

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 54, No. 10

54th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

January, 1977

New Year, 1977

Another year is past and gone,
As Time moves swiftly on and on,
Approaching long eternity—
The future home for you and me.

Oh, let us list'n with godly fear,
And draw to God our Maker near,
Who holds in His Almighty Hand
A balm to heal our troubled land.

Be wise! O ponder on this day
While fades the old year now away;
Oh, think of Christ who died in love
That we might live with Him above.

Turn from the earth and all its care,
Turn from its darkness and despair;
Have faith in God, turn from thy sin:
Lay hold of life, and enter in.

New Year's resolves will not succeed
Unless the grace of God you plead;
New leaves turned over clear and white
Will tarnished be e'er comes the night.

Perhaps thy heart has burdened been
To find the "Land of Beginning Again"—
In Christ, a creature made anew,
Is where you'll find your wish come true.

For not by righteous works we've done
The goal of happiness is won,
But coming to the Saviour's throne
And making our petitions known.

'Tis there before the mercy seat,
Repenting at Christ Jesus' feet,
Our hearts to God are reconciled;
We each become His loving child.

What joy and blessing will be ours
To fill this New Year's golden hours,
Preparing us in holy fear
For Him whose coming draweth near.

—Leslie Busbee

Jesus Saves From Sin

The blessed news that came to Joseph concerning the child whom his espoused wife was to bring forth was that His name was to be called Jesus, for, saith the angel, "He shall save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21. What greater blessing could the Saviour have been to mankind? Far superior and more beneficial is the salvation from the bondage of sin than the deliverance from Rome which the Jewish nation was vainly hoping for. They failed to realize what their real need was. The greatest need of a person today is to be delivered from the power and dominion of sin.

"By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." Romans 5:12. Notice he said, "All have sinned." There is no need to question, "Who has sinned?" Everyone has sinned. This is with one exception, of course. Jesus Christ, the Saviour, did no sin, neither was any guile found in His mouth. But everyone else has sinned. This includes me and it includes you. To say we have not sinned, is an untruth. But Jesus came to save us from our sins.

John states all that is in the world (of sin), (1) the lust of the flesh, (2) the lust of the eyes, and (3) the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. I John 2:16. We see these three things as the avenues through which sin came into the world, taking form in the temptation of mother Eve. She saw that the forbidden tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and that it was a tree to be desired to make one wise (pride of life). Through these three things she fell a prey to sin and transgression. Jesus met these three things in like manner during the temptation that He encountered in the wilderness by the devil. In all three points Jesus resisted the devil and overcame. As our Saviour, He also is able to give us power to meet and overcome these three things. These three points of temptation to sin will cover the entire catalogue of sin.

Sin is a problem that every person must face and contend with in this life. We should know what sin is. Paul said, "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet." Romans 7:7. This, along with other emphatic

declarations in the New Testament, reveal that the law was given to Moses and to Israel for the purpose of showing them what sin really was. Sin is the transgression of the law. I John 3:4.

Much could be said about the awfulness of sin and its destructive work in the hearts, minds, and lives of men and women. I am sure that you already realize this. We must realize the seriousness of this matter and hate sin with all of our hearts. God's message for mankind is to repent. To repent means to reform, turn from and forsake sin with a godly sorrow that we have sinned and displeased our loving God. Christ bore our punishment for sin when He suffered the terrible death upon the cross of Calvary. His blood becomes the price and ransom to atone for our sins and iniquities. Unless we repent and turn away from our sins and seek His saving righteousness, we will go on and die in our sins. If we do this, we will be lost forever. Think of what an awful cost this would be!

There is a sinful nature, and there is a sinful attitude. A sinful nature causes one to do wrong under pressure and in times of temptation. Christ can save us from and destroy from our lives this kind of nature. But only we as free moral agents can correct a sinful attitude. Both Abel and Cain had sinned. This is very evident. There would have been no need for sacrifice had they not sinned. We see Abel with a righteous attitude. He was seeking forgiveness, mercy, and help. But look at Cain. His was a sinful attitude. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Prov. 28:13. David was found guilty of heinous sin. But he humbled himself and took a righteous attitude. He found mercy and forgiveness. Look at Saul. When he was convicted of sin, he did not humble himself. He had a sinful attitude. Take notice of this. It is not your sins that will take you down to a lost world and everlasting punishment. It will be your sinful attitude. An unrepentant attitude, a mind and heart dishonest and not willing to confess and love the truth, a self-righteous and self-justifying attitude, a critical and scornful attitude—this is what will send men and women to eternal banishment from Christ. As far as sin is concerned, Christ has taken care of that; but this sinful attitude, as long as it is held to, cannot be atoned by His blood. It will not be your sins that will drag you down, but it will be your stubborn and unyielding attitude that will block the channel of God's saving grace to you.

Do you not long to be free from sin and its blight upon your life? You can be. By repenting and forsaking your sins, and turning with all your heart toward God, and believing in Christ and His shed blood, salvation from sin can become the great treasure of your life.

—Brother Leslie Busbee

The Church Tempered Together

"In I Cor. 12:24,25, we are told that 'God hath tempered the body together . . . that there should be no schism [division] in the body.' The thing that prevents division, then, is that tempering that God does in the hearts. It is not, therefore, in the power of man to produce Christian unity nor to produce the tie that holds Christians together. This tie can bind only Christian hearts. From this love, itself divinely implanted, comes that spiritual fellowship which is so sweet to those who dwell together in unity."

The Baptism of Consuming Fire



Some years ago, my husband and I were on a vacation trip in the South. He wanted to stop at a certain town and look up a friend who had been with him overseas during World War II. We finally found the street, but we could not find a house with the number that we had on our record. Finally, my husband said, "According to the house number I have, they should live right there," as we looked at a vacant lot with high weeds on it. He drove to a nearby store and asked about the house number. He was told that about a couple of years before, the house had caught on fire, and the people weren't able to escape, and were burned to death. What a shock and how sad! Probably they were not ready to go, yet we do not know. But we do know that fire is a destroyer and a consumer.

We read in the Bible that "our God is a consuming fire." Heb. 12:29. We read about the children of Israel and how God told them to go over the Jordan River and "possess nations greater and mightier than thyself, cities great and fenced up to heaven, a people great and tall, the children of the Anakims . . . of whom" they had heard people say, "Who can stand before the children of Anak?" But God was going before them. "As a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the Lord hath said unto thee." Deut. 9:1-3b. We find, as we read further, that God did this for the children of Israel. He consumed the Anakims because of their wickedness. Truly, we should have faith in our God because He is "a consuming fire." He will give us victories in the battles of life, victories over what may seem to us unsurmountable difficulties or great bodily afflictions.

God hates sin of all kinds. John the Baptist told those who came to see him that when Jesus came, "he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Matt. 3:11b. As a sinner repents with godly sorrow, God blots out those committed sins and wipes them off His book. They are forgiven and cast as far as the east is from the west. They are consumed and destroyed. The heart of that one who has repented has been made clean from those committed sins by that fire. We find as that person continues to walk in the light, and seeks God for an infilling of the Holy Spirit, he again feels the touch of God's consuming fire upon his heart. Malachi prophesied of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and said, ". . . the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, . . . for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Mal. 3:1-3.

The Holy Spirit came "suddenly to his temple." The 120 were together in "one accord" and the fire of the Holy Spirit fell upon them, burning out that sin principle that they had received from the fall of Adam. This was something that they could not ask forgiveness for, but it needed to be purged out by the Holy Spirit. Praise God for His marvelous plan! It is perfect and it works. Thank God for the power of the Holy Spirit that delivers us from sin! Surely, our God is a consuming fire.

The fire is now burning upon the altar of our hearts. The Holy Spirit works and brings comfort, joy, and peace that passeth understanding. How glorious is the experience of full and complete salvation! Now it is up to us to keep that fire burning in our hearts. We now have power to "offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." The Word of God becomes alive to us. As we read its pages and are in the same Spirit as the writers, we can understand its depths. Yet every time we read it, more and more is revealed to us. Every verse has depths that make it a continual source of encouragement and blessing and makes us know God's will concerning us. "While I was musing the fire burned." Psalms 39:3.

We must take time to keep that fire burning clear and bright. We need to watch and pray, and daily look into God's Word. When the devil brings any thought of unkindness to us, that fire will burn it up. When he brings a little ill-feeling, that fire burns it up and love flows out. On and on the devil comes against us, but that fire keeps us purged from anything unlike the Lord. The devil will come as an angel of light and try to deceive us. It might take some prayer for us to discern him, but as we look to God, the Holy Spirit fire will illuminate God's way unto our minds and hearts.

