

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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New Year's Greetings

Looking forward to the dawning
Of a New Year bright and clear,
We are pressing on our journey
To our Heav'nly Home so dear.

Strengthened day by day, undaunted
By our foes all 'round about,
Nor by sorrows are we haunted,
Undismayed by fear and doubt.

For in Christ, our dear Redeemer,
We are strong the fight to win;
Far beyond earth's dying glimmer
Jesus 'waits to welcome in.

Closer to Him we are pressing,
Seeking more His work to do;
Feasting on His holy blessing
As we walk life's journey through.

Come life's trials, fall its sorrow,
Anguish and adversity,
Grace today, and hope: tomorrow—
Sharing Christ's humility.

Holding forth His counsel spoken,
Walking in His truth divine,
Not one promise has He broken
As we measure to the line.

Thus this New Year we are facing
Will but find us farther on,
Pleasures of the Lord embracing
'Til this mortal life is gone.

Short this earth in its duration,
Long eternity ahead,
Thus for wisdom and salvation
By His Spirit we are led.

Soon old Time will fade forever,
Heav'n's and earth will melt away,
We will see our blessed Saviour
In that land of perfect day.

—Leslie Busbee

The Boundary Line

Along the pathway of life there is a place which marks the course of the traveler on the road to eternity. There is a line drawn by the Word of God between sin and salvation. On the one side are the blessings of God, on the other is his wrath. On the one hand are the gentle leadings of the Holy Spirit on to greater blessings and glory; on the other is the enemy of souls dragging his victims down to eternal ruin by his deceptions, or cruel oppressions.

When the innocent one steps over this line to follow the deceptions of the enemy, it is a far more sad undertaking than is generally considered, and too often forever proves fatal. It may at first be but a comparatively small thing, and no intention of spending a whole life in sin; but when sin has once entered the heart and left its stain where innocence before reigned supreme, a blighting influence remains; a different spirit controls the inward impulse of the heart, and the mind is led into forbidden ways, and conscience smitten, like Adam when he had disobeyed God; such a person is ashamed to hear the voice of God.

One sin will lead on to another, and so on until little by little Satan has the soul so completely bound that the heart becomes hardened, and the conscience seared; and sin is as a sweet morsel until times of adversity, trials and trouble, then is, to some extent, a reaping of what has been sown. But the sorrows and trouble, even in the most disastrous times, are scarcely a foretaste of the results of such a life in the great coming harvest.

On the other side of the line is something of far greater value than rubies, or the wealth of nations, and the riches of mines. It is the peace of God in the soul, darkness swept away; and when trouble and oppressions come, there always comes a blessing with them, and the sweet, gentle Spirit of Christ to comfort and lend a helping hand in time of need. Yea, "he that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1.

To the one who has crossed this boundary line and is traversing on the sinful side, far from the Savior who is ever calling with earnest pleadings to return, a spirit of conviction comes telling of your lost condition, and showing the ways of death before you, and pointing out the way of life everlasting. Remember there is hope for you if you will turn unto God; but you must do your part, make the decision and begin to call upon God for help.

Just about the time the wanderer from God has concluded to meet the conditions laid down in the Bible, and lead a life of salvation, the enemy comes in with his reasonings and suggestions, pointing out many other ways which he says are more easily traveled and will take him through all right.

To one, he points out the Universalist road; that is, that every one will be saved, and none lost, and that there is no place of future punishment. This doctrine has soothed the troubled hearts of multitudes and caused them to "believe a lie that they all might be damned who believed not the truth." 2 Thess. 2:12. For Jesus says, "These shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Matt. 25:46.

Another misleading path which the enemy points out and by which many are deceived, is that of Morality. He says, "Do the best you can and you will come out all right," and other arguments of like nature. People sometimes say: "I never killed any one, nor robbed them of their money; do not lie nor cheat my neighbors; am upright in all my dealings, go to church, and have never done anything very bad," and expect to get through all right in the end. My friend, if that is your record, you are on the same list with the worst sinners that ever lived, and are doomed to spend eternity with them; for He says, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:3.

To another one the enemy of souls says, "Just profess to be saved and you will be all right." That is the trouble with the religious world today, the great majority of them are professing and do not possess an experience of salvation. It is one thing to have a profession, and quite a different thing to have a real possession of salvation to accompany it. Some profess when they know they are not saved; such are hypocrites, others are deceived. This professing business, and being without the Spirit and power of God to accompany the same, has been the means of making more infidels than has all the literature of infidel writers. "Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3. The devil says, "Oh, you do not need a change of heart; just resolve to do better, and claim it and you will get through." Yes, you will get through, but not to heaven, on that line; for the way to hell is paved with good resolutions and multitudes have gone ahead with good resolutions and landed their souls in perdition.

It takes good resolutions in order to get saved, yet it takes something more; the grace of God and meeting the conditions of his word. It takes a real

change of heart, a birth of the Spirit; for, "except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3. Nicodemus, a "ruler of the Jews," a "master in Israel," could not understand these things because he had only a profession and knew nothing about a change of heart. But Jesus gave him to understand that his profession would not take him through to heaven. There are a great many prominent people who have been professing to be saved for years, and yet do not know any more about salvation than Nicodemus did when he came to Jesus by night.

Another by-path upon which so many are side-tracked is, Excuses. These are almost numberless, and the enemy is always on hand to help to find them. Many try to console themselves with the idea that "God is too good to bring people into the world and send them to hell; He is not so unjust." If people go there, it is of their own choice, and contrary to the will of God. The Lord makes this matter very plain and says: "The righteousness of the righteous shall not deliver him in the day of his transgression: as for the wickedness of the wicked, he shall not fall thereby in the day that he turneth from his wickedness; neither shall the righteous be able to live for his righteousness in the day that he sinneth. Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; if the wicked restore the pledge, give again that which he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. None of his sins that he has committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live." Ezek. 33:12, 14-16. Cannot any one see by this that God would still be a just God if every one should choose the broad way and land their souls in hell? He says, "Whosoever will, may come." He makes the call, and offers not only to save all who will come unto Him and believe and obey, but also promises to keep them saved as long as they will obey.

There are certain fixed laws of nature beyond which no one can go without suffering the penalty. For instance, you are standing beside a hot stove and know that if you put your hand upon it, you will receive a severe burn as a result. But you say, "I will risk it, and as God is a just God He will not let me get burned." You proceed, get burned, and curse God for letting you get burned, and say He is unjust, when it was only a result of your foolish, unwise course which you persistently pursued. At the same time your better judgment warned you not to pursue such a course. This is just about as reasonable as to accuse God of sending souls to hell, or permitting them to go there.

—E. E. Byrum

When you are on the Lord's side, and He is with you, it doesn't matter too much what is on the opposite side.

If God is for you and all hell is against you, just hold steady and you will win the victory.

Searching For Gold



In January 1848, in the state of California, a workman in "deepening a mill-race with a flood of water, saw washed upon the banks of the seething stream little shining particles that he thought might be gold." This metal was tested and it proved to be gold. An attempt was made to keep this find a secret, but soon the news spread like wildfire. The first prospectors found gold in many places after much digging. "The native population abandoned all other pursuits for gold-digging; stores were locked up, shops were closed, fields were left half-plowed, crops remained unharvested." Soon the news spread to the far eastern states. A mighty rush was made to California in 1849 to find gold. "At the end of 1849 there were more than 100,000 people in California." Many faced severe hardships to make the trip by covered wagons across the United States. They buried their frail loved ones on the prairies and even strong men froze in the mountains or were killed by hostile Indians. Why all the desire, the sacrifice, the earnestness the struggle, the hard work by the people? They were extremely interested in one thing and that was a chance to dig for gold. They forgot nearly everything else just to get that coveted gold.

Let us turn our thought to some gold that God has to offer us. We can only find this gold through sacrifice, earnest desire, and enduring hardness. It comes to only those who search for it or dig for it. The Bible says, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." 1 Pet. 1:6,7. Now this gold will not be found by the discouraged person or the one who complains, murmurs, or rebels. It will not be found by that one who is too busy with the cares of this life or who feels that the things of this world are of more importance. It will not be found by anyone who is not willing to search or dig for it. This gold is found only by those who will humble themselves before God and say in their hearts, "Not my will but thine be done" in my life. This will take some digging into a person's desires, motives, ambitions, and self-interests. It will take some prayer and letting go and letting God rule in all phases of one's life.

