

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Path of Understanding



There is a path divine and sure,
And follow it we must,
If we would gain a hope secure
Beyond our lives of dust:

The path of understanding true
Of knowledge wise and free;
The shining way to live and do
As God would have us be.

Man born in darkness enters in
And finds the world around
By error cursed and stained with sin
Where sorrow does abound.

To pick and find his way amid
Confusion, strife, and wrong;
To know the right so often hid,
He ponders in the throng.

Oft in despair he launches forth
In careless, dark pursuit
Of pleasure, pride, and mortal worth
Like those of fellow-brute.

But for the hungry, thirsty soul
Who craves a higher plane,
This path of wisdom's sweet control
Finds easy access gain.

For in the gospel's light of love
Through Christ, the Saviour's grace
The wisdom coming from above
Reveals the Father's face.

The knowledge of His holy will
Sweet counsel doth provide:
A treasure all the heart to fill
And prove a constant guide.

Thus understanding proves to be
A constant need below—
Far, far above earth's vanity
And all that it can show.

—Leslie Busbee

Taking the Proper Perspective



Regardless of who we are, or what station in life we may hold, as long as we are in this world we are going to have problems. Some may look at others, evaluate their life with all of its surroundings, and think, "If I were in their place, things for me would be different." If we were to change places with that person, we would find they, too, have their problems.

One time a soldier complained about the captain of one part of an army because he got to ride a horse. The captain, upon hearing this complaint, told the soldier that he would change places with him for awhile. The soldier quickly mounted the horse that had been dismounted by the captain. They continued on their journey. As they rounded a bend in the road, a shot rang out. The soldier on the horse fell to the ground. He got the point without being told that being on a horse made him a target, of which the captain had been well aware. He had taken a wrong perspective of the place of the captain.

It is important that we take a right perspective of the Christian life. *Perspective* means "the relationship of the parts of a whole, regarded from a particular standpoint or point in time." Those who are filled with the Spirit and are in close contact with God will look at what they face in life in this manner.

Let us think of Job who experienced deep pain and distress. Notice what he said, "But he [God] knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. He was looking at things from the right perspective. He didn't look at one part of his sufferings, but he looked at the "relationship of the parts of the whole." He regarded them from God's standpoint and the Word of God. First, he recognized who was the Author of his sufferings. "He [God] knoweth the way that I take: when he [God] hath tried me." He saw God in all of his sufferings and distress. Surely, he was wise, and we need to be wise, too, disregarding the secondary causes of our troubles and see behind them the loving hand of God. Many times we say that, "This person did this to me, that thing caused it; if this had not happened, things would be different," etc. But Job said, "He [God] hath tried me."

Second, we notice that Job looked past his trials, distress, and pain and saw the end of them. He said,

"When he [God] hath tried me, I shall come forth." Faith in God is firm and strong. He recognized that he was just the Lord's vessel. God could use him in anyway He chose. If he could be of better use to God by suffering, then Job was willing for that to be. If through his sufferings, others could be blessed, that was God's business and not his. He had the right perspective. He saw the end of it and on God's terms and at God's time. Faith assured him that he would not stay in that state forever, but there was deliverance for him.

Third, and finally, Job knew that a spiritual blessing was associated with his troubles. There was a need for a purging and a cleansing of some dross from his life, so he declares, "I shall come forth as gold." Praise God! Can we declare this while in the depths of sorrow? Do we have the right perspective or are our sights too low? Let us rise from despair and see God—see Him as a Deliverer, as a Purger, and as the One who guides our life. It will make the load lighter, the sorrow less, and the problems will take on a different perspective.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Freedom From Worldliness

This is simply another division of the subject of sin, for worldliness is sin. However, there are some special thoughts that I wish to present under this heading.

Since sin in its various forms has become universal, surrounding us on all sides, as real as nature itself, the Bible writers often refer to it as "the world." This includes not only the grosser forms of sin, but all manner of disobedience to God of whatsoever nature or extent. God's people must be free from all these things. Paul says to the brethren who had been quickened in Christ, "In time past ye walked according to the course of this world" (Eph. 2:2). But Christ "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world" (Gal. 1:4).

That our separation from the world in this sense is to be real, is shown by the words of Christ, "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you" (John 15:19). Reader, bear in mind that if you take your stand for God and for the whole truth of His Word, determined to be free from all worldliness, there will be a real separation in spirit and in life between you and the worldly-minded. You will even have opposition. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12).

This experience was truly realized by the first disciples, for we have the testimony of Jesus Himself that they were free from the world. He said of them in prayer to the Father: "I have given them thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. *They are not of the world even as I am not of the world*" (John 17:14-16).

To us this means that everything which partakes of the spirit and nature of the world must be forsaken—worldly sentiments, worldly associations, worldly ambitions, worldly amusements, and worldly dress—everything that is not in strict harmony with the plain teaching

of God's Word. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, *is not of the Father, but is of the world*. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (I John 2:15-17).

Worldly Amusements

According to the principles of truth already laid down, it is evident that the holy people of God cannot go to and participate in those amusements whose direct object is to cater to the spirit of foolishness, vanity, and sin. At the present day Satan is seeking by this means to draw the hearts of the people everywhere into the deeper ways of sin, thus causing them to forget God. Especially is this true respecting the young. How many are the forms of worldly amusement that have been devised and that serve this purpose!—shows, festivals, races of various kinds, card-parties, prize fights, theaters, etc. These things "are not of the Father, but are of the world"; no true child of God can indulge in such things without loss to his spirituality and, if the indulgence is continued, the final loss of his soul. "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (II Tim. 2:22).

The Christian must live a life of prayer and devotion to God. By this means his spirit is refreshed from day to day, and he thus obtains conquering grace for trials and temptations. This life of devotion cannot exist where the spirit of worldliness is allowed sway. Those who attend worldly amusements do not feel a burden for secret prayer and devotion, and they have little or no active interest in the salvation of souls; while, on the other hand, those who are spiritual and live in prayer before God, *have no desire for such amusements*. They are dead to the world and its pleasures. Of them, Jesus can say, "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."

Worldly Dress

But the Word of God comes even closer and lays down certain rules concerning the Christian's dress. The command of the Word is, "Glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Cor. 6:20). We must "be holy both in body and in spirit" (I Cor. 7:34). If we have holy, humble hearts, hearts free from vanity and pride, then our outward lives must in every way be consistent with the inward condition. Now, when people's hearts are full of the "pride of life," how do they manifest it? By proud actions and by worldly dress. They seek to adorn themselves with gold, pearls, diamonds, rubies, and costly array; until the beholder views a dazzling display of earrings, finger-rings, bracelets, lockets, and other ornaments; not to mention an immense amount of other costly, useless, and foolish array. What does the Word of God say on this subject?

"Whose adorning *let it not be* that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel: but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price" (I Pet. 3:3, 4). Yet how many professing Christians totally disregard the plain teaching of the Word on this point, and dress in all the pride and fashion of this world!

In the Scriptures just given, the apostle Peter forbids the wearing of that outward adornment which is suggested by pride; but the apostle Paul goes a step further and shows how Christian women must be dressed. He says, "In like manner also that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (1 Tim. 2:9, 10). They must be arrayed in "*modest apparel* . . . not with gold, or pearls, or costly array." These articles of adornment, then, are not modest apparel. The wearing of them is prompted, not by feelings of humility and modesty, but by pride in the heart. It is plain from this Scripture that such things do not "*become women professing godliness*." Reader, are you a woman "*professing godliness*"? Are you adorned with these things? If so, then they do not "*become your profession*," and you are not arrayed in "*modest apparel*."

"Modest apparel" requires a dress that is clean and neat, so as not to become immodest, through the failure to measure up to ordinary standards of decency; but, on the other hand, it is dress that is free from useless, worldly trimmings and accompaniments, from ostentation and show. Earrings, finger-rings, necklaces, lockets, bracelets, feathers, artificial flowers, and many other like things, are not of the Father, but are of the world, when it comes to the matter of the Christian's dress. "BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD," the Word of God rings out (Rom. 12:2), and all the pure and holy in heart are ready to say amen.

These principles apply with equal force to the male sex. The foolish, vain, and immodest styles and fashions to which the worldly-minded cater are an abomination in the sight of God and in the sight of His redeemed saints. Do not deceive yourself, reader, in the belief that you can continue to wear things which the Word of God forbids, and still be a spiritual person, filled with the grace of God. It is impossible. God's children are to be "*obedient children*," not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance" (1 Pet. 1:14).

How often we meet professing Christians who are living in open violation of this part of the Bible, and who, when we mention the fact to them, are ready to excuse themselves, saying, "Oh, these things are not in my heart!" Well, if they are not in the heart, then why are they carried about on the person? When we enter the city and see a display-sign outside of a store, we naturally expect to find the goods thus advertised kept in stock in that store. Now, we know that proud people manifest their pride in their dress. If you are humble in heart, free from this worldly abomination, and do not wish to be mistaken for a proud person, then *take down the sign*. If you think these things are not in your heart, then it will be a very easy matter for you to prove it by obeying God's Word and removing them from your person. When you undertake to do this, however, you may find, as thousands of others have found, that the love of such things goes deeper than you have ever imagined. Your teeth may rest so easily in your mouth that you seldom think of them; but when the dentist attempts to remove one, you become painfully aware of the fact that it has long roots and draws hard. Similarly you may be so accustomed to wearing worldly adornments that they seem perfectly natural and easy, so that you are deceived into thinking

that they are all on the outside; but when you attempt to obey God's Word and discard them, you will find that they are rooted in your affections and reach down deep into the soul. But Jesus says, "If a man love me, *he will keep my words*" (John 14:23). "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

The Positive Side

Nor is holy life to be judged solely by a negative standard—by what we put off of sin and worldliness. There is a positive side. When we die to the world, we "put on Christ." Then we can say with the apostle Paul, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Our whole desire is to manifest Christ to the world. Being "risen with Christ," we "seek those things which are above" (Col. 3:1). We "put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (verse 12). The graces of the Spirit implanted within find outward expression in "the fruit of the Spirit," which is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Gal. 5:22, 23). Our aim in life is to have always a conscience void of offense toward God and toward man. Even in this we do not allow the voice of conscience alone to dictate in matters of religious faith, but we render loving and willing obedience to all the commandments of our Lord and require our conscience to come into line with what the Word plainly says. Thus our lives are free and happy, and are made a blessing to all around us.

Oh, how much it means to serve God "without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life" (Luke 1:75)!

—F. G. Smith

From *What the Bible Teaches*, 1913 edition

MIND THE LITTLE THINGS

Take care of the pennies and the dimes, and you will have the dollars. A pin scratch has caused the death of folks. If you begin to think a thing is too small to be given attention, you are entering a dangerous path. Little bricks build a great house, and little sins make a great sinner. You can put more love in doing little things than in great things. There is less danger of self being in doing the little things than in doing great things. By guarding against every little evil and fault, and faithfully doing every little good thing possible, you can build up a beautiful holy life. Guard your thoughts and words. Lift up your soul to God many times a day. Keep the Lord set before your face. Spend your spare moments on your knees in a sweet little talk with Jesus.

—C. E. Orr

"Parents who are 'soft' and permissive, rear confused, insecure children. Even though children do not like it, parents should give them a rule to go by. If they wander away from it, they know where to go to get back. This gives them a secure feeling. Parents' rules should be based upon the Bible, fairness, order, and love."

Anything less than perfect dependence upon God is a denial of Him.

—C. E. Orr

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

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

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

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

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

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EDITORIALS



Victory Is Our Watchword . . .

These are times when the enemy of all righteousness is endeavoring to "wear out the saints of the most High" by every conceivable means. The devil is turned loose for a little season, but we have the assurance that "greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world," and the promise of final victory is to those who endure unto the end. If we put on the whole armour of God, hold up the shield of faith and wield the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, there is no defeat. Victory is our watchword. Thank the Lord!



The devil has deceived the nations, and now he is compassing "the camp of the saints" in this great spiritual conflict—the Battle of Armageddon—truth versus error. Deception is one of Satan's greatest weapons in his diabolical attacks against the saints and the truth. There seems to be no end to the false doctrines which he propagates. One of the latest deceptions is the denial that the tabernacle of Moses was a type or shadow of the New Testament church. The Hebrew writer exposes this heresy when he writes of "the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; . . ." Heb. 9:24. While Moses was in the Mount forty days, God gave him the detailed plan for building the tabernacle, and then strictly charged Moses, "See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount." Heb. 8:5. The reason for this strict command was that it was to be a type or symbolic figure of the "true tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man," that is, the New Testament Church which Jesus built and said the gates of hell shall never prevail against it.

"No feature of the Mosaic tabernacle is more prominent than the two divisions of it—the holy and the most holy place. This twofold aspect is seen, not only in the two rooms, but also in the first and second veil admitting to them respectively; in the two altars, the brazen altar before the first veil and the golden altar before the second veil; and in the two applications of blood, the first on the brazen altar and the second on the golden altar. Something of very fundamental importance must surely be foreshadowed by this oft-repeated double aspect in type.

"Some interpreters have understood this second room of the Mosaic tabernacle to represent heaven. They get this idea from the statement in Heb. 9:24, where Christ is said to have entered, not into the holy places in the literal tabernacle, 'but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.' It should be noted, however, in interpreting this verse, that the analogy is not being drawn here between places merely, but especially between the service of the high priest's entering into God's presence in that ancient house to intercede for the people and Jesus' entering into God's presence in heaven to make intercession for sinners. The presence of God is the es-

sential thing, the place is merely incidental. For all others than the high priest, 'the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing.' (Heb. 9:8). Even he could enter only on the day of atonement, once each year, in the capacity of intercessor for the people. Therefore his intercession there was typical of Christ's intercession before God in heaven. But as a type of Christian experience, or in relation to the common priests, it represents a state of grace that may be obtained in this life, according to Heb. 10:19. A second reason why the holiest place is not a proper type of heaven is that a literal place can not be a type of a literal place even though that place be heaven. The laws of symbols forbid this. A place more appropriately typifies a spiritual state. A third reason is that in this 24th verse of Hebrews nine, the holiest place is not mentioned, but the 'holy places,' including the entire house, both the holy and the holiest place. But the scriptures already prove that the tabernacle was typical of the church, the house of God, 'whose house are we.' (Heb. 3:6). (See also Heb. 8:2; 9:11; 1 Cor. 12:27; 1 Tim. 3:15). A fourth and very positive reason is that in Hebrews 10:19-22. 'Brethren' are urged to enter the holiest, which would be meaningless if used of heaven, which is not entered voluntarily—we can only will to be ready, and we already are prepared when we are 'brethren.'"

New Location in Dallas, Texas . . .

The saints in the Dallas, Tex., area have changed the location of their church services, and the new address is 134 Hasting St., Irving, Texas 75060. Bro. Richard Porter has also moved to 780 B S. Carroll St., Grapevine, Texas 76051. Services are held each Sunday at this new location.

Congratulations to Bro. Andrew Senti of Minneapolis, Minn., who writes: "I just passed my 90th birthday on Jan. 16, 1977, and I am feeling fine. Praise the Lord!" For many years Bro. Senti has been passing out gospel tracts in the city of Minneapolis, and no doubt souls will be in heaven as a result of his faithful efforts.

Several thousand tracts in the Ilocano language have been printed and mailed to the Philippine Islands for free distribution. The native missionaries in the Philippines also appreciate the Ilocano language New Testaments and Bibles that were sent to them recently for distribution, as well as the offerings sent for their support in the gospel work. Bro. Florencio Granil is praying the Lord to supply him a vehicle for transportation in order to expand God's kingdom in his country. Let us agree in prayer for this urgent need, for which a fund has already been started in the Missionary Fund at this office.

Best wishes for John Samons and Rosalie Johnston who were united in marriage on Feb. 5, 1977, at Myrtle, Mo. The vows were solemnized by the

bridegroom's father, Bro. Mart Samons of W. Va. Rosalie is a former worker here at the Lord's Printshop. May the Lord bless this couple with a long life together in His service.

Just off the press is a reprint edition, including additional pages, of the book, "Life's Story and Healings," by Sister Nellie Poulos. Out of print for a number of years, the book has been requested many times. This volume consists of 160 pages in a paper binding. The price is \$1.25 each, plus 35c for postage and handling. **Order your copy today!**

In her 86th year, Sister Poulos has spent a long life in the service of the Lord. At present she is very weak and frail in body, and is being cared for in the home of Bro. and Sister Alton Stubblefield in Enid, Okla. Pray for her and all those who are so kindly caring for her. The reprinting of this book is the fulfillment of a great desire that she has had for a number of years. Sister Poulos financed the cost of printing a portion of this reprint edition, and kindly requested that the proceeds from the sales be used to publish more gospel literature.

Now in stock is the 496-page, cloth-bound book entitled, "The Birth of a Reformation — Life and Labors of D. S. Warner" by A. L. Byers. The price is \$5.00 per copy, plus 50c for postage and handling.

Last year the Church in Oklahoma purchased land at the south edge of Guthrie on which to relocate the State campmeeting and local services out of the flood area. Under pressure from the City of Guthrie because the land was too close to the municipal airport runway, the church sold it to the city, and now we are in the process of clearing the title and closing the deal. Back to the point where we started, we are now in search of a suitable site or location. Please pray that the Lord will help us find the location of His choice.

The outlook on world conditions is not good and is getting worse, but the uplook is always bright and encouraging. This world is not our home; we are traveling through for the first and last time. Feelings and attitudes are affected by the direction we look. Jesus warned: "And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

In observing the actions of the saints for over fifty years, this writer has discovered that sometimes the devil uses good saints, unbeknown to them, to hinder God's cause by word and deed. Evidently, the hindrance results from a lack of knowledge of Satan's devices or a lack of submission to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord help us all not to be ignorant of Satan's devices.

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.

For a number of years, some of the saints of the Guthrie congregation have been meeting together in prayer and fasting at the chapel during the noon hour on every Wednesday. Earnest petitions have ascended to the throne of grace in behalf of the many urgent requests for prayer that came in, and God has answered according to His infinite wisdom. We heartily recommend that other congregations everywhere join us in an agreement of prayer on each Wednesday at their chapels for the many needs of precious souls, the urgent prayer requests from the saints, and for the work of God in general. Prayer and faith are the keys to victory, and in unity there is strength. The Word exhorts: "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." The Lord commands us to watch and pray always. Let us all be in an agreement of fervent prayer and present a solid front against the devil who is drawing his battle lines tighter against "the camp of the saints."

This March issue marks the beginning of the 55th year of publication. All praise and honor unto the Lord for His protecting and sustaining hand over the years. After the experiences of God's gracious dealings of the past, we are in this second half century with a stronger faith in God's omnipotent hand to care for His own.

As "workers together" with our Lord and Master in His great cause, let us be faithful at our post of duty until the final summons. —L. D. Pruitt

Campmeeting Dates for 1977

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1977, and more complete announcements of each will be made in later issues:—

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Oklahoma—May 27 to June 5.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 3 to 12.

Jefferson, Oregon—June 10 to 19.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 10 to 19.

Green Bank, W. Virginia—June 10 to 19.

Hammond, Louisiana—June 25 to July 3.

Oakland, California—June 24 to July 3.

Akron, Ohio—July 1 to 10.

Muncie, Indiana—July 8 to 17.

Fresno, California—July 8 to 17.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo.—July 22 to 31.

Myrtle, Missouri—Aug. 3 to 10.

Bakersfield, California—Aug. 5 to 14.

Blackford, Kentucky—August 12 to 17.

Boley, Oklahoma—Aug. 19 to 28.

OBITUARIES

Elmer Dexter Glidewell was born Oct. 23, 1904 at Morrow, Arkansas, and departed this life Jan. 14, 1977, at Stayton, Oregon, at the age of 72 years, 2 months, and 21 days.

On Dec. 21, 1926, he was united in marriage to Mabel Lee Holman in Los Angeles, California. To this union six children were born, two of whom preceded him in death.

He first came in contact with the Evening Light Saints in Arkansas where W. M. Wilson was holding services and preaching the Evening Light Reformation truth. He was saved quite a number of years ago. He worshipped in the Church of God congregation at Jefferson, Oregon, and was quite regular in attendance until failing health made it impossible for him to attend services regularly. He will be much missed from our midst. His pastor visited him on Wednesday before he died on Friday and questioned him as to whether there was anything existing in his life which would not be acceptable to the Lord and if he were conscious of anything standing between him and the Lord. His answer was, "Not one thing that I know of." That is comforting now that he is gone from us and so soon after that conversation.

He and Sister Glidewell celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1976, just three weeks and two days before his death.

He is survived by his wife, Mabel, of the home; two daughters, Mrs. Wilma Shelton and Mrs. Carlene Nollen, both of Stayton, Oregon; two sons, Lee and Ralph, both of Aumsville, Oregon; two sisters, Eva Myers of Oklahoma City, Okla. and Della Gathers of Meridian, Okla.; one brother, Earl Glidewell of Hermiston, Oregon; nine grandchildren, many friends and saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Charles Elwell and Ostis B. Wilson at the Waddle Funeral Home Chapel in Stayton, Oregon, with interment in the Lone Oak Cemetery of Stayton, Oregon. —O. B. Wilson

Note of Thanks

Dear saints: I express my thanks and appreciation for the prayers, lovely flowers, cards, and offerings of love during the sickness and loss of my beloved husband. Also, for the prayers and cards received while he was convalescing from his fractured leg. He suffered quite a lot, but the Lord came to our rescue many times, for which we give Him all the praise. I surely miss him after 50 years together, and I was very glad we observed our golden anniversary. Please pray for me that I will do God's will at all times.

Christian love, —Sis. Mabel Glidewell

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Kelley Michelle Eddens, daughter of John H. and Mary E. (Kelley) Eddens, was born in Oklahoma City, Okla., on July 6, 1970, and as a lovely flower was picked by the Heavenly Father on Jan. 26, 1977, to live in heaven with Him.

She was an active member of the Church of God, participating in Sunday school and Bible school.

Survivors to cherish her memory include her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Eddens; one sister, Mary D'Lene; two brothers, John Patrick and Michael Anthony, all of

the home; maternal grandparents, Elder and Mrs. Herman D. Kelley; paternal grandparents, Elder and Mrs. Myrle E. Eddens, many other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Mackey Francisco, assisted by others. Interment was in Hillcrest Memory Gardens, Okla. City.

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Lula Bell Latham Casey was born July 12, 1897, and passed away Jan. 28, 1977 at Ft. Smith, Ark. She is survived by one daughter, Avon Smith, of Ft. Smith, Ark., and one son, Alton Casey, of Nacogdoches, Texas. She left four grandsons, two granddaughters, and six great grandchildren. She left two sisters, Ida Worthom and Verlene Williams, both of Cushing, Texas, a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral service was conducted at the Douglass Church on Jan. 30, 1977, with interment in the Douglass Cemetery.

Note of Thanks

We do appreciate the love of the saints toward us, and their prayers in our behalf. We miss her, but must say "amen" to God's will. We know she doesn't have to suffer those awful pains as she did here. I surely do want to please God in all things and be ready to go at God's call. Remember us in your prayer.

—Verlene Williams and the Casey family

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NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Calif.—Dear saints and readers: I take this means to express my thanks and appreciation for the beautiful cards and offerings that were sent to me in observance of my 90th birthday which was on Feb. 6, 1977, and my prayer is that the good Lord will ever bless and reward each and every one of you according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. I humbly ask that you continually pray for me that the few remaining days of my stay here on earth may be spent and lived to the glory and honor of God.

Yours in the love of God, —Ulysses Phillips

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ENID, OKLA., SINGING AND ALL-DAY MEETING

There will be, Lord willing, a gospel singing on Saturday night, March 26, and all-day meeting on Sunday, March 27, at the Church of God chapel, corner of N. Independence and Hemlock Streets, in Enid, Okla. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services.

Everyone is also invited to attend our regular all-day meetings on the 4th Sunday of each month.

For further information you may contact Brother John R. Sisk, 1605 S. Adams, Enid, Okla. 73701, phone (405) 234-6250, or Bro. L. D. Chrisman, 2019 W. Main, Enid, Okla. 73701, phone (405) 234-5948.

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SPRING MEETING AT WICHITA, KANSAS

The spring meeting of the Church of God at Wichita, Kansas, will be held, Lord willing, from March 25, to April 3, 1977. We are looking to the Lord to send the ministers of His choice.

Please pray that souls will be convicted and convinced to yield to God during this meeting. All who feel burdened of the Lord, please come and help us in the

battle. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kan. 67219, phone (316) 264-8481. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash Street.

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LOS ANGELES SPRING MEETING

The annual spring meeting of the Church of God at Los Angeles, Calif., will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Friday night, April 1st, and continue nightly through April 10th, Easter Sunday. There will be 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. services on Saturday, April 2nd and 9th. The chapel is located on the corner of Naomi and Walnut Streets in Los Angeles, phone 213-746-9474. All are welcome. Come praying.

For further information, contact our pastor, Bro. Mackey Francisco, 2129 Stocker St., Pomona, Calif. 91767, phone 714-629-9177, or Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85th St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90044, phone 213-752-1135.

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SPRING MEETING IN OKLAHOMA CITY

The annual spring meeting at the Church of God chapel, 800 N. E. Third St., Okla. City, Okla., will be held April 8th through April 17th, 1977, if the Lord wills. Bro. E. J. Trotter of Fresno, Calif., will be in these services.

All are welcome and urged to attend. Pray that God will richly bless in this meeting. We desire souls to be blessed according to their need.

For further information, phone (405) 427-7314.

—Bro. Herman Kelley, pastor

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SPRING MEETING IN BOLEY, OKLA.

The Boley, Okla., spring meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, from April 24 through May 1, 1977 at the chapel located on North Oak Street, in Boley, Okla.

Everyone is invited to come that we may assemble ourselves together in worship, "and so much the more as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25. Let everyone pray that each service will be led by the Holy Spirit.

For more information contact the pastor, Sister Katherine Williams, 905 NE 15th St., Oklahoma City, Okla. 73104, phone 405-235-2270, or Sis. Ora Spears, Rt. 1, Boley, Okla. 74829, phone 918-667-3376.

—Ethel Brown

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SONG RECORD BY LOFTIS SISTERS

A long play album record of 13 songs by the Loftis sisters of Prattville, Ark., may be obtained by sending \$5.50 directly to Lynn Carver, 836 Drexel Drive, Shreveport, La. 71106. Any profits realized will be given to the Church of God. The saints will enjoy and receive a blessing by listening to their singing.

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If you are not showing to the world around you that there is something better than wealth, honor, position, earthly pleasure, and the good opinions and praise of men, you are not showing forth the life of Christ.

—C. E. Orr

PRAYER REQUESTS



W. Va.—Pray for Miss Edna Norris who had a serious fall on the ice. She is trusting the Lord for healing.”

—D. J. Kroker

S. Car.—“My wife is mending but very little, and is still bedfast . . . Pray for her.” —Howard Boulden

Ore.—“Pray for Rilla, my niece who lived with Husband and me as our own daughter. She wrote that she had a bad disc in her back, and a pulled sciatic nerve in her left limb. She can’t walk, but is supposed to lie in bed with a pillow under her knees and a board under her. This is very painful. Do pray for her.”

—Sis. Beatrice Spaur

Miss.—Do remember Sis. Lowery, as the trouble in her head is at times almost unbearable.

Mich.—Remember Sis. Floyd Hines. She is very sick.

Ky.—Remember Sis. Curtis Williams in prayer. She has a very serious affliction. She is unable to retain her food and is very nervous and weak. Her trust is firmly in the Lord. Ruth, their daughter has also been very sick.

Ark.—A drunk man was beating up two of his small sons. Another son, who was older, couldn’t stand it, so he hit his father and knocked him down. As he fell, he hit his head on the bed. The man is going to be blind. I guess you know how sorry the son feels that did it. Oh, what awful and bad things happen to people and their loved ones who have this sin in their home! It brings so much heartache and trouble. . . . Please pray for this family. We all need your prayers and the Lord very much.

—Mrs. F. S. Hepler

Sis. Florence Knoll of Wisc., has serious injuries, and Bro. Angus Flynn of La., had a heart attack. Pray for them.

Ala.—“Remember our daughter, as she has muscle spasms.”

—Leora Frink

La.—“My daughter, Betty, has had a nervous breakdown. Remember her in prayer.”

—Sis. Rubye Quave

W. Va.—Continue to remember Sis. Shirley Carpenter. She still needs healing.

God is still on His throne to heal, to work out problems and to answer prayer. We are thankful for how God has been working in various ways. Continue to pray on with faith. I also would like for the saints to pray for my unsaved husband. I long for him to be saved. He was brought up in a Christian home and taught the ways of God, but he needs salvation. I have with tears begged God for his salvation, and will continue to pray, and I am humbly asking for your prayers. I know God will never save anyone against his will. It is for “whosoever will,” but I want God to talk to him in a way that he will be willing to give God his heart and want to make heaven his home.

—Sis. Marie Miles

God’s Law in Man’s Mind and Heart

“I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts.” (Hebrews 8:10). To live holy lives we must have God’s Word in both mind and heart. The same hand that writes it in the heart also writes it in the mind. Studying the Bible is good, but not sufficient. We must have written in the mind by the Holy Spirit what we read in the book or it will profit us little or nothing. The Holy Spirit never writes God’s law in the mind except He writes them in the heart also. When written in the heart, man obeys.

—C. E. Orr

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Ones: Greetings in the precious name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We want to thank each one who had a part in helping or contributing to the roofing of the chapel in Ojos Negros, Mexico. May the Lord richly bless each one.

Bro. Escobar writes from Ojos Negros: “Sister Chuy’s house was almost completely destroyed by fire, starting in the mattress, and burning the two quilts also. They have no explanation of the way it started. I was just ready to go and visit them when someone told me it was burning. I gave them two quilts from our campmeeting supply and will replace them later. They have been very faithful to come to services and listen to the Word of God, as you know. We are visiting all the families of the congregation. They all send their greetings. One husband is now coming to services when he isn’t working, which is a blessing. The Lord is helping us a lot in the work here. We have distributed tracts to those in La Huerta and as far as into the mountains (about 50 to 80 miles), and go to the Valley for service each Tuesday. We need to have patience and to be encouraged in all. I plan, Lord willing, to go see my parents, preach the Word of God to them, and take much literature to distribute. I am yet praying about it, for I want God’s approval on it.

“Thanks to the Lord for making a way to put a new roof on the chapel. Sis. Edith Lara came with the group and Bro. Robert Sherman who put it on. We had two good services here that Saturday and Sunday. The chapel was almost full and the Lord blessed. We lack very little of getting all finished, some being the few pieces of sheet-rock not yet put on the ceiling.

“The Lord blessed us to be able to put license plates on the pickup, also buy an insulated camper so more of us can go to the campmeeting in Patzcuaro for the week prior to Resurrection Day. We are planning, Lord willing, to visit Sisters Amparo and Catalina soon [two sisters who have moved away]. We have new lumber to re-build the brush arbor [campmeeting dining-hall] which almost fell when we had a high wind. Let us all exchange prayers.”

How wonderfully God is blessing for the printing and distribution of literature in Mexico and to Spanish-speaking people! This last month He has led us in distributing 780 copies of the book, *The Church of God*, by D. S. Warner. He blessed in the printing of it in Odessa, Texas, on my trip there and back, also several thousand tracts which were brought back at the same time. With several thousand printed here at the Faith Publishing House, the Lord helped us to mail out about 30,000. We trust that each will fall into the hands of honest-hearted people and will help them to find Bible salvation.

The need of armor for gospel workers led us to begin sending literature exposing false doctrines by zerox copy. May the Lord bless each one who has helped and contributed toward getting all this literature out. Pray much for the workers on the field and for us here, that we will be able to continue sending supplies to those on the front lines.

Yours in Him,

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



Taken Jan. 2, 1977, the last day of the general campmeeting at Karikkom, South India. Bro. John Varghese, the pastor, stands in the front row with dark trousers.

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Jan. 18)—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt, the saints at the Print Shop and everywhere: Greetings to all of you in this new year in the precious name of Jesus Christ, the Captain of our salvation and the Author and Finisher of our faith. Thank the Lord that we are still traveling on the train of triumphant victory over the world, the flesh and the devil.

Thank you very much for your encouraging letter and the enclosures which were noted with real heartfelt gratitude.

Our general campmeeting at Karikkom was very successful, and more profitable than the previous years' meetings. The prayers of the saints here and there were the reason for the good results from beginning to end. A large crowd was in every night service, and all received abundant spiritual blessings. Anointed messages were sent from heaven with great power. Many souls were saved and nine of them were baptized on the last day of the meeting. God was faithful to supply our temporal needs of the meeting also. Enclosed is the picture of a few saints and workers attending the day service.

The new work at Vilengara is advancing, and your prayers are essential to supply the needs to spread the gospel in that heathen village. They need a convenient place to assemble for worship.

Also, last week we started another new work in the town of Chalakudy, a Catholic center. One of our pastors moved to that town and now they assemble in a rented building for worship. Next week we will conduct a meeting there for four days. May God open the eyes and

hearts of many Catholics to the Bible truths as a result of our labors there.

The new chapel at Kalayapuram will be open for services in February. Lord willing, we plan to also conduct meetings at Thevalappuram, Avoor, and Vilengara in February and March. Yes, we pledge to go into several new villages with the gospel this year.

Dear ones, Lord willing, I wish to participate in your campmeetings in the U.S.A. this summer. If possible, I wish to come with my wife. May the Lord open the way for it and the fund for the tickets, etc. I hope the saints will pray for the fulfilling of our wish. Our new home is almost ready to move into, and we are thankful to all the dear ones who prayed and helped for that purpose.

As we were busy with our general campmeeting, we could not print our magazine, *Evening Light*, for Jan., 1977.

Bro. Lawrence, we earnestly pray for your complete healing. The grace and strength of God must prevail.

With love and prayers,

—John Varghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Jan. 26)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the holy name of Jesus, our precious Lord and King of glory. Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your letter dated January 3, 1977, with enclosures, which safely came to hand on January 17. Much touring gave rise to delay in delivery of postal items addressed to me. "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." John 9:4. The purpose for which it is intended is praiseworthy. Nothing else is more important than the

salvation of souls. We appreciate the desire of the saints to aid us in spreading the gospel to many more hungry souls in this country. Their reward will be from the Father Almighty. Soon shall they see Him as He is, beholding the brightness of His face throughout eternity.

I was at Abbi congregation from January 15th through 17th, and from there to Utagba-Ogbe congregation to put things in order in Jesus' name. Members of business meeting for the current year have been appointed. Membership of Prayer Warriors of both congregations was also looked into and adjustment was carried out as led in the Spirit.

Evangelism has been heightened. Bro. Francis Ugbea is charged with the responsibility of outdoor evangelization of Kwale District. Right now, four sisters, namely, Helen Enu, Regina Ukah, Queen Ojeh and Esther Samuel are away at a village called Emu-Ebendo for open air evangelistic meetings and house to house personal witnessing lasting for three days. Helen, age 16, who has just graduated from high school, is the daughter of this writer. The four are fearless, powerful preachers, noteworthy for holy living and spiritual dependability.

Your letter dated December 23, with an enclosure of *Faith and Victory* paper of January issue, was duly received. Three packages of books, two of which contain three Chain Reference Bibles for preachers' use, came to hand safely. Thanks to the Lord for the safe arrival of these items.

Bro. Ben O. Adesoro, who got my address from you, wrote from Auchi in this same Bendel State, Nigeria, to indicate the intention of his congregation, functioning under the name of the Church of God, to work closely with us. A group of the same fold at Uromi town is holding the same opinion. Every effort will be made to get to them. "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me." Isa. 6:8. Our chief need, as of now, is a car to reach these hungry souls. We thank the Lord for the steady increase in the car fund opened at the Print Shop. All should note that the entire amount of \$1700.83 realized for that purpose while I was in the United States was handed over to Bro. Lawrence Pruitt to keep until it increases to meet the cost of a car before remitting to us. Excessive taxi fare has been carrying away the little fund placed at our disposal.

Yours for souls,

—Titus U. E. Enu

TRUCK NEEDED IN MEXICO MISSION WORK

The young people at Guthrie feel a burden for the work of the Lord in Mexico. After praying as to what the Lord would have us to do, we saw the need of Bro. and Sis. Paulino Lara of Patzcuaro, Baja California, Mexico, having a new pickup truck. Their present pickup has been worn out in the work of the Lord and is requiring repairs which we feel are too expensive. We know this is a big undertaking, but the Lord made us to know that thousands of dollars is but a little thing to Him and that He would bless us in this effort. We ask your prayers that the Lord will supply in His own way that the work of the Lord can go on in that part of Mexico.

If any of the young people, or anyone else, would like to help in this effort, you may do so by sending your offering for Sis. Edith (Cole) Lara's truck fund directly to:

Young People's Newsletter, c/o Bro. Leslie Busbee, 1014 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Ok. 73044, or you may send it to this office. Be sure to state that the offering is for the truck fund.

Elsewhere in this paper is a report about Bro. and Sister Lara and family.

—Young People's Sunday School Class, Guthrie, Okla.

FROM THE MAIL BOX . . .

Mich.—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name to all that work in the Print Shop. I like to get the *Faith and Victory* paper—just like a letter from home. I like to read it over and over to see if I miss anything. . . . I enjoyed the Assembly meeting at Guthrie last Christmas and hope I can attend most of the campmeetings this summer.

Brother Lawrence, I heard your father say that in the last days they, no doubt, would track the saints down just like they were hunting rabbits. Most of the people hated Jesus and tried to kill Him when He was born. They couldn't find fault in Him, but they cried, "Crucify him."

Brother Lawrence, I thank you for the good work you are doing for the Lord.

—Bro. Clarence Brant

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Wisc.—Greetings in Jesus' name to all that labor in the printing of the *Faith and Victory*. We truly enjoy the messages and testimonies. Thank God for people who are truly dedicated to the work of God. . . . May God bless all of you!

—Adolf and Martha Semmler

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Calif.—I am much encouraged in the Lord and I pray this letter will find all of you the same. We are living in perilous times, but also times when (if we have faith and wait on God) we will see great manifestations of His power and love working for us. I surely desire to live true and faithful so I may be able to see His great handiwork.

A young woman whom I have known for several years and who was reared a Catholic from birth, called me and said she was saved. The Lord had told her to call me and go to church with me. She seemed very sincere and happy, to quote the words from the song, "to be raised from darkness into light." I desire her to have the *Faith and Victory* paper, hoping it will be a help to her. Also, I desire to renew my subscription for three years.

Yours in Christ,

—Lavern Moles

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Ohio—Dear Sis. Anna Marie: Greetings of love to you this cold and snowy evening. Trust this finds all well and enjoying the good things of God. We are doing well, thank the dear Lord. We have been going through some things the last several weeks, but we do appreciate the victories. If we didn't have some victories, we would surely go down in discouragement. He knows my heart and my desire to live for Him. I think of the song, "To Know That He Knows." Many times that song has been a comfort to me! How I do rejoice when I have been able to go through a trial with victory! I remember Bro. McCoy saying so many times about "us working the trial and not the trial working us." When we have worked the trial, that is victory! I do love the Lord and thank Him for His dealings with me.

You have probably heard about our cold weather here. We have been cut on gas at our chapel in Dayton,

Ohio, to 50% of our allotment of 1972. We are just under our usage for this winter season. We have had a very cold winter. Twenty-one degrees below zero one or two nights and ten or fifteen degrees below on others. The temperatures have been at a record low. The children have been out of school several days because of the temperature and snow. We are having the water meter taken out at the chapel and are turning our gas off. We are meeting in homes. Prayer meetings are held here and Sunday morning services at Richard and Nancy Bethel's in Springfield. The devil is defeated, if he thinks he will stop our meetings.

I am writing to ask you to put in the March issue of the Faith and Victory paper that there will not be any all-day meeting in March in Dayton. We plan to have all-day meeting the second Sunday of April and May. This could change as the fuel situation is still bad, but I will let you know. Anyone may contact us if they need a place to stay or directions. Our phone number is 513-426-8159. We plan to have meetings back in the chapel again sometime in March. Until then we will meet in homes, weather permitting.

We went to Union City last Friday night. Sis. Margie Sallee brought a good message on "Being Ready" and how we will meet the deeds done in the body. It was very good and heart-searching.

—Sis. Della Gutwein and family

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. He is very good to us and it makes me feel so little and unworthy of the many things He has done and is doing for me.

Sis. Marie, I thank you for the nice, encouraging letter you wrote me. I know the devil works harder as we grow older to cut us off, but I know God's grace is sufficient. He is giving me more courage and understanding of His precious Word as time goes on.

We went to Myrtle, Mo., for the all-day meeting. We all had some good, spiritual food. We also had two good preaching services here at the Senath, Mo., chapel last week. Bro. Egbert Allen and Bro. Orie Young came by and preached for us.

—Sis. Katie Gibson

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Ohio—To the saints of the Most High God: I greet you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who is my salvation and my all, not by merit, but by the grace of God.

I am a youth of 19 years. My name is Edward Charles Stanford. In May, I will be a junior student at Denison University, in Granville, Ohio. For this opportunity to go to college I am thankful, not because I am able or my parents are able to pay my way through school, but because the God of heaven has blessed me to obtain scholarships and a four-year summer job to help pay my way.

I was saved by the Lord in the Akron congregation. Sis. Hazel A. Clark is my pastor and mother in Israel.

Currently, I am planning to major in Spanish and Latin-American area studies. Being a Spanish student, I thought it good to visit a Spanish-speaking area to practice the language. Through prayer and much saving, I saved enough money for my fare to make the trip. Then in Nov. 1976, I wrote to Sis. Edith (Cole) Lara who has a gospel mission in Mexico and asked if I might come and

visit them during my midterm vacation in Jan. 1977. She and her family graciously invited me to come. On Dec. 30, I flew to Yuma, Arizona, where Sis. Edith and her oldest son, Tomas, picked me up at the airport. From Yuma, we traveled about 50 or 60 miles to the Lara home at Patzcuaro, B. C., Mexico. Maybe it would be more understandable to say, the Bro. and Sis. Paulino Lara and the Rodriguez household, which includes Bro. and Sis. Lara's five children and Bro. Paulino's sister and her five children, whom her husband and the children's father had abandoned without support of any kind. Also, Bro. Lara's nephew lives with them, but he has no job because there is no work to be found. All together there are ten children and four adults to be supported by Bro. Paulino's job in Thermo, California. [The older children and Sis. Tomasa do seasonal work when it is available.] He stays in Thermo through the week and comes home only on the week-ends. This leaves Sis. Edith with the responsibility of managing the household business and driving back and forth across the border over rough roads. Her sister-in-law helps a great deal with the cooking, cleaning, and other household duties. The children also have assigned work they do each day.

This family lives in a five-room house made of adobe-mud blocks. It consists of a kitchen/dining room, a living room and three bedrooms. An extra room off on the side of the chapel next door to their home gives them another sleeping room for the three older boys. All floors in both buildings are concrete. They have electricity and gas, but the gas is so expensive that they have to heat their bath water over an open fire. They also use a barrel with a top in it, on which to cook their tortillas, the type of bread they eat. Their appliances consist of a stove, refrigerator, and a washing machine, without which the washing would have to be carried across the border to the U.S.A. or done by hand.

The water there is muddy and cold, because it flows through a dirt trench to a pond. This water is used for bathing and all other household use except drinking and cooking. The drinking water is hauled in a crude, old tanker truck to the homes. Their basic diet is brown pinto beans, tortillas, potatoes, chile (a type of hot sauce), eggs and rice, but very small quantities of meats, green vegetables, milk and fruits, which they only get as a treat now and then. Yes, life is different in the Lara/Rodriguez household. Sis. Edith with heavenly courage manages their large household. Yet there is happiness, as all are working together in a happy union to keep the household in order.

We Americans take for granted many of the luxuries, which are not enjoyed by them, or enjoyed very little. My heart is touched by their poverty which is lightened by their integrity with God and the work of the Lord. Pray for me that in the future the Lord may be able to use me to help carry the burden of His work.

Whoever reads this item, please pray much for the burdens of Bro. and Sis. Lara and send help there in the way of support and encouragement. Pray for me in college and for the gospel work in Mexico.

A youth in Christ,

—E. Charles Stanford

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

N. Mex.—Dear Sister Marie: I trust all are well and happy in the dear Lord's work. I do pray God to bless and help everyone there, also the dear saints everywhere, as I

know there are many sick in body. I have a back ailment for which I would like to be remembered in prayer for healing. I am much better already. I thank and praise Him for all He has done for me and Truman, my husband!

May the good Lord bless your services in sending out the gospel truth to many precious souls, is my prayer.

—Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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

Jamaica—My dear Bro. Lawrence, Sis. Maybelle and Sis. Marie: Holy greetings in Jesus' holy and wonderful name. Thanks very much for the card and your kind words of comfort. They mean so much to me. It was indeed a good day when I got to meet you dear saints over there. Please pray for me always. Keep sending the *Faith and Victory* papers as usual. May the Lord bless and keep you in His service.

We did pray the Lord to let Bro. Smalling stay with us a little longer, but it was not His will. Bro. Smalling was longing to go Home, so I have to submit to God's will. I had been quite sick since his death, and am staying at my niece's home in Kingston. I am improving now, thank God!

—Olga Smalling

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

Ark.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We learned at the meeting at Myrtle, Mo., this last week-end that God is great and He wants to do extraordinary things for us. Jesus told Martha, "If thou wouldst believe, thou shouldst see the glory of God." We believe and desire to believe more wholeheartedly without wavering. We don't want the Lord to be hindered by any unbelief on our part.

We are thankful for the Print Shop and its labors for the lost. It meant much to us when the Lord was dealing with our hearts. Through the tracts, testimonies, answers of prayer recorded in the *Faith and Victory* and the lives of the saints we had met, we were convinced this was the truth. John 8:32 says, "And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." We thank the Lord today for His truth and His saints who uphold it.

The congregation here at Prattsville sends the enclosed offering to the Lord's work. Please pray for us here that we enter into the joy of the Lord.

Yours in the Lord's service, —Doug Walters

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

Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to all of you in the name of Jesus. We had a safe trip home from Guthrie. Thank the Lord for it! On our way home we went to Akron, Ohio, attended services, and left Sunday afternoon for home. I also enjoyed being together with the family of God in Guthrie, and the preaching of the Word and the testimonies of the saints.

We surely like the "Beautiful Way" lessons for the children and the Adult Bible Lessons. There surely is much soul food and Bible doctrine in them, which we enjoy, as well as the *Faith and Victory* paper.

We will look forward to meeting you and the saints again at Monark Springs campmeeting at Neosho, Mo., in July. We probably will be visiting Akron in the meantime.

Your Bro. in Christ, —Alfons Oppel

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

S. Car.—Dear Brother Lawrence: Greetings of love to everyone who is working for the Lord. I am still pressing on to make heaven. All of God's saints are now in a battle against spiritual wickedness in high places. One thing sure, God will stand by us through it all if we

keep true to Him. Praise His name! I made a start with Him to go all the way by His help. Praise the Lord!

Pray much for me. —Bro. Eddie Driggers

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sister Maybelle and Sister Marie: My thoughts and prayers are often with you, and I am happy to send you heartfelt greetings in Jesus' name, trusting all are well and very much encouraged in these times of peril—in many ways. But our God is reigning just the same. The time may be near when He will openly show who is King of kings and Lord of lords. . . .

I am thankful to be able to say I am fairly well, and God has graciously given me reasonable health, happiness in Him, and the joyous assurance of seeing Him who marvelously redeemed me and keeps me by His grace and power. My family is very good and attentive to me, which I deeply appreciate. It has been one year and one month since Lois went to be with the Lord, but lingering memories are precious.

I am ordering the new song book, *Echoes From Heaven*, as I dearly love those God-inspired songs of the pioneers.

I was very thankful for the good report of the winter meeting there at Guthrie, and the large attendance.

With Christian love, —Robert Longley

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: I read the *Faith and Victory* paper and get much good from every word.

I enjoyed meeting all the saints last year in the Muncie, Ind., campmeeting. I had never met you folks before, and will be very glad to get to be in the meeting again this year, Lord willing.

The Lord has been very good to us, healing us many times. Pray for my healing when you pray. I have arthritis in my knee and side. I can't get around very well and am in lots of pain at times. I know God can heal us, if we trust Him in faith, believing. May God bless everyone and heal you, is my prayer.

—Sis. M. Rogers

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

III.—Dear Brother Pruitt: You have a wonderful ministry which God has given you. I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* very much, and it has been and is a rich blessing to me. I not only read it, but pass this wonderful Christian paper on to others, and they in turn have been blessed. I give it to Christians and non-Christians. Keep up the good work which God has given you and your staff. I pray that God will continue to bless you folks and your work until the very end.

—Mrs. Rose Rost

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

Canada—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings again to all of you in the precious name of Jesus, our Redeemer. The Lord knows how much I appreciate your letters and tracts, as I believe your daily tasks are numerous.

I can report that my faith has greatly increased and the Lord is very good to me every day. . . . I also value all prayers of intercession offered by the saints in my behalf. May the Lord bless and greatly reward every one of them.

Yours in the Master's service, —Reinhard Mueller

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

Kansas—I am happy in my soul though recovering from a virus. I thank the Lord that it was no worse than it was, and I give praise to Him for the blessings I received by having more time to read and pray. The cares of life

can keep us so busy and pressed that we long for more time to be alone with God. When He sends us a light affliction, we can be still for awhile.

The new year seems to be progressing very swiftly. We are desiring to be more fruitful this year and of more help in the kingdom of God. Since time is short, but we know not how short, it behooves us to get as close to God as we can, and let Him take us and use us in whatever way is glorifying to Him. It seems that people are so hard and so complacent that it is hard to get them to even realize they need to awaken out of their sleep and arise and flee for their lives.

May the Lord continue to bless all the dedicated workers in the printing work, is our prayer.

—Shirley Knight

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

Ind.—I pray the Lord to bless and increase His work there and supply every need. I praise the Lord for all He does for me. I know He has healed my eyes from these cataracts. I am trusting His Word. I know He has heard mine and the saints' prayers. I thank Him for healing me.

Keep me on your prayer list. Pray that I will hold up Jesus in this needy place. I am praying the Lord to make me a home missionary here. Pray for my children.

—Mrs. Lettie West

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Wash.—We thank the Lord for everything He does for us, which is much. Last week I was sick a few days, and thought I might be having a gall-bladder attack, but the Lord healed me of whatever it was. Praise the Lord! This week I have a lame wrist. I am trusting the Lord to heal that, too. I surely am grateful for the many times He comes to my rescue.

I surely thank the Lord for all that you folks are doing. When I order books, etc., they are all wrapped very nicely and come to me in real good shape. I am very thankful to the Lord for it all.

Christian love, —Sister Violet Thomas

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: I'm glad I am a child of the King. My trust is in the Lord.

My husband is doing better. God really did undertake for him and spared his life. He was bleeding so bad that I don't think he would have lived if it hadn't been for God's help and the prayers of God's dear saints. I want to thank all who prayed for us. My eye and head have been so much better. Praise the good Lord! He doesn't need us, but we surely need our Lord. I do want to live a life to please my Father. It will be worth it all to enter in. Praise our God!

—Sis. Ada Leach

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

Mo.—Dear saints: I am thankful to be able to say we are encouraged in the Lord. During the recent cold weather things sometimes looked pretty dark and discouraging. We had several losses of livestock, etc.; but we tried to count our blessings and be thankful we were all well and able to carry on with the work.

I want to thank the Lord for touching my body a few months ago when I was suffering so much with bursitis in my arm and shoulder. We appreciate the saints here and everywhere for holding us up in prayer. The Lord

came to our rescue and my arm is almost normal now. I wasn't able to do much for awhile, couldn't even comb my hair. The devil tried to make me think I would always be handicapped, and not be able to use my arm. I feel that the suffering was good for me, and drew me closer to God. We also are very thankful for the mercy of the Lord to Thurman, when his back was so bad last summer. We appreciate His dealings with us.

We desire the prayers of the saints that we will be faithful.

May the Lord bless all of you there at the Print Shop.

—Carol Sorrell

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

Tex.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am so happy that God has healed the pain in my arms, and I am giving Him the praise. Bless His holy name! It's so good to be easy, but I still have a slight ache in my shoulder. I am still praying to my Lord for complete healing, and I believe I will get it.

When I got your letter, and read it and the little tracts, especially the one, "Did God Fail?" I just broke down and cried. I prayed to God to heal me, for I knew He didn't fail. The tract had to be for me. I feel He had forgiven me and I feel so much better. I want to thank each one who prayed in my behalf, and I am really grateful to all of you and to God.

I still need your prayers very much for God to help me to do His will at all times. I am praying for the saints there, and especially for Bro. Lawrence's healing.

I would just love to be where I could hear some old-time, good Bible preaching. I haven't heard any in years, and it makes it harder to stay in line with God's teachings, even though I read my Bible and pray.

Christian love,

—Lessie Speed

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

La.—Dear saints: In the wonderful name of Jesus we send greetings to each of you dear ones there! Praise the Lord for salvation and all the great blessings that go with it.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the most convincing fact of history! After that, there was His presence with His disciples, and their hearts burned within them! An inward joy and serenity was theirs in a world of turmoil. Love flowed from their hearts toward all men, too! Oh, we can now carry on a conversation with Him who rose again! After the resurrection He was a companion by their side; after Pentecost, He was an indwelling power! Paul found Him real within. "I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Saints and sinners, this is wonderful! Long before this wonderful day, men actually walked with God. Enoch walked with Him! Abraham was known as "the friend of God." Moses communed with God "face to face." David was also unafraid, because he said, "Thou art with me." The world took notice that the early disciples had been with Jesus. They were radiant and joyful, not just with what they believed with their minds, but what they had experienced in their hearts by His presence! Praise the Lord forever! He is just the same yesterday, today, and forever! He will never leave us nor forsake us, never!

There is no greater need today than to make Jesus real. He is not a picture to gaze upon, or a figure to revere; but praise the Lord, a living reality in the lives of the redeemed! Let Him talk to you in your heart now, dear

people, and He will come and sup with you. He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

God answers real earnest, sincere prayers from hearts today! He answers for the sick and suffering. I have begged the Lord to heal me when in pain many times, only to be denied. Why? Jesus answers in His own way and knows what is best to draw us close to Him! Now I look back upon the suffering I went through, and on bended knee, thank God that healing was delayed for my personal benefit. In humility and faith, we must pray to the Lord. He will lift us up! We suffer that we may learn how to comfort others. We must have patience and learn through our afflictions that God hasn't turned a deaf ear to us, but wants us to have the faith once delivered to the saints! Psa. 139:17th and 18th verses are to us.

Let us let God know we love Him! The Lord won't fail those who walk in the light with Him and yield themselves to Him day by day. Keep loving the truth, dear ones. When we suffer greatly, it might be our last test (Psa. 66). The hand of God will anoint for more healings for soul and body if we will forget the world and get close to the Lord.

I love all the saints, and I am looking forward to meeting them in Heaven one glad day!

Pray for me that I will keep true and faithful. I send out papers and tracts all the time, and I am ordering more. Oh, if we can help one to be "born again," it will be worth all our efforts, dear saints.

Won't everyone accept this dear Saviour today, live for Him, so you can be happy and rejoice with Him in eternity?

—Sis. Rubye Quave

Ky.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all of God's people wherever they are: We know that God has children scattered all over the world and He is watching over them. God has said that He would "never leave us, nor forsake us," but would always be with us "even to the end." Oh, praise His holy name for that wonderful promise! His Book is full of His wonderful promises. I love it better than anything else on this earth; it is food to my soul. I am so glad that I can eat and drink from that heavenly fountain and never hunger or thirst.

I never want anything that the old devil has to offer in the way of this world and worldly things, such as that one-eyed monster called the T V. I think it is one of the devil's best tools that he ever invented. It has hurt the church more than anything else. It has kept people from going to services, reading the Bible, having their family devotions, and it has ruined their children. The children have learned everything that is mean and contrary until our country has gotten so bad that it isn't safe for one to live in his own home. Much vandalism is going on in our country. The good Lord will bring it all to a close one of these days. He said that it would be like Sodom and Gomorrah and like it was before Noah's flood. The way it looks, I think we have passed that stage.

Jesus said there would be a "falling away." I will be 84 years of age on Feb. 25 and I have never seen such falling away among the people. Some will live a good Christian life for 15 or 20 years and then go back on the Lord. The Bible says that the dog has returned to his vomit. Oh, what a sad sight! I have a nephew that has done this very thing and now he has cancer, so pray for him. Pray for his soul, that the Lord will show him what

he has done, that he will come back to Jesus, be healed of his backsliding and be saved. If a person quits reading his Bible and quits praying, it will not be long until the old devil will have him. We can't read the Bible or pray too much. I have read the New Testament through 49 times since 1969 and the Old Testament six times. I never get to go to church services, as my wife is still an invalid. I stay at home and take care of her. I do all of our work, so I want you to remember her in prayer. She is a wonderful child of God; she really loves the Lord. Pray for me that God will give me strength to take care of her.

—Bro. Frank Dunaway

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

Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints: I want to thank the Lord for His precious love to me. Last Saturday (Jan. 22) I was awakened early in the morning with a severe pain in my lower left back as though someone had stabbed me. The pain was so severe that I couldn't move. I awoke Nancy, my wife, and told her to get my father, Murphy Allen, who happened to be here. He came, and they offered earnest prayer in my behalf. In about thirty minutes, the Lord gave me relief and I went back to sleep. Then a short time later, I awoke again in severe pain. At that time I didn't realize this pain would be with me off and on for six days.

For the next two or three days I wasn't able to eat. When I tried to, I couldn't retain it. Even juices wouldn't stay down. Several saints were called for prayer and I was anointed and prayed for by my pastor. We felt that the Lord had heard prayer, but I was still in pain. The Lord gave us many Scriptures to increase our faith. I would lie flat on my back and quote verses over in my mind and would stand on His precious promises, knowing that God cannot lie. The day I got sick I had read Psa. 18:2, "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust." Praise the Lord! I decided I was going to trust Him through this. He knew what I was suffering and was touched as a parent would be with his child. I prayed, "Lord, bring me out when I've learned what you have in this for me." After a few days, the Lord blessed and I was able to retain some juice and very small amounts of food. We still didn't know what the problem was, but we didn't need to know, for God is my deliverer! Praise the Lord!

On Thursday morning, I asked Nancy to read to me and have prayer. When she read, "And a light shined in the prison; and he [the angel] smote Peter on the side . . . saying, Arise up quickly," (Acts 12:7) those few words of Scripture sank into my heart, and I told her to call several congregations that I knew were already praying for me. I felt it was time to be healed and to "arise up quickly." She made the calls and the saints went into an agreement of prayer. Within a few hours I was able to sit up and visit with some of the saints who had come in. That night, I slept free of pain all night. I still wasn't back to normal, but I was standing on God's promise, and the next day I finally passed several fragments of kidney stone. Praise the Lord! He is still healing today.

I want to encourage anyone who is looking for healing, to hold on, no matter how grim it may look. Find a promise and stand on it. Many times during this attack the enemy would tell me I was going on emotions instead of faith, but I rebuked him in Jesus' name and reminded the Lord that He had promised, and He would do it.

I am much encouraged in the Lord. I want to be faithful to the very end and be what the Lord would have me to be. I want to thank each one of the saints who prayed for me, came by to visit, phoned, or sent cards and letters. Pray for me.

—Terry Allen

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

Mo.—We want to thank God for all He has done for us, and thank those who have stood by us these many months with their prayers, encouraging letters, and love offerings for Mike's expenses. Our 13-year-old son, Mike, had osteomyelites, an infection in the marrow of his ankle and shin bone. He was in the hospital about nine weeks, due to the juvenile officer and sheriff coming to us and demanding we take him to the hospital. Our trust was in God and we give Him all the glory and praise for how He has brought Mike through. Mike loves the Lord, too, and gives Him all the praise.

Mike was very weak when we brought him home, but God has blessed him and now he looks as healthy and strong as ever. He wears a leg brace now, and has had two more operations this winter to remove pieces of dead bone. The last examination he had (Feb. 1st), the x-ray showed the bone building back real good. The doctor said in a few more months he will be out of his brace. The doctor was really overjoyed at Mike's progress. We just send up praises to God. We dress Mike's leg every day, and we do see progress, as it is healing up real well.

We also thank God for His protection the other day. I was driving and had our two-year-old with me. A tire blew out and I lost control of the car. It went off in a ditch and turned over. Christie only had a cut on her head. Oh, we have much to thank God for! I am sure He protects us and keeps us from harm when we aren't aware of it.

We want to thank the saints again for all the love you have shown us during our trial. May God richly bless each one, is our prayer.

—Esther Hightower

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

N. Car.—I thank God for healing my body. I told the Lord I would trust Him whether I had a year to live or whatever time He left me here. I was determined not to go to the doctor and make a big bill that would take years to pay. Praise God, before I got your letter the Lord healed my breast. The lump is gone, and the drainage cleared up. I had faith in your prayers. I just took God at His Word. He never fails. I enjoy the tracts you send very much.

Sister Marie, I do hope and pray that I can come to Guthrie to campmeeting. I really want to meet you dear saints face to face. I was brought up in the Church of God. My parents were saved and trusted the Lord for us when we got sick. I got saved and I trusted God. I used to write to Brother Byers for an anointed handkerchief.

—Bunice Hope

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

Ky.—Greetings of love to all the saints: God's power is higher than any power of man. Praise the Lord! I feel victory in my soul. We thank the Lord for the victory that we can gain if we stand fast in His abiding love.

We have been going through some trials. We feel they were for our good as God's grace has been sufficient. The song, "The Faithfulness of God," has come to my mind. As I sing this, I feel the Lord is surely talking and saying that the victory is ours. The part that says, "Oh! trust in God . . . Oh! trust in the faithful God," is what I am doing. I am thankful He is faithful to us.

The laws of man try to do many things and cause many hardships upon the people of God who do trust in Him. We thank Him that we did as He said, "Trust." We don't know whether the trials and battles that man has put upon us are over, but as I write this, I feel the Lord has given the answer by saying, "Trust in me."

We thank the saints who have called upon God in our behalf during this burden. The weights of the enemy have been heavy this winter and the needs have been great, but thank the Lord for the lightness He can send to our hearts.

We truly want to be what the Lord is calling us to be, and be where He wants us to be. I have something I desire prayer for. I feel it is going to take help from the Lord to work it out.

—Sis. Ruth Knight

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

Canada—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and co-workers at the Lord's Print Shop and all the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

All from Canada arrived home safely from the blessed Assembly Meeting in Guthrie, Okla., during the Christmas holidays. Thanks to the Lord!

We want everyone everywhere to know what a great God our God is, even to the healing of serious conditions in the body. Dear Wife was afflicted with a back trouble for a long time. In Guthrie, she went forward to be anointed and prayed for. Praise the Lord, she is completely healed now! No more back pain. Oh, how good it is to know our Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

The meetings we attended were a real blessing to all of us. Many souls were saved, and some were filled with the Holy Ghost. The Word of God was put forward under the anointing of the Spirit of God. All in all, it was a real blessing to be together with so many saints from all over the country. We thank all the dear saints in Guthrie that we were looked after so well.

Wife and I went to the Print Shop and purchased books and Bibles. Since then we have given away many books and tracts to friends and other people. We consider this an opportunity from the Lord to help lost souls. Let us all do what we can. Time is running out, and the Lord may come soon.

Christian love,

—George Schroeder

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

Illinois—I consider it a great privilege to have met God's true body of people. The truth sets us free. I want to testify of God's power and protection. I know Jesus is still in the healing business.

My son Tim was sick, bleeding internally and getting weak. We wanted to trust Jesus, so I called Bro. Lawrence Pruitt for prayer. Bro. Lawrence told me they would be looking to Jesus to do the work and heal Tim. Thank God, Tim is healed and has gained all his strength back.

Tim and I met the precious saints in 1960 when I had a nervous breakdown, and Kenneth and Laverna Probst cared for Tim during a part of this time. I know there is no one like the true saints of God. Praise the name of Jesus!

—Sis. Oma Jean Fairchild

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

Ind.—Dear Sis. Marie: We are giving praises unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. I do thank and praise the Lord for how He has

encouraged my heart and taken care of me since my husband passed. I live alone, but I do believe Psalms 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."

I do enjoy these wonderful *Faith and Victory* papers. They are both inspiring and strengthening. May God ever bless every one of you at the Print Shop, that you may ever carry on the work for Him.

Please remember me and my children in your prayers.
—Mattie C. Black

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers: We are encouraged and pressing on. Don't have a thing to complain about! God has been very good to us in so many ways. We want to praise Him in the bad times as well as in the good times.

The Lord surely did perform a miracle on Louie—healing him of a serious affliction! Only God gets the praise.

We were happy to hear from you, and will do what we can to help in finding the folks you referred to in your letter. Whatever we can do to help spread the gospel, we want to do.

It is very encouraging to us to meet in the Thanksgiving and Christmas Assembly meetings. If it were not for these gatherings, it would be rather hard on us who are not privileged to be in preaching services very often. It is quite a sacrifice for the ones who have the responsibility of making these meetings possible, but we pray each one will feel well repaid as they think of the many souls who were saved and encouraged.

The year of 1976 was especially outstanding to our family. God blessed us with a wonderful son-in-law. Also, we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in December there in Guthrie with some of the very ones who were with us on our wedding day. To top that off, our youngest son was saved during the meeting. I guess it has been lonely for him since coming home where there are no other saved young people in our congregation, but God has helped him.

We need your prayers.

—Louie and Evodna Marler

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ark.—Dear Sister Marie: Enclosed is \$. . . to help you with your wonderful work for the Lord. How happy I am that someone sent me the *Faith and Victory*, also for all the wonderful tracts that you have sent. What a blessing it is for me to receive these things! I just hope you will continue to print the truth, and not change and go with the times as others have done.

With love, —Mrs. F. S. Hepler

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"If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without God's notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?"

SAYING AND DOING

Pilate said of Jesus, "I find no fault in Him." That was his conception of Christ. He saw before him a faultless Christ. Then he added, "Take Him and crucify Him." These two expressions stand directly one against the other. He spoke correctly about Christ, but he acted wrongly. Many are thinking and talking rightly enough about Jesus, but they do not act rightly. —C. E. Orr

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

QUESTION: In Amos 9:11 reference is made to "the tabernacle of David." What was the tabernacle of David and of what was it a type?

ANSWER: This verse in its entirety reads, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old."

I will give you the best understanding I have on this text up to this time. I do not look upon this as a type of anything, but as a prophecy of the restoration of David's kingdom in the spiritual kingdom of Jesus Christ who came to sit on David's throne. It is evident that the Apostle James understood this text this way, too. In the council at Jerusalem regarding the matter of circumcision being imposed on the Gentile converts, as recorded in the 15th chapter of Acts, James reiterates in verse 14 how Simeon had declared how God had visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for Himself. Then in verse 15 he says that the words of the prophets agree to this, and proceeds in verse 16 to quote this very verse. He applied it in that case to the establishment of Christ's kingdom and the coming of the Gentiles into it.

To the best of my understanding, the "Tabernacle of David" here is a figurative reference to the house, lineage, and kingdom of David. It is said in II Sam. 7:16 that his house and kingdom shall be established forever; also that his throne would be established forever. Again in Psalms 132:11 it is said, "The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne." But the kingdom and throne of David had fallen into decay and ruin, and there was a long breach in the wall of his "tabernacle" because there had not been one of his house and lineage sitting on his throne for a long, long time.

Amos 9:11 states that the tabernacle of David that was fallen would be raised and the breaches thereof closed. This was accomplished when Jesus Christ of the seed of David (John 7:42; also Acts 2:30) came to establish His own kingdom and to sit on David's throne. This reached clear back to David and consequently closed up that long breach of God's promise to him and fulfilled that promise. Jesus Christ sitting on David's throne established a kingdom of far greater glory, splendor and power than David ever ruled over or the Caesars ever ruled over or any other king ever ruled over — a spiritual kingdom of righteousness, joy, and peace in the Holy Ghost.

David ruled over the kingdom of Israel and Judah and this kingdom reached the height of its glory and power in the reigns of David and his son, Solomon, but it was all contained within those borders. This kingdom over which Christ reigns from David's throne ruleth over all (Psalms 103:19). It contains all who have been converted through faith in the all-atoning blood of the Son of God out of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people (Rev. 7:9). It is a universal kingdom and shall never be destroyed.

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"If the human soul would grow in moral stature and moral beauty and fruitfulness, it must keep open to the light of God and absorb that light as it falls upon it."