

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 54, No. 2

54th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

April, 1976

The Crucifixion Scene



Borne away in mind and spirit,
To the solemn, awful scene,
Of Mount Calv'ry's sacred summit,
Where we see the crimson stream
Flowing from the side of Jesus,
That has washed us snowy white;
Here we seem in awe to compass,
Round the reeking cross tonight.

Hark! we seem to hear Him utter
Pray'r of love so warm and true,
Do "forgive them, O my Father,
For they know not what they do."
Once again the Saviour crying,
Nature's pillars shake and give;
Lo! the Son of God is dying:
Guilty sinner, look and live.

O my Lord, what dreadful darkness,
Spreading sable gloom around;
Lo, thy death the rocks are rending,
Shaking deep the solid ground;
Suffered so creation's Author,
Sinful creatures to atone!
Can the human heart be harder
Than the flinty granite stone?

Round thy table here we gather,
And commune, dear Lord, with Thee;
In the consecrated emblems,
Lo! thy precious blood we see—
See thy dear atoning passion,
And our holy unity.
Oh, we'll keep thy blest memorial,
Till anew we sup with Thee.

—D. S. Warner

The Truth of Christ's Resurrection



In the fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians we find an able defense of the resurrection of the dead by the Apostle Paul. He argues—"If the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised." There seems to have been some at Corinth who admitted that Christ had risen again, but denied the resurrection of the dead. The apostle's argument was that if Christ was raised from the dead, mankind may be raised; if mankind cannot be raised from the dead, then the body of Christ was never raised. And since the whole structure of Christianity is built on the fact that Christ is risen and is at the right hand of God, ever living to make intercession for us, to deny the resurrection is to strike at the very root of the Christian religion. If it be true that Christ was not raised, then we have no hope and are yet in our sins. But Paul's argument reaches its climax in the bold declaration, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. For since by man [Adam] came death, by man [Christ Jesus] came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (vss. 20-22).

The future resurrection of the dead hinges entirely on the fact that Christ is risen. And of His resurrection there is abundant proof. The evangelist Matthew, who was an apostle of the Lord, records the fact that "the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men." (Matt. 28:2-4). One writer describes this scene thus: "A profound, solemn stillness reigns all around, broken only by the tread of the guards as they pace backwards and forwards before the tomb of the crucified Prince of peace. The grave lies mute and closed before us; its seal remains unbroken. It would seem that the reign of the pretended new King of Zion was gone forever. But what now? Of a sudden the earth begins to tremble; the rocks are rent asunder all around with a fearful crash; superhuman forms, bright as lightning and in garments

"And He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you." Luke 22:19, 20

white as snow, glide down from the heights of heaven to the garden. They are holy angels. One of these gracious messengers approaches the tomb, touches the mass of rock which held it closed, and in a moment the seals are burst, the ponderous stone is rolled away, and from the open portal of the grave there steps forth, radiant with heavenly glory, Him who was dead!—and, behold, 'is alive forever more.'

From this angel that rolled the stone from the tomb we have positive testimony of Christ's resurrection. "And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead." Matthew 28:5-7.

On several occasions before His death, Christ assured His disciples that after His death He would rise again on the third day. We have the recorded testimony of four inspired evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—that His resurrection actually took place. Angels from heaven testified the same truth to the women who came early to the sepulchre. Soon after, "When Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene." (Mark 16:9). Paul informs us "that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time" (1 Cor. 15:4-8). In Acts 1:2, 3, it is further stated that "unto the apostles . . . he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."

Thus we have the testimony of many witnesses that Christ actually rose from the dead. It is equally certain that they saw Him, not as a common man, nor as a ghost, but as their risen Lord—the one and only Son of God. Revelation assures us that there will be a resurrection of the body. This hope the Church of God now possesses; for God has "begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3).

Generally, those who oppose the resurrection endeavor to show that such a thing is incredible and utterly impossible. They cite such instances as bodies cremated and the ashes scattered to the winds, evaporating into air or falling to the earth and being assimilated into the vegetable kingdom; bodies drowned or buried in the sea and eaten by the fish, or people that have been eaten by cannibals. They argue that a resurrection of the body in such cases is absurd. We answer them in the language Paul used in his defense before King Agrippa: "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?" (Acts 26:8). We maintain that it is reasonable and possible.

In this light, let it be remembered that "the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead . . . shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit." (Rom. 8:11). Again, it is said, "He which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus." (2 Cor. 4:14). People seem to forget the power of Omnipotence. The same mighty power that raised up Christ from the dead shall raise us up also. He is the "first fruits of them that slept." On the omnipotence of God we take our stand and defy every attack against the doctrine of the resurrection. We scorn all attempts to wrest from us our hope, through a supposed impossibility of the resurrection, as puny struggles against the omnipotence of God. Did He not first construct a human form from the dust of the earth? Did He not breathe into a mass of clay the breath of life? And when He again speaks, shall it not be done? Can He not again bring bone to bone, sinew to its sinew, flesh to its flesh? Fear not, Christian! Thy dust may be scattered to the winds of heaven—but thy God is there. It may repose in the lowest abyss of the grave—He is there. It may dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea—even from there He shall bring thee forth, incorruptible and glorious, like unto that Body which now receives the homage of the angels around the throne. Thou shalt be raised at the last day. Let us "comfort one another with these words."

Yes, this is our hope and comfort. "We look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Phil. 3:20, 21). Just as the first fruits and the first ripe sheaf were offered to the Lord, Christ's resurrection is the pledge and promise of a coming harvest.

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:42-44). Whatever difficulties may present themselves in connection with the resurrection, whatever obstacles of a miraculous or supernatural nature may to our minds appear—for in these things we are but limited in understanding—are easily met by remembering the truth enunciated by Christ himself in connection with this very subject when He confounded those who did not believe in it, by saying, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." —H. M. Riggle

No man has become great unless he has suffered. The way to the throne for Joseph was the route through being sold as a slave, and serving time in jail.

Our crown will be wrested from the giants that we slay, as did David of old. The Apostle Paul said, "None of these things move me." With seams of anguish deep in his brow, the "Man of sorrows" said, "In this world ye shall have tribulation" — but after this sob comes the psalm of promise, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33. —Sis. Marie Miles

The Visibility of The Church



"But these people [it is alleged against the saints of the Most High God] do not believe in a visible, organized church." This, again, is an untruthful statement. That glorious temple, built by the invisible God, is the visible church. She is "the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." Matt. 5:14. Though the wind is an invisible power, its effects are very perceptible to the eye. So the invisible hand of God builds the structure, and organizes the body of His church on earth, which is seen of all. The confused tradition is generally circulated by sectarians, in defense of their own rival organizations, that the constitution of sects is essential to the visible manifestation of the church. But "sect" is a portion "cut off." Is there any sense, reason, or divine truth in the teaching that an invisible body is made visible by cutting a portion from it? None of the present sects came into existence till that of Rome in the latter part of the third century. Was God's church an invisible thing on earth for nearly three hundred years? And, who can affirm that the multitude of Protestant sects have made visible the church of God, from which they are severed by their peculiar creeds and doctrines? Nay, we affirm in the presence of the Judge of all men, and with a clear consciousness of His truth to support the proposition, that the creation of the sects of Christendom have had exactly the opposite effect.

Their traditions have made of no effect the Word of God. Their confusing creeds, heaps of rubbish, and interminable machinery have utterly subverted, and well-nigh hid out of sight the church that Jesus built on earth. As the historian, D'Aubigne, has faithfully recorded, when in the third century an "earthly association," "an external organization was gradually substituted for the interior and spiritual communion which is the essence of the religion of God," then, "The living church retired gradually within the lonely sanctuary of a few solitary hearts." That is, the real church of God retired almost from view because of the outspread pomp of the false.

So then men's sects do not make visible God's church, but on the contrary they obstruct her life, and obscure her glory. These are facts of history that no honest, intelligent man can deny. The babel of human sects has long obscured the sight of the church of the first-born. Until the evening light revealed the true church, as she shone out in the morning of the dispensation, everybody looked upon the man-built substitutes as the divine church, and the body of Christ, which only is the church, was scarcely discerned at all. But visibility is a natural characteristic of the church of God. Though organized by the invisible Spirit, she is composed of men and women who are as visible now as they were when they were in the kingdom of darkness.