Jacob came to a crisis in his life. He was headed for his home and his brother who had vowed that he would kill him. Word was received that this brother was coming to meet him with 400 men. Jacob was in distress. He needed help. He began to dig and search for help. He needed God. Only through God could he find help. He needed to get into a place where God would help him. He needed some of that gold of humility, faith, patience, ability to suffer with courage, submission, freedom from aggressiveness, trickery, self-esteem, and fleshly ambition. He was willing to go to any length to find this gold. He gave up some of his possessions and sent them as presents to Esau to try to appease him. Finally, he went across the ford, Jabbok, with his wives and eleven sons, leaving his men to watch for any trouble. Then he went up alone to pray to

God. Oh, how he sought God in such great earnestness! Oh, he needed much help. There he wrestled, he labored and he dug. He was digging for gold, that spiritual gold. He would not quit wrestling with God until God blessed him. Finally, he obtained the spiritual gold. He was told, "Thou hast power with God, . . . and hast prevailed." Praise God! The victory came, but Jacob was a different man. No longer was he proud and full of his own self-esteem. When he met Esau, he had power to fall upon his knees in humility and seek his forgiveness for all that he had done to him. He found that gold through the trial of his faith and he came out victorious. He was enlarged in faith and knowledge of God, and in the power of a new, victorious life. He and his brother fell upon each other's neck and wept as they kissed each other. (Gen. 32:1-32).

Remember that sorrow brings a nugget of gold in her hand. Only through the extremities in Paul's life of test and trial could he ever have been taught, or the Church today through him, understand the full meaning of the great promise that Paul had learned to claim, "My grace is sufficient for thee." This was some gold that Paul found only through digging and searching, through sacrifice, through hardships, through earnest desire, and giving up all for Christ's sake. What a comfort it is to us that we, too, can find that gold if we will search for it. Should we not be as interested and willing to give up all to search and dig for the beautiful virtues from God as people were who searched literal gold?

—Sis. Marie Miles

BUSY BEES

Be not drunk with wine
Wherein is excess;
Be filled with the Spirit, (Eph. 5:18)
And pure holiness.

Be ye followers of God; (Eph. 5:1)
And walk in Christ's love
Which God hath sent down
From heaven above.

Be ye kind, tenderhearted; (Eph. 4:32)
Forgiveness unto all,
That you, therefore, may stand
And never to fall.

Be not weary in well doing; (Gal. 6:9)
Do good unto all men;
Be faithful until death,
And a crown you shall win.

Be ye led of the Spirit; (Gal. 5:18)
And not by fleshly lust;
Be kept in the Lord's will
By obedience and trust.

Be justified by Christ; (Gal. 2:17)
Be sanctified wholly,
Put off the man of sin,
Be not proud, but lowly.

Be strong in the Lord and
The power of His might; (Eph. 6:11)
Be not overcome with wrong,
But always do what's right.

—Effie Miller

"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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Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Co-operation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way the Bible and the Holy Spirit teaches you to do or stirs your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1st Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

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

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

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EDITORIALS



At the dawn of this New Year of 1976 we extend Christian greetings and best wishes to all our readers who, with this issue, include several thousand who are receiving this full gospel paper for their first time and will also receive it for the months of February and March. If you are a new reader, it is likely that a kind friend of yours has subscribed for you for these three months with the hope and earnest prayer that the contents of these issues will prove a special spiritual benefit to you and your family. (These trial issues are coming to you without charge, and you will not receive a bill or statement.) Please read these copies carefully with an open heart and mind, and compare the teachings with the Bible. We hope that you will become a regular subscriber at the end of these trial issues.

If any of our regular readers receive an extra copy during these months, just consider that perhaps someone had it sent to you, not knowing that you were already receiving a copy. Please pass the extra copy to someone else to read.

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We thank the Lord and our readers for over 5,300 new names who will receive this issue of the paper, as well as the issues for the months of February and March. May God bless and reward every one who had a part in this gospel extension effort. Pray that the Holy Spirit will carry the truth to the heart of every reader. There is transforming power in believing the gospel.

We are sorry that some persons, for whom this paper was intended, will not receive their copies because the addresses were not correct, complete, or legible, or perhaps they moved in the meantime. The post office charges us ten cents for each notification of a change of address, so if you move, please advise us at once, giving old and new address and zip code.

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This January issue (over 15,000 to be printed) will go to press, Lord willing, just prior to the beginning of the 69th annual Oklahoma Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie, Okla., on Dec. 26 to Jan. 4, 1976. A large attendance from over the state is expected, in addition to many saints and ministers from other states. Best of all, we anticipate the mighty presence and power of God in showers of blessings for the saved and unsaved.

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This writer's wife, her sister, Maude Hornbeck, our granddaughter, Eileen Pruitt, and this writer attended the first five days of the annual Assembly meeting held during Thanksgiving week at Hammond, La., where Brother Bob Forbes is the pastor. While there, we enjoyed our stay and visit in the home of our son, Byron, and family who live near Hammond. The Lord met with His people, and a feast was enjoyed at Father's table by the many saints present, which included a number of out-of-state and in-state ministers. The Holy Spirit anointed the preaching of

His Word, and a number of souls were saved. This writer's first trip to the Hammond Assembly meeting was in 1928—47 years ago—when Bro. C. E. Orr was the pastor of that congregation, and over the years it has been a special pleasure to meet with the saints in that area.

Enroute to Hammond this time, we visited our longtime friends, Brother and Sister Lee Whitley at Marshall, Texas, and found Sister Whitley improved in health. Though in a wheel chair, she does quite a bit of her house work. Continue to pray for both of them. God has answered prayer for them many times. All praise and honor unto Him!

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Beautiful 1976 Calendar with Scripture . . .

This 1976 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price, \$1.00 each, postpaid to your address.

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Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for 1976 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information, please send in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1976, so we can publish the entire list in the March issue.

The Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, from May 28 to June 6, 1976. The dates of the National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., are July 23 to Aug. 1, 1976. Watch for other campmeeting dates in the March issue of this paper.

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Bro. Ostis Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon, writes: "The Lord blessed us with a very good Assembly meeting in November. . . . The Lord blessed and anointed His Word and accomplished much good. The Evening Light Singers from southern California came up for the last weekend and their singing was a big boost to the meeting. They sang the entire service through Saturday night, and also sang several numbers Sunday and Sunday night. One came to the altar Saturday night for sanctification, and seven were at the altar Sunday morning for salvation and one for sanctification."

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Whose Birthday? . . .

With all the gift-giving to one another, it appears that the people are having birthdays instead of our Lord Jesus Christ. Of course, our Saviour is not in the world in person as He was over 1900 years ago, but He is in His spiritual Body, the Church, and He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40.

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In stock at this office are more than 350 different titles of gospel tracts to be sent free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. Where prices are quoted, they are at cost or below. Write for a FREE 4-ounce sample to read and pass

on, or enclose in your letters. One gospel tract may result in the salvation of many souls.

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Write for our price list of Bibles, books and cards. 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 Bible 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.

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Bro. Vada McMillian of Neosho, Mo., reported that the Lord gave the congregation there a good and profitable revival meeting which began the last of September. Bro. and Sister Mart Samons were there throughout the meeting, and other ministers came and helped in the services. There was some altar work, and much good was accomplished that only eternity will reveal.

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In the past year of 1975, this gospel publishing work faced its greatest obstacles in its more than a half century of service to the Lord and His Church. With grateful praise unto God, we are happy to report that with earnest prayer and the co-operation of God's people, these formidable obstacles were wonderfully and miraculously surmounted and the Lord's Printshop is increasing its production of gospel literature to meet the urgent demand. Time is running out, and the King's business demands haste. We humbly and gratefully acknowledge with one of old, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and our face is set like a flint toward God and His will for us in the new year of 1976. As we look to the untried future, your continued prayers and co-operation are greatly appreciated.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

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Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$4.50 each.

