., Assembly meeting in 1972, something having all the symptoms of a dreaded affliction took hold of our youngest daughter, Sharon. It was frightening. It seemed the impact of thinking about something like this happening to us would almost crush our hearts. We realized that we were no better than anyone else in having to suffer for Him, and we were willing, but it still didn't soften the shock very much when it came.

Yet, when we looked back later, we could see the Lord had been preparing us for something. For a period of six weeks before this happened, it seemed that the Lord burdened me for lessons along the line of faith for the young people's Sunday school class. Faith that would not waver—faith that works today—faith that shows what it is by its works—faith that is willing to hold fast even when walking through the darkest of nights on ground unknown and untried before by our feet. It seemed the Lord witnessed to me, also to my wife—"This is a test of faith. Will you stand true?" Some of our family I know have not understood our stand, and it was not easy to endure, but, oh, the lessons we have learned! His nearness we have felt at times!—such as we probably would not have experienced had we not gone through this test. The scriptures of promise brought to our minds, the songs of encouragement, the saints' prayers—all were so precious.

The Lord helped us not to doubt His wisdom. We were satisfied with His dealings with us. We believed that this would be for our good if we endured faithfully to the end. We thought of the three Hebrew children. They came up against a severe test. Their decision for God led them through a furnace heated seven times hotter than was originally intended. And what happened? Their bonds were burned off—they were freed from them, they walked with God in the midst of the flames, and they came forth from the furnace without even a smell of smoke on their garments!

The closing up of this trial has been the hardest of all though. On top of the burden from the affliction, we saw a hardness toward God in Sharon's heart. Here then was the body and soul in deep trouble. Without fully realizing the seriousness of the act, Sharon brought herself into a close brush with death. To us looking on, it appeared that we had gone as far as we could, and we had. We knew of nothing more to say, nothing more to

do. We needed a power to help us that only God could provide. He did this for us. We believe that God spared her life.

Sharon's heart was touched through the prayers of the saints and the wooings of God's Spirit. She felt unworthy of the care and attention showered upon her. Truly, love lifted her and now she has a testimony of God's salvation being hers.

Your prayers have meant much to us. They have helped us to claim, and enjoy a great victory.

Thanks again, —The Gene Beisly family

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Mo.—Dear ones: I trust this finds you each one encouraged to keep pressing on. It surely is a pressing way, but if we remain true, all our pressing will be worth it all. To endure unto the end is what will count. That is my desire.

We can never thank God enough for all His many blessings to us. Most of all, we thank Him for the gift of salvation. What a wonderful and precious gift it is! It includes so many blessings! How can anyone refuse it? If they would only taste and see.

We certainly thank God for all He has done for Daddy [Bro. Audie Sorrell]. It is just a miracle; but then we are serving a miracle-working God. Daddy still needs much help, but he has come a long way. He can get around by himself and is beginning to do more for himself. God has restored quite a bit of his eyesight. He can't see real good, but does see enough to get around and do a few things. He can read some things if they are just right. How wonderful God is! The least we can do is to give Him our lives and hearts.

I trust God is blessing there, and may He keep you each one encouraged "to endure unto the end."

Christian love, —Rebecca Sorrell

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Wash.—Dear Sister Marie and saints everywhere: Greetings of Christian love in the name of Jesus, the One who loves us and gave His life that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. Praise His dear name!

We hope all there are well. My family and I are well so far this winter. Late in October, my grandson, who is 15 years old, was a passenger in a car when the brakes failed and the car struck a tree. Our grandson got a cut across the ball of one of his eyes and had to have surgery, and has had problems since. The saints at Jefferson, Oregon, have been earnestly praying that the Lord would restore his vision, and he has been improving. A small cataract came on the eye and it hasn't grown at all, but is still there. The doctor says he should not have any vision in the eye at all yet, but two weeks ago when he went to the doctor he said he had 20/60 vision in it. Today, when he went to the doctor he said he had 20/50 vision in the eye. So we thank the Lord for His goodness to us, and thank everyone who has prayed for him. I believe the Lord will completely heal it, and I am praying He will take away the cataract, too.

I ask an interest in your prayers, most of all, for their salvation. All my family need salvation. God has been good to us and I thank Him for it.

Christian love, —Sister D. T. Thomas

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Calif.—Greetings to the dear saints scattered abroad: The saints mean so much to me. Thank God for His wonderful people.

About 23 years ago, I had a stroke from head to foot which badly affected my digestive system. Food would not digest, and I could take only a little liquid. The saints would pray for me and I could eat well at

times. The Lord surely will bless every one for their love shown to us in our troubles all these years. I have been in a wheel chair for several months, but thank God, I can walk so much more without the chair. I am so glad we are serving such a wonderful Saviour, and we can cast all our cares upon Him. I am doing much praying and I know the saints are praying for me.

Yours in the One Body, —Jessella Ausbie

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La.—Dear Sister Marie, greetings in Jesus' precious name: I trust this finds you dear ones well. I praise our Lord for all He does for us! It is truly wonderful to have a friend like Jesus. Each day His great love means more to me.