While the kingdom of God is substantially the same as His church, the former relates only to the spiritual heaven and unseen power of God that transforms the hearts of men into righteousness and fills them with all joy and peace in believing. Hence, it "cometh not with observation." The church, on the contrary, is the assembly of the saved, the household of God. It includes the bodies of the saints no less than the "hidden man of the heart." "Know ye not that your

bodies are the members of Christ?" 1 Cor. 6:15. And Christ, His body, and the church, are all identical in 1 Cor. 12:12,13,27,28. So it is in our physical bodies that we compose the assembly of God. Hence, she is a visible ecclesia. A house, a vine, a family, the human body, "an army with banners," "a light," "the moon," "a mountain," and "a city set upon a hill," are the most common figures of the church, and surely all these denote visibility. God's ministers are not invisible agents, neither did Barnabas and Paul assemble a whole year with something they saw not, with unseen spirits, at Antioch, when "a whole year they assembled themselves with the church." Acts 11:26. Neither had the church become visible by the organization of any sect, for none then existed.

This whole conception of God's invisible church on earth is a superstition of the dark ages — a falsehood, devised by Satan to justify the rival headship of the pope, and the formation of all the Protestant rival bodies. The Scriptures teach that Christ only is the head of the church, and He Himself the door, and that God sets the members into the body. But this leaves the Roman hierarchy without a head, and the Protestant sects without a member; therefore, Satan puts this lie into the mouth of the papists, "Christ is the head of the invisible church, and the pope of the visible;" and this falsehood into the Protestant creed, "God takes into His invisible body, and we admit members into the visible church."

It is true that the world cannot see the Head of the church, as do the Christians, for He manifests Himself unto the latter as He does not unto the former; but they can see the children of God, and they are the body of Christ, the church. "Whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." 1 John 3:6. This, again, explains why the masses of the sects do not discern Christ, nor His church. It is because they are sinners and Satan blinds their eyes to their condition by telling them that Christ and His church are invisible.

Again, the class-book of God's church is not here on earth, nor seen by natural eyes. But notwithstanding this, the spiritual "see to read their title clear," and know their names are written there. To hypocrites and formalists this is all invisible, hence, they console themselves by being written in a class-book on earth which they can look upon with sinful eyes and handle with unclean hands. What God has to say about them you will find in Jeremiah 17:13.

The divine church, without any tampering by man, is a visible and glorious city of God on earth. Yea, so very visible that it is even the light of the world.

—D. S. Warner

GOSPEL SINGING AND ALL-DAY EASTER MEETING AT PRATTSVILLE, ARK.

The Church of God at Prattsville, Ark., extends a warm welcome to all to attend their gospel singing on Saturday night, April 17, 1976, and remain for the all-day services on Easter Sunday, April 18. Come and worship the Lord together in song and praise, and hear God's Word.

For further information, contact Bro. Doug Walters, R. 2 Box 100M, Sheridan, Ark., phone 942-3321, or Bro. Clarence Bennings, R. 1, Prattsville, Ark., phone 699-4390.

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

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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 restoration and promulgation 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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FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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EDITORIALS



Many thanks and a sincere welcome are extended to the readers who became regular subscribers by returning the subscription remittance envelope attached to the wrapper of the copies of the March issue which was the expiring number of this special three-months trial offer. (If any of our regular subscribers received a second March paper with an expiration envelope, please disregard it, as your subscription has not expired. You received a second paper because someone had sent your name in for th's special trial offer, not knowing that you were already receiving it). The response to this literature extension effort is very encouraging, as each day's mail brings in more subscription envelopes. Many new readers have already expressed how well pleased they were to receive these trial issues, and now they want to obtain a copy each month. May the Spirit of God open the heart of every reader to the vital Bible truths presented in this and all the future issues.

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"He is risen!" proclaimed the angel . . .

The good news of the resurrection of Christ, our Saviour, from the grave is the fulfillment of the "more sure word of prophecy," completing the perfect plan of salvation which was fore-ordained in the mind of God. The Apostle Paul wrote: "I declare unto you the gospel . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures: and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." 1 Cor. 15:1-4. Again he wrote: "Who [Christ] was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification." Romans 4:25.

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In the King James version, the term "Easter" is used one time with reference to the Jewish Passover, found in Acts 12:4. The Emphatic Diaglott in this text renders the Greek word "Passover," as does all other translations which we consulted. The term "Easter," which is the pagan name of the old Teutonic goddess of spring, came into use years after the New Testament was written. This pagan term of "Easter" was likely adopted by Papal Rome, but it has no connection with true Christianity. Actually, the present observance of "Easter" comes after the Passover, for Christ's death coincided with the Jewish Passover feast. The Apostle Paul writes: "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us." 1 Cor. 5:7. He was the blameless Lamb of God that was slain to fulfill the symbolic Paschal lamb of the ancient, Jewish Passover.

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Just off the press is a reprint edition of the 32-page, paper-bound booklet, "The Great Physician," written by Mrs. Lucie Newman. This is a faith-inspiring, true story of a young lady who was miraculously healed by the prayer of faith in God after she was given up to die by the medical profession. Price, 50c each, or three copies for \$1.25, postpaid

to you. Order copies to read and pass on to those who need an inspiration of faith in God's promises for soul or body.

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Write for a price list of other excellent books, many of which were written by the pioneer ministers of the Reformation. More of these old out-of-print books of vital truth will be reprinted as the Lord provides time, paper, and printers. Watch for the publication dates of other reprints in future issues.

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The evil power of unbelief is so bold and strong today that the existence of God and His unlimited power is challenged, not merely by skeptics, infidels, and atheists, but also by theologians, ministers, and bishops who profess to be Christians. It is ridiculous, and shows how far an apostate Christianity can drift from God and His truth.

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Our Granddaughter To Be Married . . .

Byron and Clarice Pruitt, this writer's son and daughter-in-law, announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Genece, to Nelson Doolittle, the vows to be solemnized at the home of the bride's parents near Loranger, La., on April 17, 1976, with Bro. Willie Murphey, a great uncle of the bride, officiating. May the Lord bless this Christian couple with a long and happy life together in the service of the Lord.

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This week (Mar. 21-27) Bro. Herschel Hargrave of Goulds, Fla., is holding a revival meeting at the 23rd Street Chapel in Oklahoma City where Brother Archie Souder is the pastor. The Word of truth is going forth for the salvation of souls and the edification of the church.

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Our sincere sympathy is extended to Betty Baker whose mother, Sister Scott Baker, of Garrett, Ind., departed this life on March 2, 1976. Sister Baker was a longtime reader of this paper. Brother Sam Abbott of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the funeral.

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Scheduled to be off the press by April 10 is a 12-page pamphlet entitled, "Considering Marriage?", which was written and sponsored by Sis. Margaretta Kennedy of Wichita, Kansas, for free distribution. This scriptural treatise and words of warning are directed to all who are contemplating marriage, but especially to Christian young people. A copy should be in the hands of every young person. These copies are free here at the office. Get a supply to pass to young people. If you want them by mail, specify number of copies and please enclose stamps or money for postage.

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Letters of invitation and affidavits of support have been mailed to Bro. Titus Enu of Nigeria, West Africa, and to Bro. Florencio Granil of the Philippine Islands, so they can obtain their visas to come by the last of May to attend the campmeetings of the

Church of God over the U. S. through the summer. These native missionaries have been faithfully proclaiming the gospel of Christ in their respective countries. Thanks to all those who have contributed to their round-trip plane fares and their maintenance while in this country. Continue to pray that nothing will prevent their coming if it is the Lord's will for them to meet with the Church in the U. S. and be instructed in the way of the Lord more perfectly.

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Thank the Lord for Sister Eloise Eck, the daughter of Bro. and Sister Edwin Eck, of Goltry, Okla., who has a call from the Lord to help here at the Lord's Printshop in getting out the gospel literature. Having resigned her position in the Sears' office at Enid, Okla., she will be coming to the Printshop, Lord willing, in April. We are confident that she will be efficient in this work, and may the Lord reward her for answering His call.

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Bro. Max Williamson, pastor at Baton Rouge, La., was here at the office on March 26 and reported that Bro. Herbert Probst held a meeting at Baton Rouge from March 10 to 14. The Lord blessed the preached Word, some were saved and the saints encouraged.