Prophetic Lectures on Daniel and the Revelation by F. G. Smith. It contains 260 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

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The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition (fourth reprint), plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.50 each.

The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$4.00.

Experiences of S. O. Susag is a record of the activities of S. O. Susag, a Norwegian who had many mar-

velous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister of the Church of God. Originally published in 1948, the book contains 191 pages in a heavy paper binding. Price, \$1.25 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$4.50 each.

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OBITUARIES



Edith Torrance, the daughter of James R. and Mary K. Ward Alford, was born Aug. 4, 1894, in Social Hill, Ark., and departed this life to be with the Lord on Nov. 23, 1975, at the Boone County Retirement Center, Columbia, Mo., at the age of 81 years, following an illness of several months.

She was married to Albert F. Torrance who preceded her in death on Jan. 12, 1949.

Many years ago Sister Torrance was born into the Church of God and often attended the National Campmeeting at Neosho, Mo. She fully embraced the Bible truth taught from the pulpit and in the gospel literature received from this office over the years.

Survivors include one daughter, Mrs. Harold Bayless of Columbia, Mo.; four grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Holdren Funeral Home in Warrensburg, Mo., and burial was in the Higginsville Cemetery.

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Audie Junior Sorrell, the son of Audie L. and the late Tola Anna (Chester) Sorrell, was born Aug. 13, 1940, at Myrtle, Mo., and departed this life on Nov. 21, 1975, at his home near Couch, Mo., at the age of 35 years, three months, and eight days.

He was united in marriage to Doris Brown on Aug. 24, 1969, at Marshfield, Mo. One son, Vance Audie, his mother Tola, and one brother, Bennie, preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife, Doris, and one son, Terry Eugene, of the home; his father, Audie L. Sorrell of Thayer, Mo.; four brothers, James Leon and Samuel P. of Thayer, Mo., Thomas E. of Myrtle, Mo., and Paul of Guthrie, Okla.; two sisters, Eva Lou Gaines and Rebecca Ann Sorrell of Thayer, Mo.

Audie Junior was a Christian and a member of the Church of God. He was a dear loving husband, father, son, and a friend to all. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams, assisted by Bro. Ira Stover. Text: Heb. 9:7. Subject: Life After Death — to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Psal. 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Interment was in the Church of God Cemetery, Myrtle, Mo.

We feel Bro. Sorrell met the Lord in peace. Pray for Sister Doris, her son, and all the loved ones.

—Bro. Curtis Williams

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George Jesse Ethington, the son of William and Margaret Lydia Ethington, was born Jan. 4, 1897, in Henry County, Ky., and departed this life Nov. 24, 1975, at the age of 78 years, following a long illness. He was at the home of his daughter, Judith and Lloyd Eck of Edmond, Okla.

He was united in marriage to Elma Meier on April 19, 1929, at Watonga, Okla.

He is survived by his wife, Elma, of the home; a son, Jim Ethington, of Tulsa, Okla.; a daughter, Judith (Mrs. Lloyd Eck) of Edmond, Okla.; ten grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; a brother, Lyndon, of Miami, Okla.; and a sister, Eva Sparks, of Oklahoma City.

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Lida L. Hoffman was born on August 9, 1894, in Appleton City, Mo. She passed away on Nov. 11, 1975, in Pacoima, Calif.

At an early age she sought the Lord for salvation. She labored for the Lord for many years, working both in Los Angeles and Pacoima, Calif.

A few weeks before her passing, the Lord made known to her that he was calling for her in a deeper way, and to the best of her ability, she sought the Lord earnestly and was greatly relieved to know her physical suffering would soon be over.

She is survived by one daughter, Hazel, and three sons: Arther, Bill, and Paul; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. F. E. Doolittle, assisted by Bro. Adriel Bowman, Bro. Mackey Francisco, and others. Her body was laid to rest in Forest Lawn Cemetery, Hollywood Hills.

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

Walter Lawson was born Dec. 13, 1918, in Texarkana, Texas, and departed this life on Nov. 7, 1975, at the age of 56 years, 10 months, and 24 days.

It was during the Fresno, Calif., campmeeting three years ago in September, that Bro. Lawson heard and accepted the truth. He remained faithful to the end. We believe the song and can say with our departed Brother, "I am glad that I heard the truth from God's Word and now with my soul all is well."

Bro. Lawson was saved in 1972;

In these short years he stood firm and true.

He pressed his way to service day and night,

And sought the Lord for spiritual sight.

He couldn't see how to sing or read,

But to what the minister said, he surely took heed.

He traveled to meetings and enjoyed them so much;

His testimony: "I'm glad I found the true church."

He was a good example to the elder and the youth;

Everyone he met he told about this truth.

Remember the lost," was his request;

He sought God's will through all his test.

His favorite song was number 179;

When we sang his face would just shine.

We will miss him, but we won't cry—

We will see him again in the sweet by and by.

—o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Sister Elmer Olson of Austin, Minn., writes: "My beloved husband, Elmer Olson, passed away suddenly with a heart attack on Sunday morning, Nov. 16, 1975. He had just celebrated his 65th birthday the night before. Many times he had witnessed that he was ready to meet the Lord any time He called him, and in my heart I truly believe he is with the Lord. We, his family, will sadly miss him, but we know it was God's will, and God will give us strength to carry on. Elmer was born on Nov. 15, 1910. He was saved after hearing the Word preached by his uncle, Martin Olson, about 29 years ago. Blessed be his memory. Pray for us."

REPORT OF HOFFMAN, OKLA., REVIVAL

We thank the Lord for the wonderful revival meeting at Hoffman, Okla., from Nov. 5 to 9. The services were well attended. We thank the Lord for each minister and all the saints, local and out-of-state, who came to help in the battle. The noon-hour prayer meeting was wonderful. Some souls were saved and some sought the Lord's help in many other things. May God bless each one is our prayer.

—Bro. Woodrow Warren, pastor
by Lorene Payne

CAMPMEETING SCHEDULED IN INDIANA

A campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will be held, Lord willing, on July 9 to 18, 1976, at the Central Friends Camp located 6½ miles southeast of Muncie, Indiana, on Highway 35.

The Bible truth will be preached the same as that taught and practiced by Bro. D. S. Warner and the pioneer ministers of the Church of God Reformation, without fanaticism or compromise. All lovers of the old-time truth are urged to attend these services.

This campground with the equipment has been rented for about \$650.00. The dormitories will sleep about 150 people. Space is available for campers and trailers. The meeting will be supported by free-will offerings. Bring your bedding. Those who desire to help in the expense of the meeting, send your offering directly to Bro. Egbert Allen, and state in your letter what it is for. Also, for further information, write or phone Egbert Allen, Norwood, Mo. 65717, phone 417-746-2840.

Prayer Requests



"I would appreciate prayer . . . I have a large pink spot on my shoulder and my arm feels swollen and bothers me. . . . I have other ailments. Pray that I will live pleasing to my Lord and be ready when He comes." A Reader

Miss.—"I ask you and the dear saints everywhere to pray for my wife and me." —Harold Griffin

Mo.—Becky Barnes needs prayer. She suffers almost all the time.

Fla.—"Please pray for Bro. Clifford. He now thinks that he has cancer, but the Lord knows all about that, too . . . He has lost more weight and is weaker, but his trust is still completely in the Lord."

—Marie and Clifford Lindner

ILL.—"Please pray for me as I am sick in my body . . . I need strength." —Sis. Amanda Ward

ILL.—"I don't feel very well. Pray for me. . . . Pray for Ray, body and soul." —Nellie Woods

Pa.—"I believe I have some pinched nerves and that causes my side to be numb . . . My nerves are affected. . . I intend to wait upon the Lord by His grace . . . I have gotten many blessing out of this." —Sis. Virginia Myers

Okla.—"The sore that was on my lower lip is well and has been for some time, for which I give the Lord all the praise. I have other ailments in my body and head. I would like to ask prayer for to be healed."