Did you know that the devil will tell saints lies and try to make them believe them? One time a person came to me and asked if I had confidence in him. I assured him that I did, and asked him why he had thought of such a thing. He said that when I came into the chapel, I gave him one glance and looked away, and then the thought came to him that I didn't have any confidence in him. He had a real battle over that until he came to me. I had never had such a thought and didn't realize that I had even looked his way. So you see, the devil told him a lie and then worked on him to make him believe that lie. He will tell us lies on others, but if we live close to the Lord, the fire of the Holy Spirit will help us to resist such thoughts that come from the enemy of our souls. Love will flow out and cover. The devil is working in every way he can to keep us from making heaven our home. We must be on our guard. We want to keep filled with the Holy Spirit fire and serve the Lord in the beauty of "holiness and righteousness . . . all the days of our life." We want to keep laying up our treasures in heaven and have our "loins . . . girded about, and . . . lights burning." If we will continually "seek the kingdom of God, . . . all these things shall be added unto" us. Luke 12:31,34,35.

God takes note of those who have allowed their fires to burn low. Jesus said, "Smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory." Matthew 12:20. God will deal with every soul as long as there is a little fire in their hearts. He did not come to put out that fire, but came to fan it and cause it to burn brighter. He will send judgment against that soul until he will awaken to his need. He will bear and suffer long with souls. "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22,23. Praise God for His great mercies!

Let us yield to God, and let us also have the same mercy in our hearts toward others as God has toward us. If we see a little fire in a person's life, let us fan it and cause it to burn. May we never be guilty of trying to put it out. Pour the oil of love upon it and never dash cold

water. Let us be workers with God and not against His plan.
—Sis. Marie Miles

The Anointing With the Holy Ghost

Just as Aaron was entering the office as high priest, he was anointed with oil. Lev. 8:12. This was God's divine recognition of him as His chosen high priest; and in this anointing he received heavenly authority to act in such capacity. As high priest, he was a beautiful type of Christ who has become our High Priest in the house of God. Aaron was anointed with the oil, but Christ was anointed from on high with the Holy Ghost immediately after He received water baptism at the hands of John, thus receiving recognition and authority from God His Father to fulfill the sacred and heavenly office of High Priest in the "greater and more perfect tabernacle" not made with human hands.

The duties of Aaron's office consisted chiefly in offering the sacrifices made by the people; sprinkling the blood; burning incense; and making reconciliation for the sins of the people. "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Acts 10:38. He came to bless humanity. His was a mission of mercy. Indeed, the time soon came that as Aaron offered bullocks and rams for the sins of the people, so Jesus offered Himself a sacrifice, not for the sins of His own nation alone, but also for the iniquities of the whole world. The anointing prepared Him for both service and sacrifice. It was God's seal upon Him.

Jesus as a man, as a minister, as a preacher, is our example. Just as He was finishing the work His Father gave Him to do He told His apostles—those He had previously ordained to carry this everlasting gospel—to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they should receive the promise of the Father, or "power from on high." This they did, and when the Holy Ghost was poured out, they were anointed with power to fulfill the commission received from their risen Master—"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." No earthly anti-Christian power was able to overthrow their faith, thwart their purpose, or defeat their plans and subdue or make void their divine authority. This anointing was the heavenly seal, the holy unction, the baptism of power, the illuminating fire that gave them authority over devils and diseases; clothed them with wisdom; helped them to understand and unfold the Scriptures; and made them witnesses to the world. All who receive this unction are conscious of it from the time of its inception.

Reader, do you know that God has anointed you with the Holy Ghost? Does this anointing abide in you, and teach you? There are counterfeits, but the genuine heavenly anointing will stand the Bible test and give you that boldness, firmness, holy positiveness, and wisdom that has characterized God's ministers in every age. And God will fight our battles. Every attempt of the adversary to ignore our authority and set at naught our counsel, He will overwhelmingly defeat.
—J. F.

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

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office now charges 25c to notify us of each change of address.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year\$.35
Single copy, three years\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year\$1.00

Write for prices on larger quantities.

Subscribe to "The Beautiful Way," a weekly six-page paper for children, edited by Mrs. Marie Miles and published quarterly. Suitable for use in primary and junior Sunday school classes.

Single set for one year (52 papers)80c

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.

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

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

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

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

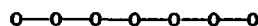
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

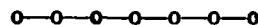
EDITORIALS



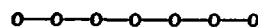
Near the close of the old year and at the dawn of the New Year of 1977, we extend hearty Christian greetings to all our readers, and wish for each of you a prosperous and happy New Year in the service of the Master. Knowing not what the future holds, we do know who holds the future. Our Lord has given the command to His servants, "Occupy till I come." Luke 19:13. This means that we must faithfully use the time, talents and gifts which He has bestowed to reach every creature with the gospel of Christ and to advance His kingdom until He returns to call each of us for an account of our stewardship. Knowing not the day nor the hour of His coming, we must be about our Father's business all the time.



This January issue is going to press and in the mail just prior to the beginning on December 24th of the 70th annual Oklahoma Assembly Meeting in Guthrie. A large attendance from many states is expected if the weather remains favorable, and we surely anticipate the presence and power of God in the preaching of His Word.



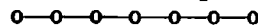
Though we were not able to make the special three-months' subscription offer this winter, we are indeed grateful to our readers for their good response in sending yearly subscriptions—three names for one year for \$1.00. This January issue will be going to a number of these new readers.



Again, it was the privilege of this writer and his wife, Maybelle, to attend the annual Assembly meeting at Hammond, La., during Thanksgiving week. Enroute to Hammond, we enjoyed a good visit with Bro. and Sister Lee Whitley at Marshall, Texas, who are longtime friends. Sister Whitley is able to get about the house, and we are looking to the Lord for her complete recovery. Also, we had a pleasant and encouraging visit with Sis. Mary Wells in Lecompte, La. Now in her 80's, Sister Wells has been a longtime reader and supporter of this paper.

The Hammond meeting was a real blessing from the Lord, and the saints and ministers, as well as the unsaved, attended from near and far. The convicting Spirit of God accompanied the preached Word, and a number of souls were saved. The saints were fed on the precious Word which brought strength and courage to our souls.

While attending the meeting, we enjoyed our stay in the home of our son Byron and his family who live near Loranger, La., just out of Hammond a few miles. They attend the services in Hammond where Bro. Bob Forbes is the pastor.



Now available are books in heavy paper binding of the eleven issues of the "Faith and Victory" paper for 1976 at \$1.00 each, plus 30 cents for postage and handling. Ready also are the 1976 "Beautiful Way" books for juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00

each, plus 30c for postage and handling. Bound books of various prior years are priced at 70c each, plus 30c for mailing.

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

Beautiful 1977 Wall Calendar with Scripture . . .

This 1977 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price, \$1.00 each, postpaid to your address.

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

New Song Book, "Echoes From Heaven" . . .

Just off the press is a new song book entitled, "Echoes From Heaven," consisting of 195 songs in shaped notes. About 180 of these songs are those from the old "Select Hymn" book that were not used in our standard song book, "Evening Light Songs," which was first published in 1949. This new collection is not designed or arranged for the general services of the Church, but merely as a supplemental song book from which songs may be selected for special singing. You will want a copy if you like the old-time songs of the Church of God Reformation. In heavy paper cover, the price is \$1.65, plus 35c for postage and handling. Order your copy today!

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

Bro. Ostis Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon, brought a message at the Guthrie chapel on Friday night, Nov. 19. Then he held a week's meeting at the Miles Chapel near Vinita, Okla., followed by several nights' meeting at Sapulpa, Okla. Bro. and Sister Wilson left Guthrie by train on Dec. 3rd on their return trip to Oregon. The saints in this area were surely blessed by their ministry.

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

Bro. and Sister Sam E. Abbott, ministers of the gospel for many years, have recently moved from Dayton, Ohio, to Pomona, Calif., to be near their daughter, Sister Alberta Cook, as neither one of them is well in body. Their new address is 1435 S. Towne Ave., Pomona, Calif. 91766.

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

In stock at this office are more than 350 different titles of gospel tracts to be sent free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. Where prices are quoted, they are at cost or below. Write for a FREE 4-ounce sample to read and pass on, or enclose in your letters. One gospel tract may result in the salvation of many souls.

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

Another shipment of 200 New Testaments in the Efik, Ilocano and English languages has been received to forward to Nigeria and the Philippine Islands for free distribution. May the Lord bless and reward those who contributed toward the purchase of these Testaments. Pray that the gospel seed will bring forth a hundredfold.

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

Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for 1977 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information, please send

in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1977, so we can publish the entire list in the March issue.

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting here at Guthrie, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, from May 27 to June 5, 1977. The date of the National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., is July 22 to 31, 1977. Watch for other dates in the March issue.

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

Reader Wants Out-of-print Book . . .