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Several readers responded to object to our statement in the March issue that there is no Scriptural basis for the popular teaching that Christ will reign over an earthly kingdom for 1000 years. They refer to Rev. 20:1-7. Notice carefully the facts in this reference: (1) It was the "souls of them that were beheaded [martyrs] for the witness of Jesus" that "reigned with Christ." (2) Not one word is recorded about people's being literally resurrected and reigning. This reign was before the resurrection of the literal dead, for the resurrection of these does not take place until after the one thousand years, and includes both classes, good and bad, as indicated in verses 11 to 15 of Rev. 20. (3) No reign on the earth is mentioned at all; the reign was "with Christ" as stated. (4) The first resurrection is of such a nature that makes "he that hath part in" it "blessed and holy." A literal resurrection cannot make one holy. Only the experience of salvation can do that work.

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The calls for gospel literature—tracts, papers, and books—are increasing, and all the co-workers here at the Lord's Printshop are making every effort to meet these greater demands for the gospel. Several new books, including another songbook, are scheduled for printing as soon as possible. Ten thousand pounds (five tons) of printing paper have been ordered for delivery in April and May at a cost of more than \$3000.00 in order to keep the gospel literature going out to this sin-sick world.

This is essentially a faith work, and we are grateful to all our readers who are praying for and co-operating with us in helping to carry out Christ's last great commission to His Church. Remember that there is an eternal crown of life reserved in heaven for the faithful saints.

—L. D. Pruitt

Campmeeting Dates for 1976

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1976, and more complete announcements of each will appear in later issues:—

Goulds, Florida—April 18 to 25.

All nations are welcome. The saints are urged to come. Ministers of God's choosing are expected. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. H. H. Hargrave, 22345 S. W. 117 Place, Goulds, Fla. 33170, phone (305) 247-4102, or Bro. Jackie Riley, at phone (305) 253-2834.

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Okla.—May 28 to June 6.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 4 to 13.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 11 to 20.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 11 to 20.

Green Bank, West Virginia—June 18 to 27.

Oakland, California—June 18 to 27.

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

Akron, Ohio—July 2 to 11.

Muncie, Indiana—July 9 to 18.

Fresno, California—July 9 to 18.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 23 to August 1.

Missouri State at Myrtle, Mo.—August 4 to 11.

Bakersfield, California—August 6 to 15.

Blackford, Kentucky—August 13 to 22.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 20 to 29.

California State at Pacoima, Ca.—Aug. 27 to Sept 5.
Please note this corrected date.

OBITUARIES

Sister Anast was born Bessie Balaskas, in Argos, Greece, on December 20, 1889. She passed away Feb. 21, 1976, at the age of 86 years, two months, and one day, in San Bernardino, California.

Bessie came to the United States on July 4, 1920, at the age of 30, and lived in Oregon for six years. She received letters from Gus Anast, a Greek gentleman who lived in southern California, whom she had never met. Their mutual friends had told him of her, and her of him. They got acquainted by writing letters, and exchanging photographs. He asked her to come to California and marry him, and this being agreeable to her, she came, and they were married the following day, July 25, 1926.

Gus and Bessie Anast had almost 36 years together before he preceded her in death on Easter Sunday, 1963. Survivors include four children: Mrs. Elizabeth Battaglia, of Rialto, Calif., Mrs. Mary King, of Fontana, Calif., Timothy Anast, of Pomona, Calif., and Mrs. Martha Croom, of San Bernardino, Calif.; 13 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren, and one sister, Katherine, living in Greece.

In the first year of their marriage, Gus and Bessie Anast yielded themselves to God and His service, be-

lieving on the Lord Jesus Christ to the salvation of their souls. They united with the saints in the Church of God that same year and were actively dedicated to spreading the gospel in English as well as Greek.

The promise in Rev. 2:10 says, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." She was surely faithful. Let us follow her good example by preparing to meet God, and living in readiness, for:

"Life is real, life is earnest,

And the grave is not its goal.

Dust thou art, to dust returnest,

Was not spoken of the soul."

Her funeral service was conducted by Bro. James Kutra, and Alberta Cook. Interment was in Mt. View Cemetery, San Bernardino, Calif. —Alberta Cook

Frank M. Brant was born on October 12, 1884, in Nebraska, and passed away on Feb. 5, 1976, at South Haven, Mich.

The funeral services were held at the Stafford-Robbins Chapel with Elder James Malbone, a nephew, officiating. Interment was in the Arlington Hill Cemetery.

REPORT OF SINGSPIRATION AT TULSA, OKLA.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing." Psalms 100:1,2.

We wish to thank all who came and all who took part in the gospel singing held here at Tulsa, Okla., on Saturday night, Feb. 28. We had the largest crowd that was ever on the corner of Norfolk and Pine streets. Quite a number came from as far away as California, besides from surrounding states and local areas.

We had been taught that good meetings are prayed down, so we had a special noon-day prayer service on Monday before the date that the singing would be blessed of the Lord and the effect far-reaching. The Lord wonderfully blessed the effort and we praise Him for it.

—M. D. Gaines, Pastor

LOS ANGELES SPRING MEETING

The annual spring meeting at Los Angeles, Calif., will convene 7:30 p. m., on Friday night, April 9th, and continue nightly through April 18th, Easter Sunday. There will be 10:30 a. m. and 2:30 p. m. services on Saturday, April 10th, and Friday and Saturday, April 16th and 17th. The chapel is located on the corner of Naomi and Walnut streets, in Los Angeles, phone 213-746-9474. All are welcome. Come praying.

For further information, contact Bro. Mackey Francisco, 719 W. 58th St., Los Angeles, California 90037, phone 213-778-5669, or Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85th St., Los Angeles, California 90044, phone 213-752-1135. —By Sis. Leon Phillips

ATTEND TENT MEETING NEAR VINITA, OKLA.

An evangelistic tent meeting is planned to begin, Lord willing, on Friday, April 23, 1976. The location for the tent is not determined at this time, but the ap-

proximate area will be near the Miles Community north of Vinita, Okla. You are cordially invited to come and invite others. Pray for a very profitable meeting.

For further information, phone Bro. Kenneth Probst, (918) 784-2599.

BOLEY, OKLA., SPRING MEETING

Lord willing, the Boley, Okla., spring meeting will convene on Sunday morning, April 25th and continue through May 2, 1976, with services each evening during the week. There will be all-day services both Sundays.

We are looking to the Lord to send Holy Ghost-filled ministers to preach the old-time truth of the Word of God. A warm welcome is extended to everyone of all nations to attend these services nightly at 7:45 p. m. Come praying that there will be a harvesting of souls in the meeting. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few." Luke 10:2.

There are men and women's dormitories on the campground to accommodate those that would like to stay on the week-end.

For further information, contact Sis. Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Boley, Okla. 74329, phone (918) 677-3376, or Sis. Katherine Williams, 905 N. E. 15th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73104, phone (405) 235-2270.

—Katherine Williams

GOSPEL SINGING AND ALL-DAY MEETING AT HOFFMAN, OKLAHOMA

The Church of God at Hoffman, Okla., will have a gospel singing, Saturday night, May 8, 1976. We extend a warm welcome to all to attend this singing and remain for the all-day services on Sunday, May 9th (Mother's Day).

Come and worship the Lord in song and praises. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Okla., 74447, phone (918) 756-6425. —Lorene Payne

EVANGELISTIC TENT MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Kansas—Dear saints scattered abroad: In the love of Jesus we greet you. Surely He is our defense, our strong high tower. We are more than conquerors thru Him that loved us, for which we give glory and honor to the great power of God. We find in Him the comfort and strength which makes us to know that better things await us if we remain faithful and true. We may not be able to do great things or see the results of our labors of love, but we want to encourage every one to fill the place God has appointed you, with humility of heart, and be faithful even tho dark clouds may hover about. We will have to endure some things unpleasant in order to get to heaven.

We are thankful for the ministers that feel the burden to carry on with the two evangelistic tents this coming season. Let us pray that the Lord will cause people to come out to these meetings and hear the word of truth and be saved.

We are thankful for several families that have been gleaned out of the ways of sin thru the tent meetings in

past years and are now growing in the Lord. It hasn't been in vain. One soul is worth more than the whole world. We cannot tell how many more will be won thru the sacrifice of those who carry a burden. We, the Church of God, must have a care and concern. It should first begin in our own locality, then reach out to every other field of labor. There is a great field needing to hear the truth and see the examples of holiness, righteousness, and Godliness. We are challenged when we think of the scripture in 1 Cor. 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat or drink or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." Col. 3:17, "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Verse 23, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily as to the Lord and not unto men."

Bro. Curtis Williams feels led to work with Bro. and Sis. Bob Forbes in tent meetings. We are sure they would appreciate your prayers that the Lord will direct them, so that the meetings will be effectual. Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons are to be in the Vinita, Okla., area in a tent meeting starting April 23rd, and continue as long as the Lord should lead. Several calls for meetings are awaiting them. May the Lord bless each one with physical strength.

Yours in the Lord's service, —Ralph and Inez Beisly

(Editor's note: Those who feel led of the Lord to support these evangelistic tent meetings through the summer, should mail your offering for that purpose directly to Bro. Ralph Beisly who is the treasurer of the Church of God National Missionary Fund. His address is 407 Eldridge St., Coffeyville, Kansas 67337.)

SPECIAL NOTICE TO THE SAINTS

Dear saints: We desire your prayers concerning our need for consecrated workers at the Sunset Guest Home at Pacoima, California. At present we need a cook and a nurse's aide. If anyone feels led to fill either of these positions, please contact Bro. Robert or Sis. Mildred Sherman, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Calif., 91331. Phone number (213) 899-2022, or (213) 896-7593.

NOTE OF THANKS

We were overwhelmed by the wonderful group turnout to celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Bro. and Sis. E. J. Trotter of Fresno, Calif.

We really appreciate the lovely gifts and all the time spent to make this such a joyous occasion for our parents. The building seemed too small to hold all the love felt there that Sunday, March 14, 1976.

Thank you, everyone, very much for your participation in this affair. We are attempting to send to all of you a "Thank You" note to show our appreciation. We wish to thank you this way, also, in the event anyone is missed.

Sincerely, —The Trotter Children

The Evidence of Sanctification

"By one offering he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us" (Heb. 10:14-15). "Hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us" (1 John 3:24).

PRAYER REQUESTS

La.—"I surely need prayer. My heart has been hurting me so much the last few days."

—Sis. Mildred Spurlock

Okla.—"Daddy, [Bro. Willie McMaken] is a little better in some ways, for which we are thankful, but he needs a lot of help to gain strength. He still suffers lots of pain . . . Remember us when you pray. . . . Oh, what would we do without the saints? They mean so much to us." —Lloyd and Mary Dunavan

Calif.—Remember Sis. Susan Stinson. She had a heart attack.

Ill.—"I have nerve trouble but my faith is in the Lord." —Lillian Center

La.—"I am not well of the shingles . . . but I am some better. I still need healing." —Sis. J. H. Brown

Canada—"I have had neuralgia for 12 years . . . pray." —Bertha Reich

Okla.—Sis. Imogene Taylor needs prayer. She had a heart attack recently and can't seem to gain back her strength.

Ala.—Has "stomach trouble." —Leora Fink

Fla.—Remember Bro. C. Lindner who is sick and suffering; also Sis. M. Lindner suffers with arthritis.

Okla.—"I have high blood pressure and other afflictions." —Ophia Easley

Okla.—Sis. Wadley is sick and needs prayer.

Kan.—Remember Sis. Dollie Gideon who has a blood clot on her limb.

La.—Sis. Ruby Williamson had the flu and then heart dropsy set in. She has been very sick and the family was called to her bedside (Mar. 19). Bro. Merrill said, (Mar. 27) "The Lord has touched Ruby but she still has a long way to go (to health). The Lord has helped her to face this with victory. We appreciate the saints' prayers."

Ind.—"Still keep wife and me on your prayer list and I have a son with cancer. . . . Pray that God will save and heal him." —Nathan Mobley

Calif.—Remember Sis. Hazel Savage in prayer. She is isolated and is going through some very severe trials and tests at this time.

We know that God looks down upon those who put their trust in the Lord regardless of what they may have to suffer. God is still healing, although sometimes He does let us be tried and tested. My mother-in-law, Sis. Lycenia Miles, had heart dropsy. She was a woman of faith and held firm confidence in the Lord. Her daughter wanted to know if she should call the family (some of whom lived many miles away), so she called a doctor just to check her to see if she should call them. The doctor said when the swelling got above her knees that she should then call the family. She testified to the doctor of how the Lord had healed her many times and of her faith in God. The swelling did get up to her shoulders, but God healed her and she lived a number of years after that. She died at the age of 81 years. Even if things look serious, God is still our Healer if we will trust Him. It is such a wonderful privilege to trust the Lord.

I recently heard on the radio of the thousands on whom doctors had performed operations that were not needed. They are going to have an investigation into this unneeded practice. Many times doctors, with their

limited knowledge, bury their mistakes, but God, who has all knowledge, never makes a mistake. He created these bodies and He can heal them. Praise the Lord! He has been my Healer all these years, and I do praise and thank Him for all that He has done for me. Many times I was near death's door, but God healed me and gave me life again. Truly, my heart is full of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord for all that He does for His children.

We were glad to see Sis. Alta Bock of Tulsa, Okla., recently. She had been so ill for so long and unable to do things, but she is healed and is still rejoicing in the Lord for it. She told me that it seems so wonderful that she can hardly believe it. She trusted the Lord completely. —Sis. Marie Miles

LETTER FROM MEXICO MISSIONARY

Patzcuaro, Mexico (Feb. 20)—Dear Ones: We hope that this new year, which is rapidly speeding on, has been prosperous, healthful and happy for you. Trust all is well with your relation with your Creator.

Only a few days ago I felt I was near death's door, and I remember that there was no fear or remorse — just such a pleasant, peaceful feeling as I thought my time had come. Oh, how soberly we need to live after making preparation to meet our Maker. The Lord brought me back and is giving me health again. I almost feel as strong as ever now, and there is no more pain or high fever. The saints, both in Mexico and the States, were all so good and kind, and when I was too far gone to pray, they were there, and prayed for me. My sisters, Alice and Ruth, went to Mexico and brought me home (Pomona) with them to care for me. The saints in Pomona were so precious. Others from further away came and anointed me and prayed. Soon I began to see a big difference, and began to feel strength come to my body as the pain and fever left.

Since the Lord has brought me back, I want more than ever to give my life into God's hands for His cause and eternity-bound souls. Time is so quickly slipping away from us and those about us. We must live conscious of this every day and do the best we can for all. Since I am stronger I must begin to get things done that I had to leave undone for so long.

I want to thank you for your love and concern for us, and for every prayer. Help me pray that I can be everything the Lord would have me to be.

Christian love, —Edith Lara

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Cross River State, Nigeria (Feb. 22)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Your letter came safely to our hand on Feb. 19 with the enclosure to aid in the gospel work. May God bless you and the faithful saints. "By their fruits ye shall know them," says the Bible.

We shall ever praise the Lord for the fulfillment of His promise to those who believe in Him completely. In the Prayer House or Infirmary, the Lord is healing the sick. Many accept Christ as their Saviour after seeing His wonderful works. A mother from a distance of nine miles came with a child of four years who had never

walked from birth. Both of them stayed under prayer for two weeks and the child was delivered from the chains of Satan. Praise the Lord! . . .

The congregations in Abak district are still serving Christ under the Church of God and still affiliated with the home mission in the U. S. A. The five faithful preachers are still with me, serving the Lord and leading their respective congregations in Abak district which include Ukpom, Ikot Akpan Eda, Ediene, Ikot Afanga, and Ikot Akpan Enyin. The congregation in Ediene is still in need of God's help to put a roof on their chapel.

Yours in Christ, —S. U. Udoh

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Feb. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: Loving greetings to all of you in the precious name of Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

Many thanks for your letter dated Feb. 2, and the enclosures were noted with heart-felt gratitude. The last two weeks I was at Trichur and Challissery to participate in the campmeetings there, and so I am a little late to reply this time. As this is the campmeeting season here, this is a busy time for us. We can work for God's glory only while it is day. Our Niranam campmeeting starts this week on Feb. 26, and we will go as a group to Niranam to get many spiritual blessings from that meeting.

There is much progress in the construction of the chapel at Thevalappuram. Last week we purchased the lumber and the carpenter started to work on the roof. We pray God to supply the means to buy tile, cement for flooring, plastering, etc.

May God give you and your co-workers strength and health to print the many tracts and books. May He heal you completely from the illness, is our prayer.

We expect your continuous prayers for the millions in India.

Yours in the Lord, —John Varghese

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN MISSIONARY

Nigeria (Feb. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints abroad: Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your letter dated Feb. 2, which was received with its enclosures intact. We are immensely thankful to God.

We refuse to relax in the Christian battle, but in a more determined effort face the enemy with courage and confidence to salvage more lost souls for Christ. We have faith and are firmly convinced that in the warfare we shall lose no battle in Jesus' name. "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air." 1 Cor. 9:26.

We are grateful to God and the brethren of the holy family in the U. S. A. for extending to me the invitation to attend the forthcoming campmeetings which are scheduled to start in Guthrie on May 28. May the Lord take care of the whole affair. From time to time you will be advised of the progress of the preparations to come. I will resign my position with the Federal Ministry of Communications in favor of full time ministry in the gospel field. It was in 1949 at Karro, Nigeria, that

I commenced my Christian life. Then in 1965 I found the true church — the Church of God — at Benin City, Nigeria. Now I am 49 years of age. I salute my Master for using me to start many congregations. Praise God!

Many have felt that I was too vocal in calling sin by its name. All who have been thus offended should accept it in good faith, as I must continue preaching in the interest of purity which the gospel of Christ demands. "Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord." Isa. 52:11.

Yours devotedly, —Titus U. E. Enu

MISSION REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear ones: Greetings in the precious name of our Redeemer and sufficient Saviour — Jesus Christ. Although there has been much flu and sickness in Ojos Negros, Mexico, and both Bro. Mayarino and his wife, Panchita, have had it, the work is progressing. A minister of a sect movement there has been telling the people of Ojos Negros that everything in the Church of God is a lie, but Bro. Mayarino says that they are not discouraged. I have written to them to be more encouraged than ever, for that's just another sign that they are truly working for the Lord. The enemy isn't fighting against his own people, but against those who are the Lord's. This was actually an encouragement to me concerning the work there and may well be the means of even more people hearing the truth. They have a new lady coming to services and she says she intends to keep coming. We thank the Lord for all.

The workers at the Faith Publishing House have remodeled a small house across the street south from the office, and I am living there at present. I have been very busy moving in, getting settled and set up so that the work can move forward at a faster pace.

Thanks to all who have sent love-gifts toward the printing of Spanish literature, and pray for me that I will be an adequate worker in this new field. I feel as did Solomon when he said, "I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in." 1 Kings 3:7. God is a perfect printer, and I surely need His help in all I do.

Christian love, your servants in Christ, Senores Mayarino Escobar, Ap. Postal #284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico, and Sis. Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla., 73044.

If you have been believing for something and have not yet had it in evidence, see if your faith has not been the head faith, which is dependent upon seeing, feeling, and experiencing before it can rejoice in the answer. See if you have not been reasoning and have not been affected by obstacles in the way. Perhaps you have the head faith that says, "It will be done some time," instead of the heart faith that says, "It was done when I prayed." Oh, exercise the heart-faith that deals with the unseen and counts things that be not, as though they were, and then you will overcome all obstacles, even the devil himself, by that faith which overcomes the world. —Sel.

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and co-workers: Greetings in our Saviour's holy name. The Lord has been so good to save me from my sins. He set me free. Bless His holy name forever! This frail body will go back to dust, but I shall live forever. Jesus makes me to know that the Christian will live forever. . . . —Bro. Andrew Senti

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

S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings of love to you and all of the saints at the print shop. This leaves me with more courage to press on than ever, because I can see the condition of people and how they are living. Jesus may come at any time, so I want to be ready when He comes. We are fighting now against spiritual wickedness in high places, so we can see the end is near.

Bro. Lawrence, I do enjoy reading the "Faith and Victory" paper. It seems like they are better all the time. I am sending you a little offering to help in the gospel work.

Bro. Lawrence, do pray much for me. I need your prayers. May God bless you and all the saints at the print shop. —Bro. Eddie Driggers

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

La.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: "This is the day the Lord hath made," and it surely is a beautiful one—following a night of thunderstorms and hard rain. It surely is a marvelous world the Lord has placed us in. I am thankful for the calmness the Lord gives me during those storms. I do have to ask for it, though! I haven't yet become used to the lightning popping all around us, the frightfully loud thundering, or the roaring winds here in Louisiana. But we surely do have a loving Father who takes such wonderful care of us, giving us calm assurance.

The other day the sun was shining, it was warm and very calm — almost no breeze. Keith, our small son, surprised me by asking if I thought it was that still when Jesus told the sea, "Peace be still," and it became very calm. . . .

Our appreciation, love and prayers are for both of you and the others who are giving their time so unselfishly.

Christian love, —Anneta, Don and Keith Williamson

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

Kans.—Dear Sister Marie: This finds me still pressing on, and with a determination to serve God. I do not know why I was permitted to fall and break my hip, but I have asked God to help me to get out of it everything there is in it for me. I surely want to thank all of the dear saints for their prayers, cards, calls, and visits. I don't know how to express how much they meant to me. When the doctor and nurses would tell me how well I was doing, I just thanked God that He was hearing and answering the prayers that were going up in my behalf.

While I was down on the floor and couldn't get up, but could reach the telephone, I kept calling different ones, but seemed no one was at home. It came to me to call Bro. Kenneth Probst. He and his daughter, Anita, and Jeanette Eck came. Finally, I got my sister and they came. She called Sis. Ruth Murphey and she came. I thanked God for all of them. I was trying to avoid calling

anyone that would rush in and send me to the hospital. It was good to have praying people with me. I gave up the next day to go to the hospital, but could hardly hold the tears back when they rolled me out of the house, and put me in the ambulance. God stood by me and gave me calmness and patience to lie there. It just seemed to me that God caused the nurses and doctors to be so kind and to co-operate with me.

I am now (March 9) at home. I'm expecting God to heal me, and that I'll be walking before five months, so please keep praying for me.

With Christian love, —Mamie Norcutt

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

Ohio—Dear Ones in Christ: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am so glad Jesus saved me, revealed this truth to me, and I accepted it. Jesus becomes sweeter and dearer to me each day. I do love this truth, and want to live and trust Him as long as He sees fit to leave me here.

I thank God that He still has a people on this earth that love and serve Him in the Bible way, although they are few. I thank God for the faithful few and pray that they will keep their eyes on Jesus, the One who never fails. Praise His dear name!

I thank God for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I have read it for many years and found that it always agrees with the Word of God. I pray God that He will bless all that work in the print shop, give you health to carry on and print the truth until Jesus comes.

Christian love, —Sis. Adah Smalley

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La.—Greetings of love in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: I am still in the battle for the right and expect to make heaven my eternal home, not because of something I do, but because of God's love for me. I feel very small and unworthy of the reward that God has in store for us, but I am trusting Jesus for a safe landing.

God has been very good to me these past few weeks. I have gotten much good from His Word and I am enjoying life, although I do have an affliction in my body for which I am trusting God for healing.

I hope all is well there, and may the Lord bless you in the work you are doing for Him.

Remember us in prayer. —Albert Green

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

Ala.—Dear Sis. Miles: I have been a reader of "Faith and Victory" for a number of years. It has been a help to me and I enjoy reading it. Enclosed are two dollars. I don't want to let my subscription expire. Use the rest where it is needed in the work.

I am 64 years old today. My husband passed away one year ago in February. The Lord has been good to me through my trouble and sorrow, and I thank Him for it.

I have an ailment in my body. I would like for you to pray about it. I know God heals. He has healed my body at different times down through the years. Praise His name!

May God bless you and supply all your needs is my prayer. —Mrs. Willie Morgan

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

Neb.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Marie: I am very thankful for the "Faith and Victory" paper. I am ever grateful for the truth that I have read. I want to be a better witness, also serving better in my community. I

love the church and what it stands for. I believe you dear people are living up to the New Testament Church as near as you know how and that's what I stand for. . . .

I live in "Goldbeck Towers" where the old people live. My dear companion has been gone two years the fourth of March. I surely miss him, but he isn't suffering now. I believe he is in Paradise having a wonderful time. I'm 82 years old. . . .

Your Sister in the Lord, —Mrs. M. L. Feters

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ore.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: Greetings from Oregon. Trust this finds each one well and encouraged to press on for our Lord. Surely, heaven will be worth it all.

We are thankful to be able to report victory. We've been going through some trials, but we are glad to be able to say that the Lord has brought us into a "wealthy place." Truly, it pays to live for the Lord.

While confined to bed a few weeks ago, the scripture came to me in Psalms 46:10, where it says, "Be still, and know that I am God." How true this is! It is so easy for us to become so involved in our work, etc., that we don't take the time we should to "be still" with the Lord and commune with Him. In the end it won't matter how much work we have accomplished, but how our relationship is between us and God. May we not be "weighed in the balance and found wanting." . . .

We are praying much for the work there and trust that the Lord will bless all in their labor for Him.

—Mancil and Shirley Doolittle

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: This is another day which the Lord hath made, and I am rejoicing in His love, and for the way He blesses and cares for me each day! I thank Him for eyes to see the winter sunrises and sunsets, (we have so many radiant ones here) and for ears to hear the birds' sounds. The birds even praise the Lord when food is very scarce. Isn't it good that we can learn lessons from God's creatures and even His plantings?

Last spring the yellow jasmin vine was blooming in all its splendor all over the woods, climbing to the top of anything and everything within reach — small bushes, fences, and even many trees were decorated at the very top. As I looked upon this beauty, I remembered a tract I had found in Steve's Bible entitled, "Bloom Where You Are," and thought of the followers of Christ in their different stages of spiritual development. Some are beginners in the Christian race, and some have been on the Highway for many years. But one thing is sure — no matter where the Lord plants us, we can bloom there, and we can scatter sunshine round about us! . . .

—Audrey Henry

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio.—Dear Sis. Marie: So good once again to send greetings of divine love in Jesus' most precious and Holy Name. It is always so good to get your encouraging letters.

This leaves me much encouraged to press on in this good way. I am determined, by the help and grace of God, to stand firm and true for my Lord unto the end. Many times raging storms about me sweep and fiery billows roll, but I have it all committed to the Lord. Self and possessions are all on the altar and truly given to God alone. I do thank and praise the dear Lord

every day, Sis. Marie, for saving my soul and for keeping power down through these many years that I have been striving to live for Him. . . .

How well do I remember when I first got saved and went home to share it with my dear mother that I loved so much. We were so very close before that. . . . I also praise the dear Lord for showing me the oneness of His people, the unity of all believers, and that there is one faith, one Lord, and one baptism. Truly, I do thank the dear Lord for showing me "The Church of" the living "God" and for leading me to His people. I thank God for Living water this morning. Ever since that first drink, praise the Lord, I have been hungering and thirsting for more. Oh, that souls would only "taste and see that the Lord is good." How can they still refuse and reject Him any longer?

When you think of me, please pray earnestly for me. Also for my unsaved family. . . . My prayers are with you there at the print shop. May God bless you and the entire staff in a special way, stand by you and sustain you through every trial and test in a special, special way. —Sis. Sadie Stamm

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Mo.—Dear saints: I want to thank the Lord for His many blessings to me and my family, which I do each day, but I want to tell others how good the Lord is to me.

First, I'm so thankful He saved my ten-year-old son which has been a blessing and encouragement. It's so wonderful to have him read with me and kneel by my side in prayer. I haven't been well for some time, but after he was saved I then seemed to get so much sicker. My family, who aren't saved, wanted me to go to the doctor. I did go to be checked and he ran some tests of different kinds. He then told me I had a bad hernia, gall stones, sugar in my blood and maybe cancer. He didn't know for sure, unless he did surgery, which he said I needed. On top of this, my nerves are very bad. I went home sicker than before I went. My family wanted me to go to another doctor. I thought it didn't make any difference what another doctor said, I was going to trust the Lord, whom I'm trusting completely. My nerves are some better and I feel the Lord has healed me otherwise. That is, I feel so much better than I have for so long. I'm so much better that I know the Lord had to do it. I can't ever thank God enough for His many blessings.

May God bless each of you at the print shop and the saints everywhere. —Nelva Stanley

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—I want to thank the Lord for saving me before it was too late, and I want Him to help me do His will.

—David Stanley

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear saints: I thank the Lord for salvation and His love and mercy to me, for He surely has been merciful.

When my baby, Stacy, was three and one-half months old, she was afflicted with a severe skin condition, which appeared to be eczema, but the doctor called it a yeast infection. It was all over her head, face, behind and inside her ears, under her arms and was

spreading over the rest of her body. I took her to the doctor as I thought it was an allergy. He said it would take a lot of medicine to get it under control. I wanted to trust the Lord, but put some on her as my husband wished. It just seemed to irritate it the more.

I took Stacy to the winter Assembly Meeting in Guthrie. So many got under the burden for her with me. The first Saturday night of the meeting, I had her anointed and believed the Lord would heal her. I returned to the meeting the next weekend. The Lord was working, for the sores were fading. Within ten days, Stacy was cleared up. You could not tell she was the same baby. She had had the infection for three weeks, and in a few days the Lord took it all away. Praise the Lord! He is so wonderful to us! He is still performing miracles if we will only believe. "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23.

About two months before this, Dana, my oldest girl, got ringworms. They spread, and Stacy got them, too. It was a real burden to me. The saints in our congregation were praying with me for them. One day, when they had had them about a month, I knelt to have prayer. As I started to pray for them, God spoke to me and said, "They're healed!" I jumped up rejoicing, and went to look at the girls. The ringworms were all gone. I'm glad I don't have to rely on medicines, but can look to the Lord in time of need.

I need your prayers. —Diane Melot

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Va.—Dear Sis. Marie and my brothers and sisters in Christ: Greetings of love in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour.

I felt like the Lord would have me write and share my experience with you. Though it was grievous, it may be good to tell others so they'll not make the same mistake I made. "I gave up just before the battle was won." I'll not go into details, but feel the Lord would have me share this experience with you.

Last October I found myself faced with the hardest and hottest battle of my entire life. It seemed the bottom had dropped out of my world. I was so torn up mentally that I hit bottom spiritually and then Satan moved in on me. I was so low spiritually that Satan had the advantage, and I was so battle-worn that I just gave up. It seemed easier to quit than to fight anymore, but, oh, how wrong I was! Whenever I quit, the devil really sat on me. I can truly say I did things I didn't want to do. I'd think, "I don't want to do this. I love Jesus. I want to live for Jesus," but I couldn't seem to let go of the thing that caused me to fall. For two weeks I was between two worlds, sanity and insanity. I was like a bomb just ready to explode. There were times I desired to lose my mind completely so I'd be free of the trouble. I couldn't free myself. Only the Lord and I know how I suffered. Every day Jesus was reaching out, but I couldn't let go, so the devil continued to hold me down. I never had rest, not one day. I called on God to help me to let go. I knew that was what I had to do. I had to turn loose of this battle and let Jesus have it. The Lord had mercy on me and things happened that caused me to turn it over to Him. I prepared to leave home if I had to, and I stood up to the devil. I made up my mind that I might as well let Jesus have His way if I was ever to

make heaven my home. I knew Jesus' way was best, so I made up my mind to go all the way with the Lord, and praise His name, I was free! The old devil had to flee. For the first time in two months I was free of the devil's hold. No longer did he control me. Yes, he had made me do things I didn't really desire to do. I began to look to Jesus to help me. He forgave me and began to work the problems out. From that time on, He began to fight for me and the way He is working is beyond words. I'm not worthy of His love and mercy. I grieved my dear Lord and how sorry I am! I love Jesus because He first loved me.

As the Lord began to work and fight this battle for me, He showed me that the very day I gave up was the day the answer was to come. That was the day the Lord was beginning to work this all out, but I gave up — just before the battle was won. Oh, how that grieves my heart and soul! I don't dwell on it as I know I must press on and not let my mistake hold me back, but the joy could have been so great, the place so wealthy, but I lost the blessing when I gave up. There is thankfulness to God, and I know He forgave me, and the lesson was learned so very well.

Saints, if the battle is raging and it seems God has forsaken you, hold on by all means, hold on! You may give up just before the battle is won and miss the blessing.

I give all praise and glory to the Lord. He is truly good to me. He is answering prayer and is working in my life beyond what I thought would happen. He has given me rest each day by His grace. I love Jesus!

Pray for me as I desire to be all Jesus would have me to be. —Nancy Wagoner

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kansas—Dear ones: We are thankful for all of God's blessings toward us. At the breakfast table we were talking of some of the things God has done for us. We thank the Lord here in our home, but I believe we sometimes neglect to praise Him so others may know and be blest.

Our daughter, Retha, was troubled with boils for over two years. They would come in various places, not more than one or two at a time. When one would heal, then another would come. She had some on her feet, which made it very painful to wear her shoes to school. At the Myrtle, Mo., campmeeting this last year (1975) we requested prayer for her. When the brother prayed, he didn't remember who it was, but earnestly prayed for the child with boils. Those boils healed up, and to this day not one more has come back. We truly thank God for it.

Also during this same meeting, I felt God did a miracle in my own body. On the Friday that the campmeeting started at Myrtle, we were preparing to leave home the next morning. I was sealing some pickles and spilled boiling water across my stomach and down my leg. Oh, how it burned! Randel, my husband, came in, and also Marilyn Eck and the girls came over. They all prayed, but the burning continued. The Lord doesn't always answer immediately. He wants to see just how true we will be to Him. I burned and hurt all night long. We had a can of spray for minor cuts and burns. I asked Randel to bring it to me, and I read on the label how it worked. The devil whispered, "Just try it and see if it will work." Right there the Lord checked me, and I set it

down, but the rest of the night that can of spray hindered my faith. The next morning I told Randel to throw it away. I came to the place that I was willing to burn rather than just to see if that stuff worked or not. Saints, don't you see the trick of the devil? If I would have used it, the devil would have made it work and my confidence would have been in it, and my faith in God would have diminished. These things are hinderances to our faith in the Almighty God. But praise God, I got rid of it, and then with confidence I turned toward God. We could ask in faith believing now. Soon, I went to sleep and slept for nearly two hours. In the meantime, the saints at the Myrtle, Mo., campmeeting had been notified and they were praying. While I was asleep, my dear husband had faith that we would still go to the campmeeting. He dressed the children and had things packed, ready to go. When I awoke I heard my little four-year-old singing, "We're going to Myrtle." Then I realized I wasn't burning any more. Randel was down at Donald Eck's making arrangements for us to leave. I got up and dressed (before that I hadn't been able to stand anything to touch me), and we were on our way by 12 o'clock, noon. Another way the Lord blessed was by helping the baby to sleep all the time but about forty miles of the two hundred and fifty mile trip. I was very tender, but the burning was gone. When we arrived on the grounds, there was another time of rejoicing. What a mighty God we serve!

But God is a jealous God, and He wants all the praise for Himself. He just would not work with that can of spray in the way. Man has invented many rub-ons, powders, sprays, and pills that hinder the faith of many people. But we, as the Church of God, need to keep our eyes on our Saviour, the One who not only brought salvation, but also healing for our bodies.

Pray for us that we will always be an example for Christ. —DeLoris and Randel Bradley

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

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and all the dear saints everywhere: I want to thank all the dear saints for their prayers in our time of need. Sonny, our son, is much better, although not very strong yet. He is trying to work a few hours at a time. He is very much encouraged in his soul. We certainly thank the Lord for how He has blessed us and how the dear saints have stood by us.

The other day I was very sick and didn't think we could fill our appointment at Grubbs, Ark., but I pressed against it, and we went to Boley, Okla. The saints anointed me and God came to my rescue. I was able to make the trip and God blessed in a special way in the meeting. A family was there that we had never met before.

We have just finished reading the "Faith and Victory." It is a great encouragement to us. We wouldn't want to do without it.

Still remember us in prayer that we stay in the center of His will. He has done so much for us.

—Sister and Bro. Leonard Roberts

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

Okla.—Dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings! I thank God for what He has done for us this last year.

About the middle of April of last year, while at work, I was thinking about the big 89ers' celebration in town and how people were trying to derive pleasure from such

things. The Lord began to bless me with songs and Scriptures about the joy and pleasure we can obtain in Him and Him alone. This lasted almost all morning. During this time I wondered what I was facing by receiving such a blessing. A few days later, while at work, I became very sick with what I thought was a gastric disorder. However, it became so serious that I had to quit work and was in bed for about a month. Some thought I had hepatitis, but I'm quite sure it was a gallbladder attack. (Later, the doctor said things pointed to that.) At times, I suffered very much, but the Lord raised me up.

On the first Sunday of the Oklahoma campmeeting, I went to the morning service but became so weak I had to lie down after the service. Then on fast day, I again went to the morning service, but became so weak that I started to leave. However, I was persuaded to be prayed for. The Lord so wonderfully touched me that I was up for about five hours without feeling very weak. Praise the Lord!

Then in September I began to itch all over. This lasted about two months before I became real concerned about it. In my calling for prayer, someone suggested maybe I had sugar diabetes. So I went to get a blood sugar count. The doctor said my blood sugar was not high enough to cause all the itching. While trying to find out what caused it, he noticed that my eyes were yellow and this is when he said everything points to gallstones. He wanted me to have an operation, but I have trusted the Lord and He has lifted the affliction to the extent that I have little trouble with it.

I appreciate all the love, calls, visits, prayers, and letters given to me during all my afflictions. It was a real blessing to me to see the concern shown.

We have other burdens, so would appreciate your prayers. —Lois Davis

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

Calif.—I had a marvelous healing. I was sitting in the kitchen on a high stool. All of a sudden, I felt faint and my head felt full of water. I sagged down to the floor and lay on my back, partly unconscious. I was thanking and praising God for His goodness to me, and said, "Lord, if you want me now, I'm ready." I don't remember all I said, talking to Jesus. I got better, crawled on my knees to the bathroom as I felt like vomiting, but I could not. Finally I was able to walk to my couch in the living room and I was healed. I was out of reach of a telephone, but I telephoned Jesus and He heard and answered. Praise His holy name!

Be encouraged, sick ones. Jesus can heal anything. Pray for me. I am praying for those in the prayer request column continually. —Amelia Smith

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

W. Va.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' name. I hope this finds you well. There has been so much sickness around here. I suppose it's the flu. Thank the Lord, He has kept my family well. We can't forget we are serving an Almighty God, and there is nothing impossible with Him.

A couple of weeks ago, I tripped while going down the stairs and turned my ankle. Oh, it hurt so bad! I thought for sure I must have broken it. I cried out to the Lord. Although it was throbbing and aching, I got up by faith and went about my work. It was swollen up a couple of nights, and is still swollen a little, but best of

all, the Lord undertook for my ankle. He touched it right away, and took the hurting away. Praise His name! His mighty hand kept me from completely breaking it. Isn't He precious to us? . . . —Elaine Landis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and Sis. Miles: Greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We continue to ask the Lord's richest blessings on you and the work there.

Thank you and all of the rest of the saints abroad for your prayers for me during my severe illness, because I know it was the prayers to God that has brought me this far. I am still looking and trusting Him that His will be done. I am still very weak and not able to do anything, but I have come such a long way from where I was. Continue to pray that the Lord's will be done.

—Sis. Rilla Wadley

REJOICING

In. Ps. 31:7, David said, "I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy. for thou hast considered my trouble." Paul said in Romans 12:15, 16, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep: be of the same mind one toward another; mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate."

I believe there is an old adage that says, "Laugh and the world laughs with you. Weep and you weep alone." There is a vast difference between the people of the world, and those who are Christ-minded. Christians live and operate under the influence of the mind and Spirit of Jesus Christ. They are not of a frivolous and worldly mind. Their conscience is tender and it is influenced by the conditions that surround them. When Jesus saw Mary weeping, and the Jews also weeping because of the death of Lazarus, the scriptures say that, "Jesus wept." His tender heart was touched when He saw the tears and heard the sobs and sighs of those around Him. And we believe that He is touched today with the feelings of our infirmities, and is able and ready to comfort and console all who will call upon Him in time of trouble, affliction, grief or sorrow. If God has touched our hearts, we can and will be a comfort to others in their times of weeping and sorrow.

In First Samuel 10:26, we read, "And Saul also went home to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched." When God has touched our hearts, others can feel it in a hand shake, or see it in a word of comfort and consolation, and the Lord will help us to be helpers one of another. The sunlight of God's countenance will break through the cloud, and we can go on our way rejoicing with them that do rejoice, to the land of bliss and happiness where no tears will ever flow, and trouble and sorrow will be no more. Thank God for that blessed hope! In this life we shall have tribulation, but there will be undisturbed peace and happiness on the other side.

It does not cost much to speak a kind word of cheer and comfort to one that may be weary and sad, or sorely pained in body or mind, or to one that may feel neglected or mentally depressed. We can never know the real value of the effort if done in the name of the Lord. Prov. 25:11, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pic-

tures of silver." Prov 15:13-15, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast." And I believe a joyful heart and a merry spirit is good for a person's health, much more than a drooping head and an aching heart. No wonder Paul said to rejoice with them that do rejoice. Ps. 85:6, "Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?"

There may be times when the enemy of all righteousness will be allowed to oppress and persecute the children of God and men will withdraw themselves from our company. What are we to do under such conditions? In Luke 6:22,23, Jesus, our Leader, said, "Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets." There will be a time when the wicked cease from troubling and the weary will be at rest, and there will be a great rejoicing among the angels when all the redeemed shall be gathered Home. But we do thank and praise God that we can, and do have, some seasons of joy and refreshing right here in the midst of the conflict and struggles of life by the help and mercy of God. Yet we do remember that we are in a warfare here in this time world. Surely, we must fight if we would reign. The battle is not given to the swift, neither to the strong, but he that endureth to the end the same shall be saved.

The saints of long ago used to sing a song, "Help us to help each other, Lord, each other's cross to bear, and may not duty seem a load, nor worship prove a care." A few more battles and a few more trials, then we can say with Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have kept the faith." I am now ready to be offered—ready to receive the crown that is waiting for me.

It is an individual fight. I can't wear your crown and you can't wear mine. My crown will fit no one but me, and yours will be the same. Our God, the righteous Judge, will reward every man according as his work shall be. "What rejoicing that will be in the Home beyond the sea, when we all shall gather there!" —Ulysses Phillips

Making Your Choice

Every day we make choices of one kind or another. Of course, in many phases of life, laws and rules govern our choices, but yet in other matters, there is much freedom in the choices that we make. We choose to go to bed at a certain time, arise to eat, buy necessities at the store of our choice, dress a certain way, and talk and act in the ways of our choosing. We should be thankful for the many liberties that we do enjoy in America. In some countries, people have testified to the fact that they were governed so closely that they were not permitted to even think for themselves, as they were drilled to think in a certain way.

One time the people of a nation came to the point of the necessity of choosing whom they would serve — God

or Baal, the idol. After God manifested His power, they fell upon their faces and said, "The Lord, He is the God!" They chose to serve God. 1 Kings 18:39.

In the beginning, God created man and gave him the choice of whom he wanted to please and love. God did not make man as a machine without the power of choice. He felt that there would be greater pleasure from someone who chose to love Him. When man chooses to love God rather than the devil and all the pleasures that he offers, this causes the great heart of God to be deeply pleased and happy. This brings great glory and joy to our God of love. Even in the midst of troubles caused by one's choosing to serve God, there is such a deep peace, security, and comfort in one's soul that only God can give. Recently, I had a letter from a dear Sister who is in deep trouble because of her choice of God, but she said she felt happy in her soul. Only God could do that for her, and you would marvel, unless you knew that God does such things for His people, if you really knew all that she is facing. In my own experiences, the Lord has given me a message to give out, when my own heart was almost breaking with deep heartaches and troubles, yet there was a peace and a joy that was so great that I could give out a message of encouragement and rejoice in a Saviour's love. Some who were close to me and knew of my troubles would ask me later, "How could you do it?" I could answer that it was only God who gave it to me. Only those who have chosen God as their Lord and Master can have this kind of an experience in their life.

Moses was educated and brought up in the courts of the Egyptians and was in line for great honors, but his mother had taught him about God and His great plan for His people. "Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season: esteeming the reproaches of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward." Heb. 11:25,26. Many of us might not be able to choose great worldly honors and riches because of not having access to them, but just choosing God instead of the worldly things around us brings great joy to the Lord and also to us.

There are serious consequences for those who refuse to choose the Lord. God has laws or He would not be a God of justice. If one chooses God and His laws and proves it by obeying and loving Him, he will go to heaven. God has decreed that those who reject Him will not live with Him in heaven. There is no other place for them when this old world is dissolved, but to be cast into hell and eternal damnation with the devil and his angels. So people need to fear the Lord, for our eternal soul will be judged by Him in that last great day. 2 Tim. 4:1. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Psa. 111:10. The Bible tells us what will happen to those who do not "fear the Lord." Those who "hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord" will not be answered by the Lord when they call upon Him, and God will "mock when your fear cometh, . . . laugh at your calamity." They will be cut off suddenly and that without remedy. Prov. 1:23-33.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

Eccl. 12:1. In one's youth, his mind is active and he is capable of great enjoyments, and how wonderful it is for him to love the Lord, and to have faith and hope in God. He can find in God the power to be kept from evil habits, thoughts, actions, and enticements offered in the world to attract him from godliness. But to wait until one is old, a person is taking a chance of losing the ability of choosing the Lord. Sin and afflictions will have fastened so strongly upon one that the will-power is broken to the point until there is no care for the soul's welfare. Older people many times, are willing to go right on in sinful ways, and be satisfied. Oh, how sad for anyone to get into such a condition! Many older people who have lived in a sinful state will say, "I'm too old now to make any changes." Death soon takes them away, and as death finds a soul, so will the judgment. But yet, there is hope for those who in this life will stir themselves to a diligent searching after God. But don't wait, dear soul, another day. Time is passing. Choose God today and serve Him. You do not have any promise of your life tomorrow. —Sis. Marie Miles

You Are Required to Move

Is it a shock to learn your dwelling place is deteriorating and you will be required to move into different quarters? Have you investigated the possibilities of a new home in a new country — a permanent home? Why not get the brochure and look into the possibilities of a country that far exceeds this land in which we live?

There is a land where the problems of life, pain, and sorrows are no more — a place that is always light, where there is constant peace and love. There will be no rent coming due, nor evacuation notice, no taxes, no light, fuel, or food bills. All this has been paid in advance by the Owner who sent His Son to pay in full for this Home with Him.

There will be no crime. Thieves, liars, blasphemers, and drunkards are invited, but they must first be cleansed in the Fountain of Blood that the thief rejoiced to see in his day as he was informed, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43. Those who plunge into this fountain are washed and made whiter than snow — all things become new — hatred is turned to love. This transformation must be made here and now, for there is no cleansing in the river of death that transports us to that country. "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still . . . My reward is with me to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:11, 12b.

Do you fear you will not fit into that wonderful country? "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Cor. 6:9-11. "The

blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth from ALL sin." 1 John 1:7b.

Have you failed? "These things write I unto you that you sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 2:1-2a.

There need be no fear of the crossing of the river of death if Jesus is with us. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" 1 Cor. 15:55. The sting of death is sin — but thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Set your affections on things above and think of that Home over there. Do you know someone that has already gone there? Do you long to see the print of the nails in the hands of Him who paid the price for your inheritance there? "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ." Rom. 8:17a. What an inheritance! "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things that God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Cor. 2:9. "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." II Cor. 5:1.

The apostle Paul said, "What I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better; nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." Phil. 1:22-24. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21. —Sis. Elsie Dietrich

SANCTIFICATION

1. Sanctification Is a Bible Doctrine.—

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth" (2 Thess. 2:13). These Scriptures are conclusive proof that sanctification is a Bible doctrine.

2. It is an Experience for Christians.—

"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. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it" (1 Thess. 5:23-24). The Christian is assured of the experience if he will seek for it.

3. It Cleanses the Christian's Heart.—

"God . . . bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8,9). "Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Eph. 5:25b-27).

4. It Unifies Christians.—

"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 which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou,

Father, art in me, and I in thee, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 19:21). "The multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul" (Acts 4:32). "For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren" (Heb. 2:11). Sanctification destroys the element of division in the heart and makes Christians one.

5. It Qualifies Christians for Service to God.—

"Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). "With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all" (4:33). Christians of all times have been stirred to active service in the kingdom of God after receiving the Holy Ghost.

6. It is God's Will That Christians Be Sanctified.—

"This is the will of God, even your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3). "Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Heb. 13:12). Christ sacrificed himself to sanctify his people, and it is quite certain that it is His will for Christians to be sanctified.

7. Christians Are Sanctified by the Holy Ghost.—

"I have written the more boldly . . . as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, that I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles . . . that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." (Rom. 15:15-16).

8. It Makes Christians One With Christ.—

"Both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one." (Heb. 2:11).

9. It is Received as a Second Work of Grace.—

"I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16,17).

10. Christ Suffered and Shed His Blood to Sanctify His People.—

"Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate" (Heb. 13:12). "Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word" (Eph. 5:25-26).

11. Consecrations and Faith are the Conditions for Receiving it.—

"God . . . put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith" (Acts 15:8,9). "I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom. 12:1). "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1).

—Selected

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