—Walter Worley

We know that God looks down upon all of His children and sees their needs. We know that He hears our cries, but we want to wait upon the Lord. He will bring it to pass as we trust Him. "Trust also in him." Psalms 37:3. When we trust a person, we lean upon him and it brings rest and confidence. Faith would mean an act of the will, mind or intellect, and would be a truth believed or thing expected. Trust is the language of the heart. So we need to trust and have faith.

We thank God for how He protected Bro. Don and Sis. Carolyn McIntosh in the recent tornado that destroyed their home in Tulsa, Okla. God planned it so that they were gone from the house, and therefore they

were not among the large number who were injured in that vicinity. Pray God to work out their problems connected to this loss.

We also thank the Lord for protecting Bro. Jimmie and Sis. Geraldine Linch's little boy who was in their pickup truck when it rolled over a 25-foot embankment near their home at Salem, Ore. Sis. Geraldine tried to stop it, but could only pray, "Lord, protect my boy," as it went over. The truck was totaled out, but the little boy had only scratches and a bump on his head. They were really concerned and did pray for him. God undertook, and he seems to be fine.

Oh, the Lord does help His children, so be encouraged to trust and have faith. —Sis. Marie Miles

INTERIOR MEXICO MISSIONARY LETTER

Michoacan, Mexico (Nov. 28)—Dear brethren: We greet you in the precious name of Jesus, hoping things are going well with you. Our desire is that all our brethren are enjoying the rich blessings of God. Christ has brought us peace, and we are enjoying doing the things we find in Christ, our Saviour. Brethren, we received the letter that you mailed us on the 17th of Nov. Many thanks for all and to all our brethren who support the missionary work. —Bro. Irineo Rama and family

REPORT FROM MEXICAN MISSIONARY

Baja, Cfa., Mexico (Nov. 26)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Sis. Miles: Greetings in the precious name of Christ, my Lord. I give thanks to God for the peace that I have in my soul. I have joy for His great blessing that I receive each day. He has blessed me much in these days of trials and battles. God has given me a trial of affliction in my body, because I am sick with my nerves. At times I suffer much, but I have faith and confidence in His promises that He is faithful. I can do all in Christ who upholds me by His faith and grace.

Please pray much for the work here in Mexico, and for the workers, that we can complete the will of God in each place that God has ordained that we work, and for Bro. Escobar and his family that God will use them in His work each day. Pray for my family. They need much help in their souls.

May God bless you richly in your souls and in your bodies for all that you have done for us and for the work in Mexico. Pray for me. —Thomas Mendoza

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Nov. 19)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints everywhere: Loving greetings in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, "in Whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom we are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph. 2:21-22.

Thank you very much for your encouraging letter dated Nov. 1st, and the enclosures were noted with many thanks and heart-felt gratitude. Charity never faileth and we appreciate the loving hearts of the saints in the U. S. A. towards the saints in India.

Our next all-day meeting will take place at Thevalappuram on Nov. 29, and we expect to receive many

spiritual blessings on that day. The rainy season just came to an end and now we have clear weather for outdoor meetings. Again, we request your prayers for the needs and blessings of our general campmeeting at Karikkom for five days from Jan. 14, 1976.

We have started the building of the chapels at Thevalappuram and Kalayapuram where God supplied the land for this purpose. But there is not much progress in the construction due to the lack of funds. We started to cut the stones and to dig a well there for water. I invite the special prayers and co-operation of the saints in this connection.

Last week a Catholic family got saved and now attend at the Karikkom church.

Dear ones, my wife and I wish to visit you and participate in the campmeetings there in 1976. But if there will be no fund for both, I alone wish to come over if God opens the way according to His will and wish. May God keep us under His wings until we meet again.

Yours in the Lord, —John Varghese

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN PASTOR

Rivers State, Nigeria (Dec. 2)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of our Saviour whom we love with all our heart.

Thank you for your letter of Nov. 1st, and the enclosures for the gospel workers. . . . Also, thank you for the "Faith and Victory" papers, tracts, and Bible Lessons.

The church on the island of Tombia is poor financially and many of the members are women. We are in financial trouble trying to feed the older sisters who have no relatives to support them. The cost of food is so high in our area that it is hard for many poor people to buy it. It seems that starvation is drawing nigh.

We need more booklets to give to the new converts. Thank you.

Your Brother in Christ, —B. Ben Taylor

REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

The saints at Bakersfield, Calif., extend a hearty welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 13 through Sunday night, Feb. 22, 1976. Plans are for a daytime service at 1:00 o'clock on week days, with three services on the last Friday and each Saturday and Sunday. Please pray that the Lord will anoint with His Holy Spirit in this meeting. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone (805) 322-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Z. E. Francisco, 305 S. Owens St., phone 323-0747, or Bro. A. W. Sherman, 201 L St., phone 327-0411.

"It is God's will that I should cast
On Him my care each day;
He also bids me not to cast
My confidence away.
But, Oh! I am so stupid, that
When taken unawares,
I cast away my confidence,
And carry all my cares."

—Sel.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER — 3 years for \$1.00.

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

S. Car.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: I am still pressing on to make Heaven. Though we may have many trials to face, I am glad of one thing—that if we stand true to God, He will help us to be faithful down to the end of the way. Praise His dear name! I love the truth with all of my heart. Pray much for me.

Your Bro. in the one church, —Eddie Driggers

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ore.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of Christian love. Our wonderful Saviour came here to live and die for us, and He is alive forevermore. He is a precious Saviour that loves and cares for all of His dear children.... How sweet to know that Jesus understands. He knows every heartache.

I like to think how the Word tells us that Jesus stands at our heart's door knocking. He will come in if we will open our hearts, and oh, what joy and peace He brings to us! We want to let Him take charge of our life, and commit all to Him, knowing that He knows and cares. Yes, He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." We must come and leave our burdens at His blessed feet. When we can do this, then we find sweet rest. So many take their burdens to Him, but don't leave them. They carry them back again and again, all because of a lack of love and confidence in His precious Word.

Sister Marie, I desire to be more like Christ, and to live so I can be a blessing to all I come in contact with. I want to keep my eyes turned inward. That keeps me busy and I don't have time to look at others with a critical eye, so pray with me that I can bear good fruit in my old age. I have that promise, and I can by His grace claim that promise.

I had such a wonderful visit back in W. Va. I felt the dear Lord was with me in all my visits . . . My loved ones were all so good to come and take me from place to place. I also visited some of the saints. Sis. Keene and I had such a sweet visit, reading, praying, and talking over past years we had spent together in the work of the Lord.

—Sis. Beatrice Spaur

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: "This is the day the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." How thankful we are for blessings from the Lord! We can rejoice in them, but so many times when the storms hit us we look down with frowns, wishing for the sunshine again. But the dear Lord sends them for our good, if we will only rejoice and be glad in them as well as the sunny times. He is truly trying to get every soul to Heaven that will let Him. How I do want to always count the rough times as blessings as well as the smooth times. I do love the Lord and mean, by His grace and help, to go all the way with Him.

I have been in the furnace of affliction and have suffered much, but I want to say that I'm better in several ways, for which I do thank the Lord and all the dear saints for their prayers in my behalf. However, I'm still bothered with my left leg, and when I'm on it too long, it gives much trouble. . . . God knows what it is and He is looking on. My trust is in Him, and I feel He will take care of it for me. I desire your continued prayers.

We think of all of you often and pray the Lord to bless His work there at the printshop. —Sis. Natalie Allen

Mich.—Dear Sister Marie and saints: We send greetings of love to all. We thank the Lord for all the many blessings that He bestows upon us daily. We feel encouraged to press on in the holy way and have no desire to turn back, for we know that Jesus has the words of eternal life. How we do wish that sinners would taste and see how good God is. He's a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother, a help in every time of need.

At Portage, Mich., (formerly Kalamazoo) the work is still going on and the Lord has blessed us by sending in ministers from time to time, for which we are so thankful.

Bro. George Hammond has come a few times from Wisconsin where he is working. We are always glad when he comes.

Bro. Eddie Wilson of Oklahoma came and held a week's meeting for us. The Lord used him mightily in bringing us some good, spiritual food. We feasted at the Lord's table while he was here. We are looking forward to him coming back again.