A reader desires to purchase the book, "From Infidelity to Christianity," by Willis M. Brown. If you have this book to sell, please advise this office of the price and condition of your copy.

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

Bro. O. C. Porter of Guthrie went by plane in December to Libya, North Africa, to visit his daughter, Anecia, her husband, Bro. Jim Wall, and their family. Bro. Wall is employed by an oil company.

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

Our co-worker, Sister Thelma Sprague, who had been faithfully assisting in the publishing work for some years, was not physically able to continue her services as cook and matron at the workers' residence home. In October, she moved to the apartment in Guthrie adjoining that of Sister Vera Forbes. Sister Sprague continues to help with our proof-reading and writes the primary lessons for the "Beautiful Way" paper, for which we are grateful. Sister Sprague's daughters, Linda Craddock and Mary Murphey, have taken over the cooking and serving of the noon meal for the workers, and their services unto the Lord are also much appreciated.

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

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to our beloved pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, and the entire Busbee family on the sudden departure on Nov. 29 of his oldest brother, Louis Busbee, aged 45, who lived in Texas. May our Father speak the special words of comfort at this time of their bereavement. Parents of the deceased are Ray and Thelma Busbee, Route 5, Box 132, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

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

Ever since its inception 53 years ago, this publication has had as its object: The glory of God and the salvation of mankind; the promulgation and restoration of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation in spirit from this sinful world and entire devotion to the service 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. This paper has continued to maintain the same standard of Bible truth which ushered in this "evening light" (Zech. 7:14) phase of the Church of God—in its original power, purity and simplicity. God still has a visible body of people who are walking in the "old paths" and the "good way." This spiritual Body of Christ—the Church of God—includes all who have been born

again and made new creatures in Christ. The experience of conversion or Bible salvation makes you a member on equal standing regardless of color, race, or national origin. The Apostle Peter said, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:34, 35. As we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another. (1 John 1:7).

Divine love in the heart is the bond which places and keeps God's people in unity and oneness, but where that supreme grace or fruit of the Spirit is lacking, or where one is walking back of light, eventually the fellowship of the Spirit is broken. This accounts for the multiplicity of sects, schisms, factions, and carnal divisions.

Yes, Jesus came to make a definite division (see Luke 12:51) in spirit and fellowship between saint and sinner, but nowhere in Holy Writ does He sanction division among His people. On the contrary, He repeatedly enjoins peace, harmony, and unity. Then in that last High Priestly prayer recorded in the 17th chapter of John, Jesus prayed for the oneness of His disciples. Listen, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; [that means believers today] **that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.**" Nothing is more damaging to the Christian witness to the world than the sin of division and the sowing of discord among God's people. Do we really want Jesus' last prayer to the Father answered in us? By our conduct, are we endeavoring to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"? You can be certain that the love and unity of God's people are the only witnesses that will convince the world. How effective are these witnesses today? The Psalmist exclaims: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

In this "evening time" of the gospel day God is calling His people out of "Babylon" into the visible Church of God, of which Christ is the Builder and Head. Hear the voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4. Read this same truth expressed by the song writer, D. S. Warner:

"Have you heard a voice from heaven,
Calling in a solemn tone,
'Come, my people, from confusion,
This is not your native home?'
"Yes, I heard, and to my vision,
Zion's glory brightly shone;
Then I rose and fled the ruin,
Taking not a Babel stone."

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

As the Lord delays His coming, let us redouble our efforts in this New Year to reach many more souls with the gospel message. Nothing else is more important in our lives and others while time shall last.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

OBITUARY

Alberta Frances Droke, daughter of John and Bessie King, was born October 28, 1904, in Pleasant Valley, east of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and departed this life December 10, 1976, at Okeene, Oklahoma, at the age of 72 years.

She was united in marriage to Louis Edwin Droke on March 21, 1923, in Kingfisher, Oklahoma, and to this union five children were born.

As a young woman she was saved, and was faithful until death. She was loved by everyone and had great faith in God. She was preceded in death by her husband.

She leaves to mourn her passing five children, Muriel A. Droke, Oklahoma City, Ok.; Odessa D. Johnson, San Bernardino, Ca.; Pearlene Nichols, Tempe, Arizona; Lillie Groves, Kansas City, Kansas; Frances Johnson, Hennessey, Ok.; one sister, three brothers, eighteen grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, and a host of relatives, saints, and friends.

Services were conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams assisted by Bro. Herman Kelly and Bro. Leslie Busbee.

HOFFMAN, OKLA., MEETING REPORT

We are very thankful to the Lord for blessing us here at Hoffman, Okla., in our recent revival meeting. The Word of God went forth under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. A number sought the Lord at the altar for soul and body. We certainly appreciate all the ministers from in and out-of-state and other gospel workers who helped in the battle.

—By Sis. Lorene Payne

ALL-DAY MEETING DATE CHANGE

The Myrtle, Mo., congregation would like to notify those in this area that the all-day meeting scheduled for the first Sunday in January has been postponed until the first Sunday in February, which will be Feb. 6. We invite everyone who can to come and be with us. The next all-day meeting in this area following the February meeting will be, Lord willing, the first Sunday in March at Senath, Missouri.

—Harlan Sorrell

PRAYER REQUESTS

N. Car.—"I am not well, and had to come live with my daughter and son-in-law until I am better, if it's the Lord's will. Please pray that the Lord will touch my body."

—Sis. P. R. Bowers (formerly of Ga.)

Okla.—"Remember my afflicted daughter and my loved ones in prayer."

—Sis. J. H. Ledbetter

Miss.—"Wife and I are not well in body. I want you dear ones there and elsewhere to please pray for us."

—Harold Griffin

Neb.—"Please pray that God will heal my body."

—Alice E. Britt

Canada—"My husband fell on ice . . . had concussion . . . still dizzy and needs prayer."

—Sis. Clare Smith

Mo.—"My daughter . . . [has a serious affliction] needs prayer . . . Pray for Ray's [her husband] eyes."

—Sis. Mamie Butcher

N. Car.—“God is my healer and the Lord has healed me of many things, . . . asthma, appendicitis, etc. I am writing for prayer for my body . . . I felt a little hard place [on her body] and it has been as painful as a boil and has broken. I believe the Lord will heal me.”

—Sis. Bunice Hope

Mo.—“Pray much for me . . . Last night I could hardly get out of bed. I have something wrong with the lower part of my back.”

—Sis. Minnie Boulden

Calif.—“I have been having trouble with colds, I need prayer.”

—Sis. Edith Reavis

Va.—“Please have special prayer for my healing. I have been trusting the Lord for this condition a long time. God has healed me many times. I have not gone to a doctor for a checkup, but I am still trusting and praying.”

—Edna L. Quarles

Illinois—“Please ask your church to pray for me. I’m not getting better physically. . . . My stomach bothers me, also have arthritis, and my right hand shakes a little.”

—Sis. Lillian Center

Pa.—“My daughter is in the hospital . . . thinks it is cancer . . . needs prayer for soul and body.”

—Sis. B. Crosswaite.

La.—“My ankle is getting worse. It looks like it will rise as it is real red, but I know God is my Healer. If God doesn’t heal, it won’t be healed.”

—Sis. Effie Miller

Calif.—“Still keep holding me up before the Lord for my eyes.”

—Sis. Ada Leach

Mo.—Remember Sis. Becky Barnes. She can eat but very little and is very weak.

Idaho—Remember Sis. Ruby Marken, as one of her eyes has failed her. She is expecting healing.

When the daughters of Jerusalem were weeping over Jesus, as He went to the cross, Jesus said to them, “Weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren.” Luke 23:28,29. So we are in the days of weeping for our loved ones, longing for their salvation.

Mothers and fathers are weeping before the Lord for their sons and daughters. Wives and husbands are weeping for each other as they watch their companions go deeper in sin and farther from God. Children are weeping for their parents as they see the devil little by little wrapping the chains of sin around them, dragging them farther and farther from God. How sad! Some once knew God and have turned away from Him. The devil was sly, making them think the way was too straight, if they would let up a little, they would find more happiness. Little by little, they were led away, deeper into sin and then the devil laughs at them when they want to get right by saying, “You have gone too far now.” How sad! Let us take warning that we do not fall into the same trap. But do be encouraged to pray on. God does have salvation for every soul.