The Lord so wonderfully touched my body on Sunday before Christmas. There wasn't a pain in my body anywhere, and He made me able to have our big family in my home for Christmas. I was so happy that I had to tell them all about it before we ate dinner. They could see what the Lord had done. . . . Praise the Lord! I do want to pray more and serve Him better. He truly is everything to me.

Yours in the Lord, —Sister Gladys Cashio

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Ore.—Dear Marie: Greetings to all the dear saints of the household of faith. I do thank all who prayed for me in regard to my feet which were so painful two months ago. I could hardly walk. My request was published in the paper and the Lord truly did hear and touched them. So they are much better.

I also had severe dizzy spells, for which I was anointed here at Jefferson by Brother Ostis Wilson, our pastor. The saints all agreed in prayer and the Lord took it all away.

I am very happy and contented in my new location here. I can attend church services and worship with the dear saints of God. We have good meetings and I have really benefited from them. God has provided for me in miraculous ways since I am a widow. I have no lack for necessary things. I have been enabled to get enough gas to run my car despite the shortage. So the Lord provides for His people.

Truly, times are perilous as the Bible predicted and we need to pray for our nation which is in dire peril. Truly, the signs seem to point to our Lord's return to gather His people Home—a glorious hope for His people, but a sad time for those unprepared. Our nation needs to turn back to God. It would solve so many problems.

Remember us in your prayers as we do you.

Christian love, —Sister Grace Jones

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Okla.—Greetings in Jesus' name to the publishers and all the readers of the "Faith and Victory" paper:

On this the first day of 1974, I want to give my testimony of God's blessings to me in the past year. After taking a retrospective view of my life in 1973, I say with the song writer: "To God be the glory for all He hath done, for life and salvation, the gift of His Son." His help was unfailing, to me He was true, and in times of affliction, He was my Healer, too. He made it possible for me to move here to Guthrie, Okla., where I am pleasantly situated near my daughter and family, and the dear saints.

I fully enjoyed the Assembly Meeting which the Lord gave us during the holidays, and it was a blessing to meet a number of saints from other places whom I had known in years past.

Sixty years ago today [Jan. 1, 1974], I married the man (Erle E. Forbes) who shortly afterwards introduced

me to the Church of God people in a little mission in Clovis, N. M., and in a very short time, dear Bro. and Sister George E. Harmon became my spiritual instructors. My husband's relatives and others were very kind and helpful to me also. I had been one of God's little ones from 10 years of age, but the dear Lord soon helped me to see deeper depths and higher heights in the Christian life. The beautiful truths of "The Evening Light Reformation" were revealed to my soul in the teachings of Jesus, the working of the Holy Spirit with the apostles, and that Jesus, who healed all manner of sickness and disease when He was here on earth, "is just the same yesterday, today and forever." Hebrews 13:8. My spiritual eyes were being opened and my soul began to yearn for the beautiful life I was hearing about and also seeing lived out among that little group of humble people.

About that time I had an illness. I was not able to attend the morning services where I had been attending every Sunday. Neither the pastor, nor the Sunday school teacher phoned or called to inquire about me, but dear little Mother Harmon and another sister came to visit me, and before leaving they asked if they might pray, and I was glad for them to do so. After they left, I, too, began to pray very earnestly to God, and praises be to His holy name, He gave me a living faith to trust in Him for my body as well as my soul. So I made a very deep decision to give up all medicine and put myself fully in His hands. That was really a serious step for me to take because I had had much sickness through my life and had taken a lot of medicine. When my husband came home from work, I said, "Erle, take that bottle of medicine (which was on the table by my bed) and throw it in the trash can, not in the kitchen, but out in the alley." He looked at me in great surprise and said, "Do you really mean that?" I said, "Yes, I have taken my last drop of medicine. I am going to trust the dear Lord Jesus to be my Healer." Thank God, I have kept that decision and my blessed Jesus has never failed me yet. He has been so wonderful to me through all these almost 60 years. I am not capable of giving Him all the glory that is due to His great and holy name, but I am so thankful. My husband also trusted the Lord and together we raised five children without giving them any medicine.

Many times in answer to prayer, according to the precious promises God has given us in His holy Word, we were instantly healed. Other times we "began to amend." John 4:52. Sometimes healing was delayed to test our faith, our patience, our love and confidence in His great power. But in His own time the answer came. I could give a long list of healings of various sicknesses, afflictions, injuries from accidents, etc. Some were light afflictions, and some were very serious—sometimes in a coma, or in the jaws of death. David wrote (Psa. 34:19), "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Oh, what a mighty God we serve!

Now, at 80 years of age, I give God the praise for the wonderful blessings of salvation and good health I am enjoying now. I have learned that "in His presence is fullness of joy," so that is where I expect to spend my future days—"in His presence." Pray for me.

The condition of this old world does not look good at this time, but I pray God to keep each of you by His grace through every test and trial, and be your constant Helper at all times.

In Christian love,

—Vera Forbes

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