Bro. and Sis. McCoy came up from Dayton, Ohio, and stayed a few days. They were with us for our all-day meeting in October. Bro. McCoy preached a timely message in the morning service on the end of time being close at hand. Bro. Gordon Humphrey preached in the afternoon service on being led of the Spirit. Both messages were good.

We are looking forward to others coming in to help us and would welcome anyone that feels led to come here to live and to join our little band.

We were privileged to attend part of the Dayton, Ohio, revival that convened the first week in November. Bro. Egbert Allen preached and brought some good old-fashioned messages and we enjoyed them. Sis. Margie Sallee also preached a very good message on Sunday afternoon. May God bless her and encourage her to fulfill her calling.

Before I close I'd like to drop this little thought, "If everyone that called themselves Christians were like me, would the church prosper?" Ask ourselves some questions. Are we there on time? Do we feel a real responsibility and burden for the work of God, or do we feel that everything will go on anyway without our help? Do we have a prayer burden for the work? Do we help financially? How about all-day meeting? Do we help with the meal or do we let the burden fall on a few and make it harder on them? Do we testify, sing, or use our talents to encourage one another? These are all good questions to ask ourselves. If each one does his part, it helps the work to make progress, and it WILL WORK.

In closing, let us say this, that all the saints are welcome to be in our homes and we are happy when they come. We love you.

—Clarence and Margaret Brant

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Pa.—May the Lord bless all of you at the printing shop who are laboring for lost souls. I enjoy your paper so much and read it over and over.

I have had such poor health. The devil tells me just to give up, but God has healed me many times and I do have faith that God will help me. I must do my part, and with His help, we can stand true.

I want all of you to pray for the complete healing of my eyes. I have sinus very bad and it affects my eyes. I

couldn't see to read for several months at the beginning of 1975, but now I can see better and am able to read.

Christian love, —Bernice McKenrick

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

Wash.—Dear Sister Marie and saints: I do thank the Lord for all He means to me. I mean to trust Him and serve Him to the best of my ability the rest of my life.

We surely do appreciate you there at the Lord's Print Shop. I do remember you in prayer daily. We appreciate the "Faith and Victory" paper so much, too. It is good food for my soul.

We still continue to have Sunday school and Bible study. We want to be found faithful. Continue to remember us in prayer. —Sister D. T. Thomas

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Okla.—I truly enjoy the paper in every phase. I love God's true way, and I mean to be true to His holy Word.

I am very much interested in the printing of the song book mentioned, using the songs that weren't used from the original "Select Hymns." I do love the old Reformation songs.

Yours in Him, —Mrs. Chas. Kelse

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

Ark.—Dear Sister Marie, workers, and saints abroad: Greetings of Christian love. I am rejoicing in the Lord, for He is everything to me. I love the Lord with all my heart. When I look back and see what the Lord has done for me, I rejoice, weep, and then I start praising Him, for He is worthy of more praises than I know how to give Him. I am so glad that He keeps me in His loving favor.

I do enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. I still solicit your prayers. —Cherry Alba

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

Canada—Dear servants of the Lord at the Printshop: Now that the Canadian postal disruption is over, please find enclosed \$... to be used for the purpose of printing more literature containing the glorious Evening Light truth as revealed to the pioneer ministers of the Church of God reformation movement and directed by the Holy Spirit. We also welcome more light, but not new (?) light, and delight to see books and articles to be printed and published, written by ministers and saints who stand firmly in the truth. May your efforts always be solely in the interest of our Lord and His Word.

We wish everyone of you a very blessed Christmas holiday and a fruitful new year in 1976.

—Reinhard Mueller and family

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Ky.—Dear Brothers and Sisters: Greetings this holiday season in the name of our Saviour who saves, keeps, and heals. He knows all our needs and gives us of His blessings as He sees we have need.

I am still asking prayer for my wife as she needs the touch of God on her body. She is still very much afflicted, not able to get out of bed and can't walk. So pray for her. . . . She is one of God's children. She loves the Lord and lives for Him every day.

She likes the "Faith and Victory" paper as well as myself. Pray for me also, as I will be 83 years old on Feb. 25, 1976. God really blesses me and keeps me able to do all of our work. I give God all the praise.

May God ever bless all of you at the Printshop.

—Bro. and Sister Frank Dunaway

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: This leaves me yet saved and encouraged to go all the way with the dear Lord.

I am not at the Golden Rule Rest Home. I am back home again with my daughter, Callie (Crawley) Carter, and granddaughter at Okemah. When I can, I go to church. I attended the meeting in Hoffman, Okla. I took part in the ordinance service. I was glad to shake hands with so many of the dear saints. I stayed there all day and I enjoyed myself in the meeting. . . .

I don't have any pains, but I am blind. I am 96 years old and I am happy in the Lord. I am wonderfully taken care of. Pray for me. —Mrs. W. W. Crawley

R. 4 Box 124, Okemah, Okla. 74859

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

Ala.—Dear ones: My heart is heavy for what is taking place in our beloved country and in the homes of friends and loved ones.

I need the prayers of all that I might be strong in this trying hour and be used in some way for the salvation of dear loved ones.

Yours in Christ, —Mrs. Leora Frink

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

Neb.—We thank God for the wonderful gospel paper you are sending out. I can hardly wait to get my paper each month. I receive so much spiritual blessing from it. I am striving to be at my best for the Lord. I get much joy in passing the tracts out.

Your co-worker in Christ, —Alice E. Britt

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the beloved name of Jesus who seeks to guide us along life's pathway. As I grow older and as I see time fast passing away, the more I love the Lord. Since the days of my childhood, I can see the great increase of sin everywhere. Also I see the pollution in the air, rivers, lakes, and ocean. People's hearts are being polluted by the devil. Few are looking for godliness.

May God be with you, Bro. Pruitt, and all the co-workers and faithful ministers. —Bro. Andrew Senti

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings in the name of our dear Redeemer. I am thankful for salvation and the blessings of God. I surely appreciate His love and mercy unto me.

I trust God is blessing you in soul and body, and I am praying for your healing.

Enclosed is a list of names to be added to your trial subscriptions. . . .

We would like to get to some of the Assembly meeting in Guthrie. . . .

With Christian love, —Bro. Byron Wittenborn

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

Canada—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Christmas is almost here. . . . I do love giving, but I wish people would remember why we have this blessed time of giving. They forget Jesus and what He did for them. Oh, this world is so full of dead religion. The greatest need for our nation is to have men like Elijah, also men full of the Holy Spirit to declare the whole counsel of God. Elijah said, "How long halt ye between two opinions?" I Kings 18:21. Oh, yes, in those days, as it is today, they halted between two ways. They made no progress. They had 450 prophets, but no prophecies; an altar, but no fire;

long prayers, but no answers; much people, but no power; much trying, but no triumph. I say, Oh God, save us from such a condition, for we have a crying need of the presence of God. I believe, when we pray, we should exalt the great God, even as Elijah prayed, not that he might be proved right and honoured in Israel, but he prayed, "Let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel." Verse 36. I tell you, Elijah had a broken heart over a broken people. Paul had this shattering grief in his soul when he prayed and said, "I have great heaviness and continual sorrow of heart . . . I could wish," said he, "that myself were accursed for my brethren." Rom 9:2,3.

Jeremiah lamented, "Oh, that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night, for the slain of the daughters of my people!" Jer. 9:1. David said, "Rivers of water run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law," for even then they violated God's laws. The blessed Master Himself wept over the Christ-rejecting, prophet-slaying people of Jerusalem. Paul wept over the enemies of Christ. We need a revival of weeping to precede the revival of reaping. God has fixed that law, for He said, "He that goeth forth and weepeth . . . shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psal. 126:6. The road to revival is paved with tears.

I pray God will break every band of iniquity and set the prisoners free. I have a love for God that Satan cannot destroy. God in heaven knows all about me, and loves me more than anyone else. He knows also that the happiest people are the ones serving others. The Holy Spirit can carry home the message, and I am only a vessel God can use. Jesus spent His life for others, died for others, so I am letting self-pity melt into love for others. I am also praying for all of you. Please remember me in prayer. —Clare Smith

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Kan.—Dear Saints: I thank the Lord for salvation! It grows sweeter to my soul as the days go by. Salvation is the only thing I know that grows in value as time moves on. All earthly treasures soon wax old, decay and pass away. Praise the Lord for this heavenly gift to man.