God has healing for our bodies today. I had an experience recently which was a severe trial to me. Pains came into my left leg, in the ligaments or muscles, and it was pain with every step. I just kept going to the office every day and kept praying. One day I crippled into the telephone office to pay my phone bill and the girl who waited on me mentioned that I was limping. Since I knew her, we talked awhile. She told me that her husband had the same thing I had and the doctor told him it was the same as arthritis but was called ligamentitis, and he had had it for two years. That was a tool from the enemy to use on me. But by the grace of

God and faith in God’s healing power I didn’t intend to have this two years. After a week of suffering the Lord did touch me and I was free from it, with only some stiffness. Then one day I stepped on my heel, trying to miss a puddle of water, and the muscles in my leg popped and the pain started again. I had another battle, but kept praying. The Lord took it away, and then I had a pain under the knee cap. I had to call on God to take that away. The devil fought hard, saying that I was getting old now and should just expect this pain and not pray so hard about it. I didn’t accept that. He tried to hinder my faith in every way, but God gave the victory and healed me completely. It’s so wonderful to be able to walk without pain.

I thought about the man of faith and joy of years ago, named Billy Bray. He praised the Lord continually and for everything. He said that when he put one foot down it said, “Praise the Lord,” and then when he put the other foot down it said, “Amen!” That was just about the way I felt.

Dear ones, God has healing and it belongs to you, but you must hold on for it by faith. It will come. God never fails and He honors faith where He finds it.

—Sis. Marie Miles

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Nov. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the most precious name of Jesus, the great Creator who became our Saviour.

I am in receipt of your letter dated Nov. 1st and its enclosures were received with many thanks to God Almighty. He is our wonderful Father who knows the exact and daily needs of His children.

In a dispatch which preceded this reply is contained the report of my recent tour of the Church of God congregations outside Bendel State. The Port Harcourt congregation needs a permanent pastor. It’s a matter to be given top priority. Prayer has been directed to the Lord for His supply of a spiritually dependable worker to labor in His vineyard in this capital city of Rivers State. I shall be going back, Lord willing, in December to Port Harcourt and Tombia with a handful of saints to hold revival meetings for a week. Bro. Nse Umanah of Ikot Esen congregation in Cross River State is certain to join us in those efforts.

Utagba-Ogbe and Abbi congregations in Kwale District of Bendel State will hold Thanksgiving services on Dec. 5 and 19th, 1976, respectively. These services are largely attended. Unbelievers are expected to attend and be saved. The growth of these two congregations numerically and spiritually is encouraging. The Lord is bringing in the youth who are boldly carrying the good news of the gospel of Christ to those still dwelling in darkness.

(Excerpt from Bro. Enu’s letter dated Dec. 2nd: I am writing this to report with joy that I have received four packages of books from you, one of which contained seven Holy Bibles and some small pamphlets. I am sure that many more packages are in transit. With the help of these supplementary books to the Word of God, we shall by the guidance of the Holy Spirit dig deeper into the Word of God and be enriched wonderfully thereby. May God richly bless you and all contributors for your universal interest in the work and people of God.)

The work of God in Nigeria is given our entire attention, strength and weight. Not what we can gain, but

what we can do for the Lord now and in the future is uppermost in our mind.

Yours to make Christ known, —Titus Enu, pastor

(Editor's note: Let us be agreed in prayer with Bro. Enu that the present fund will be substantially increased so that a car or bus equipped with loudspeakers can be purchased for his use to carry the gospel more widely and quickly to the multitudes in Nigeria. Perishing souls are at stake today. Let us rush to the rescue by supplying this vehicle. Your free-will contributions may be sent to the Missionary Fund maintained at this office, specifying the purpose for which they are sent.)

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Nov. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the dear saints everywhere: We send our loving greetings to all of you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, in Whom is hidden the sources of temporal and spiritual blessings.

Many thanks for your good and encouraging letter dated Nov. 2, 1976, and the enclosures were noted with real, heartfelt gratitude.

Now we are preparing for our 11th annual camp-meeting at Karikkom which starts on Dec. 29th and continues through Jan. 2nd, 1977. I wish some saints from U. S. A. could participate in our meetings. We expect the salvation of many sinners and many blessings to the church this year. We look to the Lord to supply the temporal needs, such as food and lodging. Your valuable prayers are requested. We wish to conduct meetings in all local churches this year, Lord willing.

We had a very blessed all-day meeting at Karikkom yesterday (Nov. 14) and all the saints were encouraged much through the Word delivered by the pastors. May God reveal the truth to many who are in the nominal churches. Three pastors in the Church wish to get bicycles for the progress of the gospel work, for which prayer is requested.

There is a little progress in the building of my home, and I wish to get it completed before our campmeeting if God will supply the means. Our son Biju is suffering from measles, a disease among children. Please pray for his complete healing.

Our special prayers are for your complete healing, and for your good health in soul and body.

With love and prayers, yours in the Lord,

—John Varghese

OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, REPORT AND PROGRESS OF SPANISH LITERATURE

Dear ones: Greetings in the precious name of our blessed redeemer, Jesus Christ. Bro. Mayarino Escobar writes from Ojos Negros, Mexico, that many more come to services at one time than another, but that "faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Romans 10:17), and he intends by the grace of God to complete what God has sent him to do, that he may be unblameable before Him. They had been to the Valley of the Trinity and had service there. They desire our prayers that God will bless in raising up a new work in the center of the village. To quote, "I know that God will bless richly with

souls and I desire to re-double my efforts in the work here. Pray much for me to be a light and guide through God and that I can teach them the truth." All the brothers and sisters send greetings from Ojos Negros, La Huerta and Valle de la Trinidad. Pray much for all three places and this consecrated couple.

We have recently had some new orders for literature, Bibles, and hymn books, and desire that a visit can be made in the near future to these new places, to encourage and help raise up a work there. We plan, Lord willing, to see that each one receives all the new literature as it is printed. Pray for me. I also desire to be faithful to God until He calls me Home.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. and Sis. Mayarino Escobar, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa. Mexico, and Sis. Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Ejido Patzcuaro, B. C. Mexico (Nov. 29)—Dear Sister Marie: I trust that you are well and encouraged in the great work you are doing. We daily remember you folks there.

Last week Brother and Sister Robert Sherman and I made a trip over to Rosarito, Ensenada, Ojos Negros, and Valle de Trinidad. We had a lovely worthwhile trip. I feel encouraged about many things, and still disturbed and burdened for other things, but on the whole, we found the folks encouraged and with the usual battles against the enemy of their souls. We spent the night in Ojos Negros with the Escobar family. They are such a sweet couple and dedicated to God and His cause. We had such a precious time together talking of the good things of the Lord and sharing one another's burdens in the work of the Lord. Their baby is such a precious little darling. We talked of having meeting there sometime, maybe after the first of the year, and of the need of a meeting in the Valle de Trinidad, too. It is such an encouragement for outside ministers to come and the saints to give their testimonies of the goodness of God. We are praying that some ministers or saints would feel a burden to come and be with us here in Mexico. Even if they couldn't speak the language, there would be someone to translate for them. We all feel the burden for souls to be saved and those who are saved need to be encouraged.

On Thanksgiving week-end, Bro. Robert Sherman and Sister Mildred came to be with us, also Brother Cornel Montgomery who translated for them, and they were with us in three days of meeting. No one came to the altar, but we feel it was a great encouragement to all and feel that all the effort and sacrifice was not in vain.

I feel it would be good to mention to you that the chapel roof at Ojos Negros is completely ruined. When the bad winds and rains came this fall, it did a lot of damage by the roof leaking and ruining the inside of the building. Since the building is so big and the Escobar family are living by faith, working for God there, maybe someone or ones would feel concerned to help buy roofing for the building. If it isn't repaired soon, it might be ruined altogether. The rainy season is there now. At least, it is something more to pray about.

We thank you, and the saints for the offering you sent. We do appreciate it and ask the Lord to bless and

reward each one. We, in return, want to be faithful stewards and co-laborers with the Lord that all of us will receive the penny at the end of life's little day.

In Christian love, —Edith Lara

(Editor's note: If any reader feels impressed of the Lord to contribute funds to help put a new roof on the chapel at Ojos Negros, Mexico, you may send your free-will offering to the Missionary Fund at this office. It will be used for that purpose, and the Lord will bless and reward you. The cost of the composition shingles to cover the roof is roughly estimated at \$400.00. We trust that some of the saints near that chapel in southern California will feel led to volunteer their services to put the roof on.)

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Calif.—I don't know where I stand on my subscription. One thing for sure is that I don't want to miss my *[Faith and Victory]* paper. I read it from page one to the end and wish there were more. I get blessed by reading it. Enclosed is one dollar. Keep it coming!

—Bro. Orville E. Mayo

Ark.—Dear ones: I love the Lord with all my heart and I want to please Him. He has done, and is doing, so much for me.

"Casting all your care upon him: for he careth for you." 1 Peter 5:7. I am glad that little three letter word all is in that verse. That means everything, no matter what time of day or night it is. What a great Friend! I am thankful for "the peace that passeth all understanding" that He gives right in the midst of the storms of life. My desire is to be true to Him until the end.

We always remember you in prayer.