The Lord has richly blessed us through troubles, trials, and tests. He brought us out into a wealthy place. Recently, our oldest daughter, Lori, had an ear infection. For several nights she awoke crying because it hurt so badly. The Lord was right there with us through it all. Although the enemy whispered that her hearing would be damaged, we trusted fully in God. She missed a week of school. God healed her and she has no ill effects at all. Praise the Lord! Her teacher told me her absence would not cause her to be behind in her work. The Lord is faithful to us. Oh, my desire is to be faithful to Him.

After returning home from a trip, my face broke out. It was something like poison ivy. It itched and burned, and spread so fast. It was under my lower lip and half way across the side of my face in just a few days. God was with me right in the midst of the trial. When the rash seemed to be at its worst, I heard a good message

at church that really gave me a lift. The good Word of God gives us victory every time. The message was on how people are so unwilling to suffer, and how the Lord can teach us so much in times of suffering if we yield unto Him. Oh, my heart was open to the Word and I said, "Amen, Lord, I'm willing to suffer." Then the Lord flooded my soul with joy. I could rejoice right in my suffering. I could even thank the Lord for my trial. Four or five days later the rash was all cleared up. Praise the Lord! I give His name glory and honor for His loving kindness toward me.

I could tell of many other times God has blessed us, for the Lord has daily loaded us with His benefits. But I hope these above experiences will be an encouragement to someone else.

Please pray for us that we will be His faithful children until He calls us Home.

—Janet and Keith Marsh and family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and workers: Last week I suffered severely with bursitis in my back shoulder, right arm, and the right part of my chest. On Sunday morning I went to Sunday school and church services, although I did not feel like going. I made my request known and the dear saints prayed. On Monday morning, when I got up, all the pain and misery were gone. Thank God! My soul was so blessed. I am encouraged to press on and do everything to encourage others to trust Him. I get a great blessing as I sing, "There is healing in His name . . . Oh! believe His blessed promise, there is healing in His name." I am encouraged to keep climbing the mountains and not get bogged down in the mud puddles. Bro. Herbert Probst preached such a good sermon last night about how we must keep climbing the mountain. —Sis. Floy Woolery

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: Praise our wonderful Lord, who died to bring salvation for soul and body. I give Him all the glory for answering your prayers in our behalf. My grandson is fine. I am healed of a bad condition after an accident. The bones were decaying from a slipped disk, and I had a bad heart condition. My balance was bad and I fell five times, causing a fractured foot once, and a broken left wrist, rehurt at different times. I applied the anointed handkerchief and now I am healed, no more aches, and I do all my work. I am busy in the Lord's work again.

I read my "Faith and Victory" papers. I like the books that I ordered from you. They all are a treasure to me. My soul doth magnify my God and I praise Him again and again. I pray God to bless you dear ones there.

—Sister Margaret Hall

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio.—Dear editor: Thank God for His healing power! This is an instance of divine healing that we witnessed in our congregation, and we would like to share it with everyone.

About three weeks ago, Mrs. James Meredith of our congregation, walked out healed from the intensive care unit of the Bethesda hospital. The nurse had not known of anyone doing that before. She took sick on Friday about four o'clock and was rushed to the hospital. She did not know anything about it, and did not know

anything until Sunday morning. In the meantime, the church went to prayer Friday night, all day Saturday and Saturday night. The nurse called the family in Saturday night, saying she was dying. The undersigned Sis. Moffatt and Sis. Swift, being her pastors, were allowed to go in and witnessed that she was dying. But God answered prayer. About 5 a. m. Sunday morning, she asked where she was, and what she was doing there and said, "I want to go home." Praise the Lord, about 7 a. m., her husband went and got her. She walked out of that intensive care unit healed! She is doing fine, attends services regularly, and some of her family got back to God. We praise the Lord, and want the world to know God's healing power today.

Yours in His service,

—Gladys Swift and Cleora Moffatt

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Ind.—Dear Sis. Miles: I am still enjoying my November "Faith and Victory" paper. I don't know what I would do without it, as I don't come in contact very often with other Christians. Sis. Betty Mae Baker and her mother were here last Sunday for three or four hours. We sang, read the Bible, and had prayer. I enjoyed having them.

I want to thank you for your prayers. I am so much better and stronger in body. I didn't think last year at this time that I would be here another year. I am praising and thanking the dear Lord for answering prayer.

I pray for you dear ones at the Printshop. . . . It will be a great day when the Lord heals all these long-standing afflictions, and I know He will. Praise His precious name! I love Him and all His dear children.

—Ione Strebiger

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers at the printshop: Do keep the good work up, with God's help.

I am so glad to be saved and with the true saints of God. I am glad I did not get into some of the things that I see others in and are claiming to be God's children.

The Lord healed me of sugar diabetes, and now I am asking for healing of high blood pressure. It is pretty bad at times, but there is nothing too hard for our God. He has been my healer since 1924, so I know what He can do, so pray for me. I am still encouraged to trust Him for all things. —Jettie Mae Phillips

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

Okla.—Early Thursday morning (Dec. 11, 1975) I was awakened and my soul was inspired with great joyfulness so I sang praises to our great Redeemer. "His loving kindness, oh how sweet." That healing balm is in faith's hand which reaches to all. Rejoice and praise Him ever more!

"O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Who hast set thy glory above the heavens. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" Psalms 8:1, 3, 4. "What manner of love" thou didst bestow upon us, "that we should be called the sons of God." I John 3:1. Thank the Lord!

The song says, "Let the gates of praise be open, sounding forth the joy within; Shout and sing, the Lord hath spoken, For he saves and keeps from sin." "Oh

magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Psalms 34:3. Let the saints rejoice. "Rejoice forevermore." Oh, how sublime is the life of a Christian who is a partaker of His divine nature, "having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." II Peter 1:4b.

Let us look at the magnitude of God's love and the endurance of His mercy. "O the depths of the riches both of wisdom and of the knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33. "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." Isaiah 40:28, 29. "Eye hath not seen, neither hath entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But they are revealed to us by His Spirit." I Corinthians 2:9, 10a.

"Let us praise the Lord all ye nations, praise Him all ye people." Worship and adore His name forevermore. He alone is worthy to receive glory or honor, for "Thou hast saved us by thy blood." We extol Thee, O King! "All the earth shall worship thee and shall sing unto thee. They [or we] shall sing unto thy name." Psalms 66:4. Henceforth, we will love thee, serve thee, and praise thee now and forevermore.

—Sis. Erma Johnson

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

Mich.—Dear saints: "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." Psalms 103:1-3.

This is also my experience. I have so much to be thankful for. I'm thankful to be a child of God, and for health and strength to do my every-day work. So many do not have this privilege. Let us pray for them. May the Lord help me to do my part to help spread the Gospel.

—Martha Ruhl

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

Md.—Dear Sis. Marie: I was born into the Church of God 26 years ago when I was 27 years old. God was merciful to me and saved me from my sins, and thank God, He gave me power to overcome. I've lived for Him these 26 years. I see the beautiful Church of God, the New Jerusalem, and I am a part of it. Thank God! This world which God made was so bright and beautiful after I was saved. His sweet Spirit helped me to read and understand the Bible for the first time. I enjoyed it so very much. How very grateful we are to God for His loving mercy to us!

Please remember us in prayer. There are so many in this area who need to be saved.

I surely do enjoy all the papers, books, and letters I get from you.

In Christian love, —Sis. Martha Clements

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

La.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I have been so I could not breathe through my nose for most of the year of 1975, and it seemed I was getting worse. . . . Thank God, the saints were praying, and now I can breathe through my nose normally. All praise to God for healing me. I thank the saints for their prayers. I am 75 years

old. Pray that I will be stronger in faith in the future and be able to do God's will.

I am sending ten names for the three month's subscriptions and a donation for the Lord's work. We are praying that the Lord will completely heal your body, Bro. Lawrence, and hope that you are feeling better each day.

—Sister Maurie Lea

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear workers at the print shop and all readers: I appreciate the little paper which is so full of vital truth concerning our great salvation, made possible by the death and resurrection of our blessed Lord.

I have wanted to send my testimony for some time of how God spared our grandson when he was so seriously hurt on August 1, in an accident where he worked. It looked for a long time that he would lose one or both of his feet, but God so wonderfully came to his rescue in answer to our prayers and the prayers of the dear saints with whom we are acquainted. Now, after more than three months, he can stand for some time on his feet. He has to use crutches some, but I know in time he'll be able to go about and start to school. He feels God has called him to be a worker in God's plan for all men to be saved. Pray for him and us.

Christian love, —Kathleen and John Clarkson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the consecrated workers at the Lord's Printshop: We greet all of you in the name of our dear Lord and Master. We are saved and still in the fight for the truth and right, which is the only thing that will stand in these last days of time. We will surely press the battle on until the crown is won. Amen.

—Theophilus A. Jones, Jr.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: I think of all of you and pray God to bless your labors of love. I'm still happy in God, pressing on in hope and love, and looking to Him for help — the one who knows all about us and cares so much for us. How thankful I am for the gift of His Son to bring salvation, and to redeem us from sin and give us peace and joy, as only He can.

Pray for me and my children.

—Sis. Zella and Dennis Dollins

VICTORIOUS GRACE IN THE HEAVENLY PLACE

Some of us stay at the Cross,
Some of us wait at the tomb,
Quickened and raised together with Christ,
Yet lingering still in its gloom.

Some of us bide at the passover feast
With Pentecost all unknown;
The triumphs of grace in the Heavenly Place
That our Lord has made our own.

If the Christ who died had stopped at the Cross,
His work had been incomplete;
If the Christ who was buried had stayed in the tomb,
He had only known defeat.

But the way of the Cross never stops at the Cross,
And the way of the Tomb leads on
To victorious grace in the Heavenly Place,
Where the risen Lord has gone.

—Annie Johnson Flint

"Go Ye Into All The World."

During this time of the year when many are thinking of gift-giving, let's consider God's gift to mankind. Luke 2:13-14, "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." This was God's gift. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Usually, the victor in wars is not so anxious to give peace, because he is in a position to demand subjection, but here is One who is all-powerful, the Creator, sending an Ambassador of peace. He is holding out the offer, "Come unto me." Thank God for peace in our souls.

Remember when you were first saved, you wanted to tell people about this wonderful peace and joy. Do you still have that first love? Then where are the ones obeying this verse in Mark 16:15, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."? Gospel is good news. Remember the good news you had at first to tell? We can pick out a few that are obeying the call to labor in the harvest, but, oh, so few! Matt. 5:15, "Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel."

Back in the early 1960's, there seemed to be a forward move of the missionary spirit. Some went to Mexico and some to Nigeria where Bro. David Madden, a young man, gave his life, also Sis. Opal Wilson, a true missionary. Bro. Harland Smith and Sis. Virginia Wittenborn, other true missionaries, are now gone to their rewards. What about us? Are we exempt from service? Are we afraid? Are we strong? II Timothy 2:3,4, "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please Him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." Therein lies the secret, I'm afraid: entangled with the affairs of this life. Mark 4:19, "The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

Oh, dear saints and young people, when you read about the former days and see how the gospel was spread over land and sea, and the zealotness of those faithful ones who gave their lives to carry the good news to all people, doesn't it make your spirit burn?

In Matt. 25:14 is a summary of our thoughts. Christ traveled to a far country and entrusted the gospel to you and me. It's on our hands. How are you investing your talents? I'm not trying to say everyone should jump up and go. We all have our place to fulfill. But those that God has called, those that have shirked, as you read this, I pray you'll fall on your knees and say, "Here am I, Lord." This is written to those who have buried their talents. Amen.

—Tom Melot

(Editor's note: In response to the call for the gospel, Bro. Tom Melot went to Nigeria, W. Africa, in Jan. 1975, where he preached a number of weeks at the various Church of God mission stations. The believers were reluctant for him to leave, and again in almost every letter they are pleading for a minister to come and aid them in the gospel work. The Lord will provide the expenses, but who will answer this urgent call?)

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Sanctification of Heart and Life



Sanctifying grace is given for a purpose. It is not merely a doctrine we have to accept in order to have an orthodox or proper belief concerning Christ and His atonement, but there is a need in the human heart and life that must be supplied. Sanctification alone can meet that demand, and supply the need. As the newborn soul becomes conscious of its needs, and the truth is proclaimed concerning a life free from sinful perversion of nature, as well as all actual sin, the soul becomes hungry for grace to be consciously clean in heart and life. The full requirement of God's unchangeable law, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, mind, soul, and strength," "and thy neighbor as thyself," cannot be fulfilled without more grace than is received in the pardon of our actual transgressions. The soul, therefore, becomes conscious of coming short of the requirement expressed in these two commands.

Sanctification as a work in our heart and life gives us additional power and grace to fulfill satisfactorily all that God's perfect law requires. This is implied in the following texts of Scripture:

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also that shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:17-21. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." I Thess. 5:23.

Jesus came to do the Father's will, and we are also chosen and sent into the world that the will of our heavenly Father may be perfectly done. In immediate connection with this thought, Jesus prayed for us to be sanctified. In order that the Thessalonian saints might all be kept blameless, Paul prayed that they might be wholly, or completely, sanctified. This included everything for which they were responsible to God, in spirit, soul, and body. "For by one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified." Heb. 10:14.

Sanctification, then, is not merely a doctrine that must be included in our faith in Christ; but it is a real work and experience in the heart and life. It is the perfecting grace provided by the atonement made through the death of Jesus. It is not only a work done for us, but is also a work done in us. It manifests itself by our actions and by our pure, Christ-like works. It enables us to keep pure in thought, word, and deed — not merely sincere, but free from sin. We must not here confound purity of heart with sincerity; for it is possible to be sincere and yet be impure in the nature of our spiritual and natural affections. Many heathen are sincere, likewise a great many who have erroneous religious beliefs, and who are ignorant of the pure gospel. A sanctified heart and life is free from all inclination to moral impurity; such as, adultery, fornication, hatred,

malice, pride, anger, jealousy, self-will, love of the world, and all its sinful pleasures and lusts. It also implies a life of devotion and self-sacrifice to God and our fellow man.

Since we cannot possess this grace without making a full surrender of ourselves to God, we cannot keep possession of it, unless we are actively engaged in a life of devotion and good works. A sanctified life is not only characterized by the absence of evil, but is also a life of devoted service to God and man. —J. C. B.

BEWARE!



"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Pet. 5:8. "And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it." Job 1:7. The above two texts of Scripture are very familiar and they give us some very important information and instruction. They tell us that the devil is our adversary and that he is right here on the earth going about "seeking whom he may devour." They also tell us that we should be sober and vigilant. These are things that all children of God are well aware of, but I feel that it would be good for us to stir ourselves and expose some of the cunning ways the devil is working to deceive and devour our souls.

The devil has been at enmity with God from the very beginning and therefore is the enemy of all righteousness, holiness, and all those that profess the name of God. This is the reason that we are warned to be sober, vigilant, and to watch and pray. Satan does not care how he captures a soul or whom he uses to do it. It is the trait of mankind to be curious and desirous to learn about things that we do not know. Through these two traits, the enemy has succeeded in deceiving and trapping many souls and sending them to a devil's hell. It is some of these "unknown things" that I feel like warning us about and especially the young people.