—Dub and Nellie Henderson

Ore.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love. We had a very good Assembly Meeting at Jefferson. It seemed it was better than usual . . . I got something impressive out of the messages that I shall not forget. . . .

Enclosed is a little offering. May God bless all of you! With love,

—Lucille Trimble

S. Car.—Dear saints: This leaves me with victory in my soul over all the snares of this world. Praise His holy Name! I want to live in this world just like Jesus wants me to live. I find in the Word of God we must live holy and clean before God to make heaven.

Brother Lawrence, I think of you a lot of times and the good work that you are doing for God. I pray much for you and the work there. Pray much for me.

—Eddie Driggers

Okla.—Dear Sirs: I would like an assortment of some good, soul-winning tracts. I was saved by reading some of your tracts 23 years ago, if the Lord spares me to see Feb. 21st. "Seven Sufferings in Hell" was the one that helped me to make up my mind which way I wanted to go. I haven't lost any of my determination.

—Vera Crawford

Ohio—I am writing a note of thanks to the saints, even those we haven't met, for the prayers they have

prayed for me and my family. I want to thank the congregation at Dayton for the many times they have prayed for us, and the patience they have had with us. We pray the Lord to bless all of them. Most of all, I thank God for the mercy He has had upon us. He has been merciful to us who deserve no mercy. He has changed things in our lives and I'm thankful.

—Sister Tressie Adkins

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Blessed be God for the gift of His only begotten Son who set aside the glory of heaven to come down to this sin-cursed world to seek and to save that which was lost! It is written that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Repent and ask forgiveness, then go and sin no more.

Oh, I love the Lord for all He has done for me in times past! I thank Him for supplying all my needs and a trip to heaven to be with Him in eternity. Glory to God forever and ever!

—Andrew Senti

Ga.—Thanks for the little paper. It means so much to us. We are 79 years of age and not able to go anywhere. I hope I won't miss getting the paper.

—Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sloan

Miss.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Sis. Miles and all workers there: I would like to express to you my appreciation for your faithfulness in your untiring efforts to get the gospel to all lost souls everywhere, the world over. May God give you health and strength and the means to carry on this great work until He says it is enough. Many precious souls, who are very near and dear to us, are out on the broad way drifting without hope. Our earnest prayers are ever before God that they will turn to the Lord before it is too late.

You will find my check enclosed. Please send the *Faith and Victory* to each of the enclosed addresses for three years, and use the balance as you see fit.

My one purpose in life is to live to please the Lord, and help all those along the way to be true to Him.

—Mrs. Olen Williamson

Texas—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I greet each one of you in Jesus' sweet name. We love all of you and pray often for each one. The desire of our heart is to hear that God has healed Bro. Lawrence. We surely thank and praise our mighty God for your healing. I surely would appreciate the prayers of the saints everywhere for our sister. She desires to go Home where there will be no sorrow and pain.

Only heaven will reveal the souls that have been helped and encouraged to press the battle on because of your faithful labors for souls. We surely thank God every day for the encouragement we get from the *Faith and Victory* paper. Oh, saints, it is just like getting a letter from home!

Remember us in your prayers.

Christian love,

—Verlene Williams

Mo.—Dear Brother Lawrence and Sister Maybelle: Greetings of Christian love in Jesus' precious name. We do appreciate the good work that you and your co-workers at the Print Shop are doing for the Lord. We are glad for the many souls who are being reached with the pure

gospel, and I also appreciate the encouragement that I personally receive from reading the good articles and testimonies in the *Faith and Victory* and also from the Sunday school quarterly. . . .

We feel the Lord gave us a very profitable meeting here at Neosho during the first week of December. We were blessed to have both Bro. Tom Melot and Bro. Kenneth Probst in this meeting. They were both used of the Lord to bring profitable and soul-stirring messages. I am sure the whole congregation was benefited by the same. There was some altar work done. . . .

May God bless, sustain, and comfort you in His love, and wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Your Brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

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

NOTICE

Sister Donna Cassell, who has lost most of her sight, desires a Christian lady to live in her home. Room and board would be furnished and a small salary. She lives a few miles from the Church of God chapel at Green Bank, W. Va. Write for details to Sis. Donna Cassell, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944.

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

Wash.—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name to all at the Print Shop and those who read the *Faith and Victory*.

We can have victory over sin with the Lord's help. A verse always comes to my mind. Psalms 37:4, "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." My daughter, Lela Ann, and I experienced this promise last year when we made a long distance move from Michigan to Washington. Truly, the dear Lord was good to us in giving us a safe trip with health and strength. My daughter and son-in-law had located a home for us here. When our belongings arrived, we could move into our home. The dear Lord has promised not to forsake nor leave us when we trust Him.

I also had the privilege of being at the Jefferson, Oregon, fall meeting for three days. I had a good time in the Lord. I also visited my sister, Helen White, there.

May the dear Lord bless all of you at the Print Shop, is my prayer. Thank you for praying for us. Remember my loved ones in prayer.

In Christian love, —Sis. Martha Ruhl

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints: Greetings in the holy name of Jesus, the One we love more than anything in this world. Praise God forever! Hope all is going well at the shop, and all are well and happy in the Lord.

I love the blessed Lord and the Church of God, who are the saints of God.

Wife and I are well for which we thank the blessed Lord. He takes good care of us.

Your Brother in the One Body, —Nathan Mobley

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

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Warm greetings of love in the name of our dear Jesus, that name that opens the door to the great storehouse of heaven for us. We are much encouraged in the Lord and often think of these words from the song, "Sheltered In The Arms of God." "He walks with me and naught of earth shall harm me, for I'm

sheltered in the arms of God." How blessed it is to feel those dear arms close around us when the storms of life are beating and the waves are billowing over us! As a child, I always loved the picture of the woman in the midst of the tempest-tossed sea, clinging to the "Rock of Ages." It made a very deep impression on my mind. Truly, we can cling to that everlasting Rock and know that no matter how fierce the waves beat upon us, we are safe as long as we do not let go of the Rock. Praise the Lord!

I was blessed by the following thoughts of Arthur T. Pierson: "He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver." Mal. 3:3. "Our Father, who seeks to perfect His saints in holiness, knows the value of the refiner's fire. It is with the most precious metals that the assayer takes the most pains, and subjects them to the hot fire, because such fires melt the metal, and only the molten mass releases its alloy or takes perfectly its new form in the mold. The old refiner never leaves his crucible, but sits down by it, lest there should be one excessive degree of heat to mar the metal. But as soon as he skims from the surface the last of the dross, and sees his own face reflected, he puts out the fire." Isn't that precious?

We received the books, the record, and your good letter which have all been a real blessing and inspiration to us. We thank the Phillips family for using their talent for the Lord. Thank you for taking time to write to us. We know how very busy you are and it will soon be time for the Guthrie Assembly Meeting. . . . We thank you and the saints for your concern and prayers for us. God is so merciful and relieves much of the suffering from time to time. Sometimes we marvel at His great goodness to us. It cost God everything He had to buy our redemption. He suffered for us, so we gladly suffer for Him until He sees fit to release us from these afflictions.

—Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

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

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' name! Trust this finds you dear ones feeling well and happy, and much encouraged in the Lord.

Pray for the Lord to give us the strength in body that we need very much to carry on in the work of the Lord. He is precious to us and is our only hope!

We don't know yet, how it will be about us coming to the Guthrie Assembly Meeting. Wife can't travel much because of her heart condition, but I trust to be able to come. I'm going to Grubbs, Ark., for tonight's service and to Senath, Mo., for a few nights. Hoping to have strength to go to Bro. Fox's in Kentucky, for the week-end.

Pray for us as we do for you. We trust the Lord is blessing you in soul and body.

Christian love,

—Murphy Allen

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

Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Sis. Miles and co-workers: I'm thankful to still be saved, sanctified, and in the battle for God. Thankful also for how the Lord continues to prosper me, making me able to do a small part in getting the true gospel out.

This past week-end (Dec. 11 and 12) some of us from Wichita, Ks., Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Guthrie, Okla., were enabled to go to Dallas, Texas, where we participated in a short series of special services for the benefit of two newly-converted young couples. Sis. Doris Hardman has recently moved there, and now has rented a house (a former duplex) for use as a church building in which to

have services with these new saints, and in hopes of attracting others also. Sis. Katherine Williams of Oklahoma City is also helping there. Let us pray the Lord to prosper this work, these souls, and move on the hearts of others to help as well. Do pray that the Lord will continue to help me that I may help in some measure there.

Please continue to pray for my estranged companion for her salvation.

In Christian love,

—Terry Poe

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ohio—Dear Sis. Marie: This letter leaves me praising God with my whole heart, soul, mind, and strength for the way God has worked things out in my life, for the way He is lifting the burdens and working for the good of all concerned. All glory to His holy Name! Surely all things do work together for good to them that love the Lord. Romans 8:28. I have been compelled to go a mile; and by the help and grace of God I am endeavoring to go the second mile. I want to live right down in the dust of humility, and just turn all over to God completely. "God's way is best; heart cease thy struggling to see and know and understand." The prayer of my heart and the cry of my hungry soul is "Deeper, deeper in the love of Jesus, daily let me grow. Draw me closer, closer, dear Lord, to Thee." For the closer I walk to Him the sweeter it seems.

Thank you and the entire staff very much for your prayers and all who prayed with me. May the Lord repay you a hundredfold, is my prayer. My prayers are for you there at Faith Publishing House every day. I am also earnestly praying for the coming Oklahoma Assembly meeting at Guthrie, that God will richly bless in every service, and just take complete control in everything that is said and done; that His holy Name will be glorified in a special way.

When you think of me, remember me to the Lord in prayer. I feel very small and unimportant, but appreciate everyone's prayers so much. Remember my unsaved family in prayer, that they will be saved before it is too late.

—Sis. Sadie Stamm

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: The Lord has been very good to me in these perilous times. I have been sick for two or three years; every year I get worse. This year I didn't think I would be able to keep up my housework, as I live alone, but I prayed and the Lord blessed me to do my own housework, even blessed me to make my own garden. Many times this year I thought I would not live to see another day. When the pains were not very bad and I could stay in bed, I would just lay there and pray. Sometimes, I would have to get up and sit in a chair, still calling on God for help. He would always come to my rescue and touch my body. At times, I thought the Lord was coming after me. Bro. and Sis. Herman Kelly stood by to hold me up before the Lord. They would often ask me if I had it all in the hands of the Lord. I would always say, "Lord, if you are ready for me, I am ready to go." Sis. Kelly would always say, "The Lord is not ready to take you, Auntie." They would anoint and pray for me. The Lord would always heal my body. I thank the Lord for my pastor and his wife. I am praying for them every day, not

only Bro. and Sis. Kelly, but for all of God's true ministers. I am serving a great God. He is not going to let me suffer more than I can bear. I am 84 years old. The Lord has brought me through some very bad sicknesses and troubles.

Continue to pray for my eyes. They are very bad at times, but the Lord blesses me to see to do my cooking and housework. I am all on the altar for the Lord. I am trusting Him for soul and body.

—Sis. Della Harris

Kansas—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I'm much encouraged in my soul, as another year is almost to a close and we can look back over it and reflect on what was accomplished for God. I feel I learned many things and advanced some in spiritual things, and found the pathway getting brighter all the time. I can also see where mistakes were made, but I am learning more to let my failures prove a blessing to me. I have no desire to turn back, and I know that by God's grace I can keep going on and win my crown at the end of the way.

As the New Year approaches we realize it brings us closer to eternity. We don't know how much time is left, but it behooves all people to awaken and turn to God if they aren't saved, or to draw closer to Him if they are saved. Sin is waxing worse and worse, but we can rejoice because there is a plentiful amount of grace at our disposal. I am saved and have a refuge and hiding place in God.

I pray that the Lord will continue to bless each one of you engaged in the Lord's printing work. May the holiday season be blessed and may each of you continue to prosper in your souls.

Christian love,

—Shirley Knight

Ga.—Dear Sis. Marie: In the letter of Dec. 3, 1974, I had asked the prayers of the saints concerning the Lord causing my mailbox to be moved one-half mile nearer. God touched the hearts of the officials and they moved my mailbox closer. Thank God! You'll never know how I rejoiced and gave Him the glory.

My health is very poor. I do ask the prayers of the saints that God will touch my body with His healing power, if it be His will. I'll be 73 the 27th of Feb., 1977. I want to grasp faith as I never have before. God has healed me down through the years. Truly I know Him, yet the devil brings doubts sometimes, but the power of God is able to rebuke that evil spirit and help me to look up, grasp, and hold on without a doubt. I want to trust and never doubt. God will never leave, nor forsake us.

May God's choice blessings be upon all of you at the Print Shop.

—Sis. Mary Dorsey

Ore.—Dear saints: The dear Lord is still blessing me in my old age (I will be eighty-six in June). He is so precious to me and I still have a desire to work for the Lord. I thank the Lord He has said in His Word that the old could bear fruit for Him.

As some of you know, I have been here with the saints in Jefferson, Ore., since 1960. God has been with me, yet all has not been without trials and problems, but as we prayed and looked to the Lord He would give victory, for which we do thank Him. I do thank the Lord that today I know He does all things well. Yes, "All things work together for good" to them who love the Lord. Job

speaks in Job 29:18 that he was happy in his nest, and he was content to abide in this nest, but God saw fit to stir his nest. This hurt him, but it worked out for Job's good. We read in Psa. 66 where God tried and proved the Psalmist, "as silver is tried" (verse 10). He also was in a net, and "Thou [God] hast caused men to ride over our heads" (verse 12), "but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place." Thank God for the wealthy place. We all can have it if we stay true to God. Yes, when God stirred my nest He taught me to fly. We can read in Deut. 32:11 about the eagle stirring up its nest to teach the little ones to fly. Dear ones, is God stirring your nest? Lift up your heads. God has something better for you. He does all things well. We may not understand why things happen as they do, but as long as we stay true, and our faith is steadfast, God will cause us to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock. Yes, God has taught me some things in the last few years; He will have a place for any that will be humble, and let the Lord work in their lives. Yes, I am old, but thank God for the strength He giveth and a desire to still be busy for Him.

God gave this verse when I was in need of spiritual comfort: "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." Heb. 6:10. Yes, thank the dear Lord, I am still able by His grace to minister unto the saints. I also thank the Lord for Bro. and Sister Ostis Wilson. God is blessing the work here. They can and do much more than I could ever do. They have their car and can go and visit the ones who are in need. Yes, the dear Lord does all things well.

In October, I went by bus to Tacoma, Wash., to visit Sister Violet Thomas. I was a little weary, having had but little to eat and thought how nice it would be to be in Sister's home for a good meal. She did not know my thoughts, so she said, "We are close to where Beulah is, shall we go visit her? Also later, go to the hospital and see Sis. Branham." The Lord gave me strength. We went to see Beulah who is in a welfare home, had a visit, read, and prayed with her, then on to the hospital to see Sis. Branham. She had been in an accident, had both legs broken below the knee and other bruises. She was very happy to see us. Then we stopped at another home to visit, and got to Sis. Violet's home about 6 p.m., as well as I can recall. Sis. Thomas is busy for the Lord. She has her Sunday school class in her home, and Bible study each Monday in the home of one of her daughter's-in-law. The dear Lord did bless us in our different visits.

I went on up to Seattle, Wash., to visit some of my loved ones and got back home in Jefferson in time for our Assembly Meeting. It was a precious meeting. Much good was done, for which we thank the Lord, and for the sweet fellowship of the saints.

The desire of our heart is to press on in this holy way. As we think of all the ones we visited, we can see that the harvest is ripe and the laborers are few. Let us pray the Lord to stir hearts to go and labor for Him.

We now say, as our beloved Brother Paul, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts. 20:32. May God bless you, and pray for me as we do for you.

Your Sister in the One Body, —Beatrice Spaur

Okla.—Dear saints: I can't thank the Lord enough for all He is to me. Truly God is an all-knowing and mighty God.

I wish to thank God before man for His help and strength. Bro. Ostis Wilson held a meeting here and the Lord used him wonderfully. The Word of God was rich to all who were able to hear. The Lord used this time to prepare me for the trial I was to pass through afterwards. The Lord richly blessed me with the understanding that there would be a battle, and He prepared me for it with the Scripture in I Cor. 10:13. I never would have been able to come through the trial without His help. Praise God!

The Scripture in Rom. 8:28 came to me, and I can see that through this trial I am closer to God, and even more dependent upon Him than I was before. I know that God is faithful and will teach us His more perfect way if we will but let Him.

Yours in the Lord, —Bro. Kenny P. Farris
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: This leaves me still saved and on my way to heaven. I mean by God's grace to keep on the firing line until He calls me from labor to reward. Please pray that the Lord will use me to His glory.

I am sending some money to print tracts, and help get them to lost ones at this time. That seems to be my burden now.
—W. E. Bramlett

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' name. We want to thank all of you for your prayers in Ray's [my husband] behalf. We surely do appreciate God's love. I can never thank Him enough for the miracle He has worked in my husband's life. He is saved and wants to do the Lord's will in everything. We still need prayer, and especially for Ray's eyes. He has double vision, which makes it very difficult for him to read. He has read the tracts that I have and he has been reading some in the Bible.

Will you please have special prayer for our daughter, Joyce Hall. She has chronic lymphocytic leukemia.

Christian love, —Ray and Mamie Butcher
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Tenn.—Dear Sis. Marie: Trust all are well at the Faith Publishing House. I pray daily for all your labors to glorify God, and to advance His cause. The tracts you sent are very uplifting. I enjoy your letters. May the Lord continue to bless each one of you.

I am very happy to tell you that my brother got saved. I do appreciate all of your prayers for my loved ones.

—Mary Williamson
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, Sis. Marie, and all the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

I want everyone everywhere to know what a great God our God is, even to the healing of serious conditions in the body. I have had a most active year with a very busy six weeks in Honduras, the islands off Honduras, and being in a number of our campmeetings this summer. I drove alone to the Jefferson, Oregon, meeting and to the Fresno, Calif., meeting; visiting some in southern California before returning to Shawnee. Before I went to Honduras I was suffering some with high blood pressure. God would help me when prayer was offered in my

behalf, and I went on to Honduras. God gave me some wonderful experiences and spiritual blessings while there. By the time our campmeeting season was over, I found myself very tired and nervous, and my blood pressure was up again. I started to watch my diet, continued in prayer, and went along for a few weeks. But still things were not right in my body. Over a month ago the blood pressure went up so high that I thought my head would burst. I was in a desperate condition, and in response to anointing and prayer, God immediately touched my head. The impression I had was that God had broken the power intended to cripple or take my life. I asked the Lord to show me what and where the trouble was. After several days, as I lay on my bed, the thought came to me to go to a chiropractor and see if I had pinched nerves that were causing the trouble. The chiropractor wouldn't do anything without x-rays first. What he found was a shock to me, but it explained the nerves and the blood pressure. He found four discs broken down in my upper back (spine) which were causing blood and nerve spasms in my chest and head. He told me he could help me with adjustments, but there wasn't any remedy nor cure for the discs. I discounted taking the treatments, as this was something of which there would be no end. I knew that surgery was possible with everything that goes with it, but that was not for me, as God had delivered me from the doctor and medicine. I also knew that God has never changed; He is still in the healing business. It seemed like my whole life was a shipwreck. I knew I couldn't stand the condition in my body very long. I had one of three ways to take, as two of the ways I had already dismissed.

One night friends came to see me, and before they left, I was anointed and prayed for, and I put my whole case into God's hands. I did what God wanted me to do. I humbled myself under the mighty hand of God, then God was able to give grace to me. No one but God will ever know what suffering was involved before I came to the end of the test. There were not many who even knew of the affliction. I kept right on with the morning worship here in the Home, and my other duties. God's grace alone brought me through. In the great suffering I found myself uninjured. A critical spirit was taken out, and God filled me with such compassion for others that I never dreamed possible. I didn't realize how short I was until the fire was put on. I could see no other lesson in this particular affliction, so I started resisting the devil, and calling on God for deliverance. I believed I was ready for healing.

Then I asked the Lord for the next step, and he said, "Confess your faults." From the time I received the Scripture, my faith was steady for my healing. The next night was prayer meeting, and I told the lessons I had learned. I didn't find it hard to confess. What blessed relief when we do what God wants us to do and the lesson is learned! The next night five of us went to Sapulpa, for the last night of the meeting Bro. Ostis Wilson was holding. After the service I again told of my experience and the good that came from it. I was anointed and prayed for, and God healed me. Praise His wonderful Name! I appreciated the message that night taken from James 4:6-10, as it was the pattern God led me to follow for my healing.

With this affliction it seemed like every hope and desire for service in Africa vanished. But God has

restored me and made me whole, and with the healing and the lessons learned, Africa is even brighter before me than before. Pray with me concerning a dwelling place there, so that my going will not be delayed any longer than necessary.

Yours in His service,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—Dear ones: I thank the Lord for His many blessings to me. I attended the last week-end services of the Hammond, La., Assembly Meeting, and each message was rich and encouraging.

I know there have been times I've failed the Lord, but I do love Him, and desire to please Him with my life. I also want to be an encouragement to others in living a Christian life. It is my prayer that God will bless and strengthen His people.

In Christian love,

—Sandra Whitson

Giving Thanks

Do you say table grace, giving thanks to God before you eat? Have you taken time to thank someone who has been very kind to you in some way? Have you thanked God for your family, your friends, and your country? Do you stop to thank God for the pretty green grass, the flowers, the trees, and the beautiful streams of water? Do you thank God daily for your good health, that you can see, hear, talk, and walk? Do you know that God wants us to give thanks for everything?

Paul gave thanks as recorded in Acts 27:35, "And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat." Jesus gave thanks in Mark 6:41, "And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all." Mark 14:22-23, "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it." Colossians 3:17, "And 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." I Thess. 5:18, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Tim. 4:4,5, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving. For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." I Tim. 2:1, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men." Psalms 95:2, "Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms." Psalms 100:4, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalms 106:1, "Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." So we see the Lord wants us to give thanks always.

I want to thank and praise God today for saving my soul. When I called upon God with all my heart for mercy, He forgave me and put into my heart a new song. I now love the things I once hated, and I now hate the things I once loved. All praise be to God! I also want to thank each one who has prayed for me. —Sis. Pearlene Whitson

"Therefore Be Ye Also Ready!"

Thinking of these last days we are living in, brings a seriousness upon our heart. It gives me a heavy burden for those who are lost, and those who are not as dedicated to the Lord as they should be.

According to God's Word we surely are living in the last of the last days! Of a truth, we are not able to pinpoint the year, month, day, nor hour, but those who are living close to the Lord can feel the nearness of His coming pressing in closer. It puts a stir in my heart to obey Jesus' command when He said in Matt. 24:42, 44, "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. **Therefore be ye also ready:** for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh."

We are living in a day when there are so many things to attract our minds and draw our souls away from thinking on the things of God and eternal life. I find we have to put forth a desperate effort to live in close communion with the Lord. The Word tells us to strive to enter in. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . . Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering." Heb. 10:22,23. "For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul." Heb. 10:37-39. "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of hope firm unto the end." Heb. 3:6. Paul told Timothy to "watch thou in all things, endure affliction." II Tim. 4:5. So we surely need to do much watching and praying to be able to defeat the enemy of our souls.

David said in Ps. 18:17-19, "He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me. They prevented me in the day of my calamity: but the Lord was my stay. He brought me forth also into a large place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me." Verses 21-24, "For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all his judgments were before me, and I did not put away his statutes from me. I was also upright before him, and I kept myself from mine iniquity. Therefore hath the Lord recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight."

It behooves us to take the opportunity God gives us to serve Him. Too many take it lightly and neglect their privileges. It is a wonderful privilege to serve such a mighty, faithful God, One to love and reverence. Ps. 89:6-8, "For who in the heaven can be compared unto the Lord? . . . God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee?" Verses 14-16, "Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted." Luke 1:50, "And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation."

Our daily prayer is for those who know not God, and those who at one time were saved and are back in sin today, that they will think seriously. What an awful thing it will be for them to put off salvation too long! God's mercy is yet extended, but we really don't know for how long.

The peace of God and His love in our hearts passeth all understanding, and all that the world could ever offer. It is wonderful just to know all is well with our soul should our time come to die, or if the Lord should appear in the sky before another day. Prov. 8:18-21, "Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures." Prov. 8:35,36, "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."

Deut. 32:28,29, "For they are a nation void of counsel, neither is there any understanding in them. O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!"

Jesus will save all who will turn from sin and come to Him. We speak these things because we love you and your precious soul. Jesus said in John 5:34, "But these things I say, that ye might be saved." When the end comes and the judgment is set, it will be too late to persuade souls to turn toward God. I'm not one to persuade, or to try pushing anyone against his will in anything, but the sad part is that you who reject God will some day regret that you never accepted the opportunity while it was offered to you.

Time is running out, dear ones! Just think about it! It makes me think of someone who is wanting to make a trip to some special place and must get his ticket to be able to make the trip. He decides he has time to spend, so he goes browsing around, forgetting the time. Suddenly his means of transportation comes rushing in. He is too far away and has no time to purchase the ticket, so he is left and misses his chance. In this sort of thing you may have another chance, but not so with your soul, dear ones!

Jeremiah 8:20, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Oh, what a sad, sad thing! Nothing can be sadder than to be ETERNALLY LOST! Haggai 1:7, "Thus saith the Lord of hosts; CONSIDER YOUR WAYS." —Natalie Allen

Your Friend

Dear Friend: I just had to send a note to tell you how much I love you and care about you. I saw you yesterday as you were walking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you. And I waited. But you never came. It hurt me, but I still love you because I am your friend.

I saw you fall asleep last night and I longed to touch your brow. So, I spilled moonlight on your pillow and your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so that we could talk. I have so many gifts for you. But you awakened

late the next day and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

Today you looked so sad, so all alone. It makes my heart ache because I understand. My friends let me down and hurt me so many times, too. But I love you. Oh, if you would only listen to me. I really love you. I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quiet green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colors of the flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature's scents. My love for you is deeper than the oceans and bigger than the biggest want or need in your heart.

If you only knew how much I want to help you. I want you to meet my Father. He wants to help you, too. My Father is that way, you know. Just call me, ask me, talk with me. Please, please, don't forget me. I have so much to share with you. But, I won't hassle you any further. You are free to call me. It's up to you. I'll wait because I love you.

Your friend,

—Jesus

Christian Perfection

Christian perfection is looked upon by some as an impossibility in this life; but when we turn to the Word of God and see the many plain texts upon the subject, it must become evident to every candid mind that it is in the plan of redemption that every child of God should attain to it. It would not be according to the nature of divine grace to require of us anything we could not do. No reasonable earthly parent would demand an impossibility of a child, and it is certain our heavenly Father would not command us to be "perfect even as he is perfect" unless he has provided abundant grace to bring us up to this blessed experience. According to our own power or ability we could never reach such an exalted plane, for it is not within the power of man to change his depraved nature, and every self-effort to reach a state of perfection is but vain. But God is able to make all grace abound and as an all-wise Father He has made it possible that we should be perfect.

Had God commanded us to be perfect in knowledge, wisdom, judgment, or in anything else in an absolute sense, we would be forced to the conclusion that God has either required an impossibility of us or it is not for us to attain in this life and therefore belongs only to the resurrected state. But we can clearly see the nature of His requirements and that they are all within the limits of His grace toward us in this life.

When Jesus commanded us to be perfect (Matt. 5:48) we can quite easily comprehend His meaning when we notice in the few preceding verses that we should be perfect in love, even to the extent that we should love our enemies, that we may indeed be the children of our Father which is in heaven. The children of this world love those that love them. It is an easy matter and quite natural to do this. But to love our enemies is very contrary to the depraved nature; unless there has been the cleansing wrought within, there will be some inward consciousness of hatred toward those who despitely use and persecute us. The high standard of righteousness which Jesus teaches here and throughout this chapter is

the standard of sanctification. The love of God must be perfected in us, which destroys every element of the old nature, of which hatred is a prominent characteristic.

The first and great commandment, both of the old and new dispensation, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart," etc., is also a standard too high to be attained perfectly without the experience of entire sanctification. It was not possible then that it could be kept perfectly, for there was no provision then made to destroy the power of, and cleanse the heart from inbred depravity. The blood of those sacrifices could do no more than sanctify "to the purifying of the flesh." The inward condition of the heart could not be changed. Thus we see clearly that this commandment could not be kept in the New Testament sense of perfect love. Now, the blood of Jesus, which He shed on the cross that He might sanctify and cleanse our hearts, can make us holy. When the heart has realized the power of this cleansing and the love of God "shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost," we can, in deed and in truth, love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Praise God for His wonderful love to us! He furnishes the love with which to love Him. If we but give Him our hearts He will furnish all the rest. He wants an empty, clean vessel into which to pour His love, that it may be manifested in this dark and sinful world.

Oh, that every Child of God could see the imperative need of an absolute consecration and then cheerfully and voluntarily meet the conditions of the same, so that God could fill each heart with love, and cause each one to know what it means to love God with all our heart. As long as our affections are divided between God and anything else, our love is not perfect and until the regenerate heart has made the Scriptural consecration, there will be a divided condition of the affections. The obedient regenerate heart dwells in God, and thus is taught of God the necessity of the perfect consecration, which, when fully complied with, enables the perfect cleansing to become affected. The Apostle John says, "Herein is our love made perfect," and "his love is perfected in us."

No one can ever be fully satisfied in this redemption life until this second work of grace is accomplished in the heart. Justification brings us into the blessed kingdom of God's love. Sanctification perfects His love in us. This second grace enables us to realize not only the meaning of perfect love, but we also comprehend the glorious fact that God has wrought in us perfect purity and holiness. This implies our being perfect in God's will, and because we have yielded our will completely to Him. Every disposition of our will which sought its own way is now in perfect conformity with His and as Jesus could say in Gethsemane, "Thy will be done," which meant death on Calvary to Him, so we have said the same to God with a vivid consciousness that once for all it meant death to us. It has required the perfect will of Jesus to obtain this grace of sanctification for us, and it now requires our perfect will to receive it from Him. Here is where we can stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Another beautiful characteristic of sanctification is perfect unity. One of the most striking features of the religious world today is division among those who profess to believe in and follow Christ. There is no greater evil existing than this. Men have made creeds and sects and

have persuaded the people to join them, until the disgusting spectacle of division is seen everywhere, and the non-professing world is amazed at the sickening sight. Hireling preachers are pleading for their respective denominations, and while many honest children of God are dissatisfied with this sad state of affairs, they are taught from the pulpit that God made these divisions and it is the duty of every Christian to join and support them. But such is not the will of God; He has designed that His people should all be one, and in His prayer (John 17) Jesus expresses the extent of this unity. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us." This certainly implies a wonderful and perfect unity. Many sect advocates cry, "Impossible! impossible! God's people cannot be one." But the whole theme of Jesus' prayer is unity. As we carefully read this prayer we can readily perceive the divine method to affect this unity. It is plain and simple: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is 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." Then in Heb. 2:11 we see again that this is God's plan—"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one."

This grace not only brings us into a perfect inward unity with Jesus Himself, but it just as truly brings us all into a perfect inward unity with each other. Divisions, sects, and factions are productions of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21) and not of the Spirit. Sanctification destroys all the flesh and extracts the very root itself and renders divisions impossible. Every sect yoke is destroyed because of the anointing. Isa. 10:27. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to affect this unity is with God and with each other. Every human effort to accomplish this must necessarily end in failure. There are many efforts today to affect a union among Christians, but union is not Scriptural unity. Union of sects is far from the Scriptural unity of believers. A union consists upon a human basis and may consist of a union of sects, or a union of individuals, without any conditions of spirituality whatever, each individual or body retaining its distinctive and separate division. Scriptural unity is based upon the inner-wrought grace of sanctification, where everything non-spiritual is entirely destroyed and the Holy Spirit has the right-of-way in every respect according to the perfect will of God.

It is only as we are thus perfected in this grace that the prayer of Jesus will be fully answered and His people lose every vestige of division. No sanctified heart can remain loyal to anything that separates the people of God. All sect holiness is below the Bible standard, for it upholds that which sanctification destroys. This is a far-reaching assertion, but in the light of God's Word it is true. Many have lost this experience by listening to the perverted teachings of false shepherds and remaining in sectism. God says the "anointing" breaks and destroys the yoke, and no sect yoke will ever again fit on the neck of a sanctified person, if such remains loyal to the Holy Spirit. Praise God! He alone can affect perfect unity in us, by His divine process—sanctification. Then by the careful adherence to the teachings of God's Word, this beautiful apostolic unity can be maintained and demonstrated among men, and the prayer of Jesus further answered, "That the world may believe that thou hast sent me."

The difference between present and future perfection. In his letter to the church at Philippi, the Apostle speaks of a perfection in the future, which, unless understood, may confuse some minds upon this subject. In Phil. 3:12 he writes, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." Here it sounds as though perfection is not attainable in this life, but if we notice the language of the context we can clearly see that he is speaking of the resurrection of the dead, verse 11. It is the resurrection perfection that he here has reference to, which cannot be attained in this life. We must wait with the Apostle until this "mortality shall be swallowed up of life," before we reach a state of absolute perfection, and with him, "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." But in verse 15 he says, "Let us, therefore, as many as be perfect be thus minded," showing that there is a present perfection which he, with others, has already attained. This is the experience which is the will of God for us all to enjoy. For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.

Dear reader, have you attained it, or are you yet living beneath your blood-bought privilege? "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Heb. 13:20,21.

—J. W. Byers

I'M THANKFUL FOR MY NEIGHBORS

I have roses for my neighbor,
And they're not without perfume,
But I know he cannot smell them
When he lies within the tomb,
Neither can he see their beauty,
Nor enjoy their tints of gold,
If I wait to give them to him
When he lies so still and cold.
So I'm going to take an armful,
With a gladiolus spray,
And a poppy and snapdragon,
And I'm going on my way.
Right down the path that leads me
Unto my neighbor's gate,
And tell him how I love him,
Before it is too late.
I'll tell him, too, I'm thankful—
Oh, how thankful we should be—
For such kind and loving neighbors,
As my neighbors are to me.
For they seem to be so ready,
And so quick to understand,
When I'm in a tight and need someone
To lend a helping hand.
So with all the other blessings
That the Lord gives me to share,
I thank Him for my neighbors,
And include them in my prayers.

—Ulysses Phillips