In the last few years (and it is becoming more prevalent), there has been a lot of publicizing done about the psychic powers that an individual possesses and of individuals that have exhibited these powers or forces. National magazines have featured articles about individuals who possess the power to make objects move about from one place to another without actually coming into physical contact with the object. Some individuals have reportedly been able to actually transfer their physical being from one location to another by the so-called "power of concentration." When questioned about how they are able to do these things, they are not able to give a knowledgeable answer. They cannot explain how they are able to do these things, but say they do these things through the power of the mind and concentration. Just recently I heard a man speaking in a live broadcast over our local radio station and this very thing was part of his subject. He readily acknowledged his great interest in this field and of pursuing it with great enthusiasm. He told of contact with some people that supposedly had such powers and how he was convinced or believed that they were real. He told about a watch he has that does not have a standard dial, but to

see what time it is, a button has to be pressed and the correct time is illuminated on the face of the watch. This man stated that he had been studying and experimenting, trying to develop some of these powers, and that on one occasion he had succeeded in turning on his watch without pressing the button. However, he said that he was not able to do it any more and that he really did not know just how he was able to do it that one time. This man was totally confused as to how he accomplished this so-called feat. What does the Bible say about confusion? In I Cor. 14:33 we read, "For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace . . ." Dear soul, these things of which we have been speaking are of the devil. It is just another source or means he has devised of capturing thousands of souls by which they will be doomed to the Lake of Fire. Avoid these things. Be sober! Be vigilant! The devil is after your soul.

Hypnosis and fortune-telling are just a part of the same thing. There has been considerable publicizing of the value of hypnosis and of how medical science has experimented with it and in many cases recommended it. Oh, what a trap! The true child of God will not be found near these things. Dear young people, avoid these things—their path leads downward. By opening your mind to these things and experimenting with them, you are opening your mind and soul wide open to the devil for him to take possession of you — physically, mentally, and spiritually. You may say, "Oh, no, I will never let it go that far." You do not know how far you will go. The mind is a great battle ground, for it is to the mind that temptation of sin and evil are first brought. It is with our mind (by the help of the Holy Spirit) that we must separate right from wrong, but if Satan has control of your mind, how can you hope to discern right from wrong? If these things are pursued they can lead to the occultism of devil worship. Oh, what an awful thing!

Time is swiftly drawing to a close and the devil is using any possible tactic he can think of or devise to lead your soul and mine to eternal destruction. Let us hold an eternal rebuke in our soul against the devil and the powers of darkness. We do not have to be overcome, but through the grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we can be more than conquerors. Praise His holy name! In speaking of the devil, Jesus said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44.

Dear reader, do take warning and flee these terrible works of wickedness. Let not these things be once named among the children of God. If you want to "experiment" with your mind, follow the instructions of Phil. 4:8. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think [concentrate] on these things."

—Randall Flynn

Seek to have your life wholly free from imperfection, and you will daily advance in the divine life.

—C. E. Orr

Prepare For Heaven

Multitudes of precious souls are going heedlessly and carelessly through this world without taking the least thought for their future welfare. Many are as careless and unconcerned about their souls as if this life never would come to an end, and only occasionally, when one of their relatives or friends die, their slumbering souls awake for a moment, and then it is that they think of eternity. But, alas! Soon all is forgotten again. Every impression that such solemn occasions have made passes by as a vapor in the air, as they are rushing along in the stream of this world.

O dear reader, are you among these careless sleepers who will awake sometime out of their sleep of sin crying, "Too late, too late!"? It is then that they will realize they have missed the most essential part of their life; viz., preparing to meet God. It was too late for the foolish virgins who allowed their lamps to go out and then could not get permission to enter at the marriage feast. It will be too late for many who will put off their soul's salvation and say, "Some other time, some more convenient season."

Dear soul, here and now is the place and the time in which you must make the necessary preparation to meet God. No excuse can be given in that great judgment day. You will stand speechless like the one without a wedding garment at the marriage feast, and must hear that awful sentence, "Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." —Matt. 22:13. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God without being prepared.

Our heavenly Father leaves no man without warning or exhortation, to awake the slumbering soul to its true condition, that it may be prepared to meet God. It is not only through words that he warns you to awake; no, every time you hear of death the dear Lord says to you, "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." —Matthew 24:44. Could you, dear reader, comprehend the love of God to you, you would marvel and would be astonished that such great love was manifested to you, and you would turn. The Lord has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desires that all men be saved. In this God manifested His love to this world, that He sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we may be saved, and that we may know at all times that we are prepared to meet God. The God of mercy and love seeks your happiness and your welfare. He makes use of every opportunity to save your erring soul from destruction; yea, even in the night, in dreams, He warns man and seeks to save him from destruction. "In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed; then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction, that he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man." —Job 33:15-17. "He will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light. Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man." —Job 33:28,29.

Not even one will be without the warnings of God. Twice, yea, thrice, and often many more times you will hear the call. "Prepare to meet thy God." O reader, will you yet longer resist the callings of

God? Even now while you read this will you not listen to His voice which says, "Prepare to meet thy God"? Will you continue in your carelessness, and shall your heart grow harder and harder, or do you say, "Some more convenient season I will turn"? There is an inner voice that tells you that you should now seek the Lord and be converted, but you say, "I cannot at present," and you may think you have yet plenty of time. "It is time enough at my eleventh hour." With such excuses as that you will excuse yourself to quiet your awakened conscience.

O dear soul, you do not comprehend the meaning of this scripture about the eleventh hour. It is true that occasionally men repent and get saved on their death-bed and find peace with God, but your eleventh hour may be now while God is calling you. Some were standing idle, and to them it was said: "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" Then they answered: "Because no man hath hired us." —Matt. 20:6,7. You can see at once that they never had a call from God to work; therefore when the Spirit of God calls, He wants us to follow and obey Him. If we continually resist the loving Holy Spirit, we may grieve Him insomuch that He will leave us and never come again, and that will be the eleventh hour for us and all hope is gone forever.

No one cometh to Jesus of his own accord. Only those whom the Father draws can come to His Son, and as every man sometime in his life will feel the drawings of God, there remains no excuse for those who will not obey the gentle callings. In the Proverbs by Solomon we read as follows: "Turn ye at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my Spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; but ye have set at naught all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me." Prov. 1:23-28.

O reader, why will you die? Listen to the voice of God. "Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ will give you life." This calling means you. You are dead in sins and trespasses. Your sins have separated you from God, and in this condition the spiritual man, or soul, is dead.

How To Prepare

You ask, "How shall I prepare, or what must I do to be saved?" The precious Word says, "Repent and believe the gospel." We will in short give you some scriptures which will help you to see what "repent" means. "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." —Isa. 55:7. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." —Prov. 28:13. Also read Ezek. 33:14-16; Matt. 6:14,15.

Dear reader, if you meet these conditions and set your heart to seek after God, you surely will find Him in the forgiveness of your sins. You will receive salvation, the only true preparation to meet God. Many precious souls think that while they are members of some

denomination, or as it is termed, church, they are prepared. Oh, what an awful deception! Jesus says, "Ye must be born again." Ye cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven without it. In another place He says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." And again the Word says that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. We do not get holy by joining a so-called church, but if we obey God's Word and believe on the Lord Jesus as the Scripture says, then will His blood cleanse us from all sin and make us innocent, pure and holy. Blessed is the man in such a condition.

O dearly beloved, this is for you. You must have it or be lost throughout all eternity. Once more hear the voice of the blessed Son of God: "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." —Wm. Ebel

What Has God Given You?

What has God given you? He has given me the sun,
Given me blessings untold since first my life begun;
Given me love for man and nature, and for His holy
law,
And I marvel as I ponder how very young these things
I saw.
As I awoke this morning, the sun had just begun to
rise,
And I opened up my window to enjoy the glowing
skies.
The rain from yesterday had washed the beautiful
ground,
And the fresh perfume from flowers shed its fra-
grance all around.
The grass was gently frosted with the early morning
dew.
God has given me all of this—what has He given you?

He has given me the music of the birds in early morn;
He has given sweet rest after a day of being tired
and worn;
Gives me strength to go from day to day, lightening
my load of care,
And every time I look for Him I find Him waiting
there.
On bending knees I come before Him in my cozy little
room,
And after a moment of prayerful devotion, there's
left no place for gloom.
For He has taken all my sorrows and left me with a
song,
And my heart goes on praising Him all the day long.
He's given me a perfect will, His law to always do,
And a blessed hope beyond this life. What has He
given you?

—Gladys S. Cashio

"God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves."