

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

## Church of God Servant



Volume 55, No. 11

55th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

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### *Preach The Gospel*

Preach the gospel, blow the trumpet  
Unto earth's remotest end;  
Swell the chorus, give the message  
Of the Christ, our Lord and Friend.

In its fulness free from error  
Let the truth exalted be.  
Be for God a tidings bearer  
Of His love so full and free.

Preach it kindly, preach it boldly,  
Preach with power and earnest prayer,  
Though the world will treat it coldly,  
All for Jesus do and bear.

Words of life so freely spoken  
By the Lord must echoed be,  
Not one promise will be broken  
As He lives and works in thee.

Some will turn a deaf ear, spurning  
All the counsel that ye give,  
But some day in that bright morning  
With the Lord of life you'll live.

Oh, be faithful in His service—  
Publish, preach, proclaim, declare  
All that Christ the Lord commanded  
For all nations everywhere.

Be on guard against false doctrine,  
Curse of our deceptive age,  
Buy the truth, seek understanding  
Of our Saviour's heritage.

Comfort, nourish, charge, and challenge,  
Holding forth the Word of Life;  
Shine your light out in the darkness  
Of this world of sin and strife.

For the truth that you are speaking  
Is the seed of life to grow,  
And will bring a harvest reaping  
In that Land where pleasures flow.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### *The Word of God*

Solomon, the wisest man that ever lived, save Jesus Christ, said, "Of making many books there is no end"; and we see today books of every description, and some which for a time have a wonderful circulation, but in a few years are cast aside for something else. There are many books written for encouragement, for edification, for doctrine, and correction, etc., which the people grasp eagerly, only to become tired of them and cast them aside. Their pages soon lose their brilliancy and fascination.

There is one, the words of eternal truth, penned by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the thought emanating from God Himself, that remains the same. Centuries upon centuries have flown into the unseen, and still it remains. Intellectual men have perused its sublime pages, and therein found food upon which their mentality might feast—too deep for them to fathom its mysteries. Men possessed of a lesser degree of mentality have studied its pages and have found words of comfort and cheer, peculiarly adapted to their rank and station in life. Though written by poor fishermen and men that were accounted ignorant, under the inspiration of God it has astounded the world. All the philosophers and logicians of the world have found it more than a match for them. Yet the humble child of God as he peruses its sublime pages, guided by heavenly wisdom, understands its mysteries, and sees its glorious truths, far better than does the philosopher, unless he is guided by the same heavenly influence. Simply because "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: . . . neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." I Cor. 2:14. Today, though a man has read its pages and feasted on the words of life for fifty years, they are still new, just as fascinating and interesting, yea, tenfold more than ever. Within its pages there lie words of encouragement for the despairing soul, cheer and comfort for the disconsolate, mercy for the sinner who will repent, and blessing to the obedient. Where else can we look? Where will we find another such wonderful book? It has something for everybody, for every rank and station of life. It is enough; we need to look no further. Blessed holy Word of God! It is "sharper than any two-edged sword, . . . a discernor of the thoughts and intents

of the heart." In it we find God's will to man, and in it man's duty to God.

Oh, that men would study the Word more! Become more acquainted with its sublime truths, appreciate its worth, live to its precepts, and enjoy its blessings which are promised to the obedient! Brethren, I appreciate it more than I ever did. In it I find greater consolation than anywhere I can look in the world. Do you? Thank God for the book that is a "lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psa. 119:105. Praise God for the Bible!

—J. E. Chase

## Who Is My Brother?

When Jesus was teaching and healing the sick, crowds of hungry people were following Him. One came to Him and told Him that His mother and His brethren stood without desiring to speak with Him. Jesus asked, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?" He answered His own question as He lifted His hand toward His disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father, which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." Matt. 12:48-50. Again Jesus said, "One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren." Matt. 23:8.

Seeing that we have many relatives in the family of God, the church or kingdom of God, it behooves us to know how to treat them. They are God's chosen property. He bought them and paid the terrible price of being crucified on Calvary's cross. Again the Scripture tells us, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Gal. 6:2. Jesus bore all our burdens because He loved us. "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." Rom. 5:6.

This great family of God is composed of every saved soul regardless of young or old, race or color, weak or strong, rich or poor. There may be one or more in this family who are physically weak, not able to bear the heavy burden cast upon them. God tells us in His Word to strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees, thus showing or proving our love to our brother.

When Israel was fighting with Amalek, Moses gave orders to Joshua, saying he, too, would go to the top of the hill with the "rod of God in his hand." Aaron and Hur went up with him. When Moses held up his hands Israel prevailed, but when he let down his hands Amalek prevailed. Moses' hands were heavy, so his brothers took a stone and had Moses seated thereon. Then Aaron on one side and Hur on the other held up Moses' hands and God gave Israel the victory.

Paul exhorts us to support the weak and be patient toward all men (I Thess. 5:14). "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification." Rom. 15:1,2. "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another." Rom. 12:10.

There may be things happen of which we are not aware, but if and when we go to the altar to pray and the Spirit of the Lord makes known to us that our brother has somewhat against us, we are to leave our gift there and go to our brother; first be reconciled with

him, then come and offer our gift. I personally have seen this carried out and both sisters came to the altar rejoicing and praising God. "Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." Rom. 14:13.

We should always keep in memory that our brother is God's property. He paid the awful price for him, the greatest price that could be paid. He gave His life, not willing that any be lost, but that all should come to repentance.

I am your Sister in the kingdom of God,

—Sister S. E. Abbott

## God's Eyes Upon the Faithful

As I thought of Sis. Katie (Marler) Gibson, after viewing her body lying at rest in the casket, the word *faithful* came to my mind. For over fifty-five years of her almost 84 years of living here in this world, she loved the Lord faithfully. In so doing she had lived a long, wonderful life for God and came down to her last dying day with victory in her soul.

The word *faithful* means, "keeping faith, loyal, reliable, dependable, full of faith, true believer." The Bible says, "Mine eyes shall be upon the *faithful* of the land, that they may dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me." Psa. 101:6. Surely, we do need to have the Lord's eye upon us as we travel through this life with its perplexing problems and many needs. There are times we need Him instantly and there are times that we need Him in some long, distressing problem. It does pay to be one of His faithful servants.

Sis. Katie was faithful in prayer and in reading the Word. Then she was faithful in obeying the Word of God, which caused her to know the will of God concerning her. When she read that she was to be a witness for the Lord, she would obey that command by letting those around her door know about God and His great plan to save others. One of her neighbors was Sis. Effie Miller who was a busy mother with a large family. She had not taken time to live for the Lord, but time after time she would look out of her window and see Sis. Katie coming down the street carrying her Bible. Through Sis. Katie's faithfulness to Sis. Effie's soul, she won her to the Lord. Because of this, Sis. Effie reared her family for God and today most of them are saved and also some of her grandchildren. Today Sis. Effie appreciates Sis. Katie's faithfulness to her soul. Sis. Katie was faithful to her own family and today she has children and grandchildren who are saved.

Sis. Katie was faithful to trust the Lord for her healing. She had that fact settled that she would not take medication for the healing of any affliction. She prayed and called for prayer as the Word teaches, and God honored that faith. She lived to a ripe old age. The undertaker mentioned to some of the family of how easy it was to preserve and take care of a body that had not been full of medication of various kinds. What a testimony to the world this is! In many other ways Sister Katie was faithful.

We have those mentioned in the Bible who were faithful. "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the

heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; who was faithful to him that appointed [margin, "made"] him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house." Heb. 3:1,2. As we think of Jesus, who was faithful to His Father, and did all those things that He planned for Him to do, we should understand that He is able to help us to be faithful in all that God has planned for us in our life. Jesus is a "merciful and faithful high priest." How precious it is to know that He is merciful to us and has His eye "upon the faithful of the land," who will serve Him in the beauty of holiness all the days of their life! He will be faithful to help us, if we will "hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Heb. 3:6b.

Moses was faithful. When we think of his life, with all of its huge problems, the many decisions that he had to make, with all the opposition that he faced, we do thank God that through his example we, too, can be faithful in the small things that we daily face. With the eyes of the Lord upon us daily we can be assured that He cares and will see us through, so we need to be encouraged and hold fast to our Lord and Saviour.

When we come to the end of the way we do want to hear those words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: . . . enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:21.

—Sis. Marie Miles

## God's Holy Remnant

By the Word of God we understand that in this last dispensation of time God is gathering to Himself a holy remnant, out of all the places where they have been scattered. As I look out upon this dark world of confusion, my heart is often made sad to see the awful sleep and stupidity, that is creeping over this Gentile world. Truly their hearts are becoming harder and harder, and their eyes are being blinded: and with their ears they will not hear. Yet, thank God, there is a remnant to be saved. We are living in the time of gleaning. See Isa. 17:6. "When thus it shall be in the midst of the land among the people, there shall be as the shaking of an olive tree, and as the gleaning grapes when the vintage is done." Isa. 24:13.

1st. There is a remnant to be saved. "Even so then at the present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Rom. 11:5. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob, shall no more stay upon him that smote them; but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God." Isa. 10:20,21. These prophecies are present truth. Reader, will you be one that makes up this remnant?

2nd. This remnant is holy. "In that day shall the branch of the Lord be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel. And it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem." Isa. 4:2,3. "And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken." Isa. 62:12. Read Heb. 12:14. Holy means, to be pure, spotless, blameless, cleansed from all sin. In order

to measure to these commandments, we must sever ourselves from every man-made creed and obey Rev. 10:4; 18:4.

3rd. This remnant is in harmony. "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt. 24:31. "And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them." Jer. 32:39. This oneness includes:

First, oneness of the ministry. "Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice: with the voice together shall they sing; for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion." Isa. 52:8. This is a beautiful type of the oneness and unity that exists between all the true ministers of God. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Second, oneness of all believers. "And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." Acts 4:32.

4th. This remnant does no iniquity. "For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent. . . . The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies: neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid." Zeph. 3:9,13.

5th. It is a persecuted remnant. "And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." Rev. 12:17. "And others had trials of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover, of bonds and imprisonments: they were stoned, were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented." Heb. 11:36,37. O, brethren, may we not shrink, but may we with Paul of old "fight the good fight." Finally,

6th. It is a triumphant remnant. "And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God." Rev. 15:1,2. "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, what are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev. 7:13,14.

—Wm. E. Warren

When people are in line with God they will have to obey His voice, will have to follow the teachings of His Word, and they know when He speaks. Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and follow me." But soon when people get to listening to other voices they get so they do not love to hear the voice of the Lord.

—E. E. Byrum

# FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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

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

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

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

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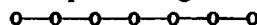
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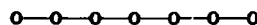
# EDITORIALS



The first month of the brand new year of 1978 is about ended, and the gospel literature is still going out to the world in all directions toward the fulfillment of the design of Jesus Christ who said that the gospel must be published to all nations. Yet, the sad fact remains that multitudes of souls over the world have never heard the pure gospel in all its fullness. Surely, it is the responsibility of the Church in this "evening time," which has been so richly favored with the restored truths of the New Testament, to take these precious truths to the millions who have never heard them. The Great Commission that Jesus gave to the morning Church still reads the same in this "evening time": "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." If we cannot go, we are still responsible to aid or help those who are on the field and those who are ready to answer the call, whether in the homeland or on foreign fields. Sending out the gospel by the printed page is preaching the gospel by proxy. Gospel literature distribution is a very important follow-up to the missionary contacts, and the literature sent by mail can go to a great many places where perhaps the missionary will never reach. Let us sow the gospel seed far and wide with the prayer and expectation that a multitude of precious souls will be saved in that final harvest day. Will we bring only worthless leaves or precious golden sheaves?



This February issue marks the completion of 55 years of publication of this monthly journal in the interest of Christ and His Church. We humbly acknowledge the sustaining and protecting hand of God over this gospel publishing work ever since its beginning here in Guthrie in 1923 when this writer's parents, Fred and Mary Pruitt, and co-workers, were led of the Lord to continue publishing the gospel by the printed page. From that meager beginning 55 years ago, the Lord has expanded the facilities and added more workers to help meet the ever increasing demand for more gospel literature. To the Lord be all the praise and honor!



## Profitable Winter Meeting in Guthrie . . .

The 71st annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting held here at Guthrie from Dec. 23 to Jan. 1, was indeed a very successful meeting in the salvation of souls and the edification of the church. The weather was favorable, and saints and ministers came from far and near, as well as the unsaved. The Word was preached with the convicting power of the Holy Spirit. Quite a number of souls were saved, and several converts followed the Lord in water baptism. The Word also went forth each day for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

At the business meeting on Dec. 31st, a motion passed to continue to search for a suitable site in or near Guthrie on which to relocate the local chapel and the State campground out of the flood area. Let

us pray that the Lord's will be done in the solution of this problem facing the Church in Oklahoma.

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#### Inspiring New Book Ready to Read . . .

Just off the press is a very encouraging new book entitled, "Lest We Forget," by Sister Margaret Eck, a long-time minister. Originally, she intended to write a letter of life experiences just to her children and grandchildren, but she was encouraged to put it in book form for the reading public because her experiences with the Lord and His cause over many years should be an inspiration to every reader. The book consists of 72 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is 75c each, or three copies for \$2.00, plus 35c for postage and handling. Order several copies TODAY for prompt delivery.

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It was not possible to get the Seventh Edition of the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," on the press in January, but with the blessings of the Lord we hope to get it started on the press in February.

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#### Still Need More 1978 Campmeeting Dates . . .

Those who have not sent in their 1978 campmeeting dates, please send them by Feb. 15th so we can print all of them in the March issue. Thank you!

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, from May 26 to June 4, 1978. The date of the National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., is July 21 to 30, 1978. Watch for other dates in the March issue.

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Congratulations to Bro. and Sister Oscar Wall of Vinita, Okla., who will observe their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 12, 1978. On that date from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. their children and grandchildren are holding a reception for them at the N. E. O. Electric Community Building located near the intersection of Highways 60, 66 and 69, Vinita, Okla. Prayers and best wishes are for Bro. and Sister Wall that they will have many more anniversaries! Their address is R. 1, Box 265B, Vinita, Okla. 74301.

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Encouraging reports have come from the Islands of the Philippines where the native ministers, Bro. Florencio Granil and Bro. Ben Granil, are laboring in the gospel work. They are making plans and preparations for another campmeeting at Cauayan, Isabela, to be held on April 12 to 16, 1978, and they desire that Bro. George Hammond would come again for that meeting and remain with them for several months. Let us pray for and financially support these ministers as they endeavor to take the gospel to the multitude of needy souls in their homeland.

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Supposedly for their health's sake, people are consuming so many additional vitamins that the Federal Food and Drug Administration reported recently that a large number of people have been treated in hospitals for vitamin poisoning. Evidently they got too much of a good thing on the logic or premise

that if a little would aid their health a lot would do much more.

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#### Bro. Richard Madden Arrives in India . . .

In response to the Lord's directions and the invitation of Bro. John Varghese, native missionary in India, Bro. Richard Madden, who is the pastor at Sapulpa, Okla., left the Tulsa, Okla., airport on the 16th of January, 1978, and arrived safely in South India to attend the annual campmeeting at Karikkom, India, which began on Jan. 18. We trust the Lord blessed in that meeting in a special way.

Bro. Varghese intends to take Bro. Madden to the various mission stations in the State of Kerala and other states. Bro. Madden expects to return home within a few weeks. Pray the Lord to bless and prosper his labors in the ministry of the Word in that needy mission field and bring him safely back home at the appointed time.

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#### Ministers Going to Cayman Islands, B. W. I. . . .

Bros. C. C. Carver, Egbert Allen, and George A. Hammond are going, Lord willing, to the Grand Cayman Island, British West Indies, to attend a convention to which they were invited. They plan to take the plane at Miami, Fla., on Feb. 3rd, and be in the city of George Town for the meeting from Feb. 5th to 12th. Pray the Lord to make them a blessing in lifting up the old-time truth of the Bible—that which was taught and practiced in the first thirty years (1880-1910) of the Church of God Reformation in this "evening time." (Zech. 14:7).

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#### New Chapel Under Construction in Oklahoma . . .

The saints who meet for worship at the Miles schoolhouse northwest of Vinita, Okla., where Bro. Kenneth Probst is the pastor, are in the process of constructing a new chapel in the community known as "Four Corners" which is eleven miles north of Vinita, Okla., on Highway No. 2. I am confident that this Church would appreciate any contribution that you would feel led of the Lord to make for the completion of this building as a place of worship. You may send your free-will offering directly to the pastor, Bro. Kenneth Probst, R. 1, Bluejacket, Okla. 74333, or to Miles Church of God, c/o Anne Young, R. 1, Box 181, Vinita, Okla. 74301.

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#### Correction, Please . . .

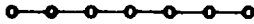
In the January issue it was mistakenly printed that Sister Frances Chandler was one of the ministers at the recent revival meeting in Goulds, Fla. However, instead it was Sister Lillie Mae Chandler of Bakersfield, Calif., as Frances Chandler has never been in Florida. Pardon the error.

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#### Neosho, Mo., Chapel in Need of Expansion . . .

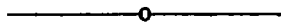
The Church of God at Neosho, Missouri, which is under the pastoral care of Bro. and Sister Vada McMillian, is growing in numbers and feels the need of enlarging their chapel to accommodate their wor-

ship services and Sunday school classes. In order to expand they had to secure more ground. So they have purchased the lots and residence adjoining their ground on the north, and this transaction has placed the congregation under a substantial debt, but they definitely believe the Lord directed in this purchase. Their aim is to first retire this debt before making definite plans for enlarging the chapel. Ask the Lord what He would have you to do toward helping in this worthy project, and please send your free-will contribution directly to the treasurer, Bro. Dale Doolittle, R. 5, Box 61, Neosho, Mo. 64850.



Very soon after the Guthrie Christmas meeting closed on Jan. 1st, Bro. Hammond and this writer took the flu and we were laid up a few days, but the Lord raised us up in answer to prayer, for which we surely praise Him. However, the furnace of affliction is still upon this writer in other ways—some for twenty years and others for twelve years—but our faith, confidence, and trust is fully in the Great Physician just as it has been for over fifty years. He has verified His promises of healing many times over the years, and He is just the same today. I feel as did Job of old when in his fiery trial 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. The trying of our faith is more precious than gold. Often we have need of patience that after we have done the will of God we might receive the promise. God's time and way is always best, and I surely mean to trust His wisdom as well as His power all the days of this life and keep ready for His coming. Nothing else is more important. Please continue to pray for me as the Lord gives me special strength each day to labor long hours in His vineyard.

—Lawrence Pruitt



## Obituaries



**Frona Catherine (Marler) Gibson** was born in Wayne County, Mo., February 5, 1894, to William H. and Lida Elder. She departed this life January 13, 1978, at the age of 83 years, 11 months, and 12 days.

She was married to Frank Marler on May 9, 1909, to which union eight children were born, two of whom preceded her in death. Her husband also preceded her in death in 1946. In 1964, she was married to Asa Gibson who died January 11, 1975.

When a young mother, Sis. Katie, as she was so affectionately known, began seeking to know and do God's will in her life. As a result, she was saved and sanctified. She diligently read her Bible and was led to the knowledge that by virtue of the new birth she was a member of the Church of God. Divine healing in answer to prayer became a reality in her experience.

Sis. Katie's faith in God brought her and her family through many tests and trials. She was a zealous witness for Christ to her neighbors and friends for more than 55 years. Her Home-going was both peaceful and victorious.

Sis. Gibson is survived by her three sons, Louie and Willard of the Senath community in southeast Mo., and Leonard of Paragould, Ark.; three daughters, Cassie Wilson, Okeene, Okla., Ruth Rachel, St. Louis, Mo., and Vergie Flynn, Loranger, La.; five stepchildren, 18 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Bertha Daves, and Blanche Layton of Mt. View, Mo.; one brother, Bert Elder, of Poplar Bluff, Mo.; nieces, nephews, saints, and a host of friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Willie Murphey, assisted by Bro. Donald Sharp and Sister Marie Miles, at the Church of God chapel at Senath, Mo., with interment in the Cude Cemetery beside her first husband, Frank Marler.

### In Appreciation

We deeply appreciate the care and concern from the saints, friends, and relatives shown to us during the illness and death of our dear mother, known by all, as Sis. Katie (Marler) Gibson. Thank you for the cards, floral gifts, food, phone calls, and words of comfort. May God richly bless and reward you each one.

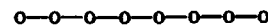
—The Marler Family

### A Tribute to Sister Katie (Marler) Gibson

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." I believe Sister Katie was one of His own, and I am glad the Lord delivered her out of her sufferings to be forever with Him. She was devoted to the Lord and His people. It was my privilege to minister to her at a time in life when some of the deepest trials and afflictions came her way, but like Job, she chose to trust and serve God. As the virtuous woman in Proverbs, "Her children rise up and call her blessed." She left a rich inheritance, not in dollars, but a mighty faith and trust in God.

In loving memory,

—Ruth Murphey



**Alvin W. Marken** was born September 7, 1893, at Topeka, Kans., and received his release and "Crown" from his home at Twin Falls, Ida., at 7:40 Sunday evening, Jan. 8, 1978, at the age of 84 years, 4 months, and 1 day.

In 1914 he, with an uncle and family, moved to Mansfield, Mo. It was here he met his future wife. On December 21, 1915, he was married to the former Anna Mallory and to this union two daughters were born.

After their marriage, they lived in Colorado for four years, and then in 1919, moved in a covered wagon to western Kansas and settled near Grainfield where they resided until the spring of 1931. Then they bought their first farm south of Campus and lived there until the storms of the "dust bowl" time blew them out. In the fall of 1939, they made a trip through the west and bought a farm in Idaho where they moved in 1940. This was their residence for the remainder of Mr. Marken's life, with the exception of one year.

He was a devout and faithful husband and father, patiently waiting upon God and trusting Him fully and faithfully throughout his lengthy illness in which at times his suffering was much. We claim for him the promise of Jesus, "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life."

One of his crowning attributes was loyalty. He was loyal to his wife, children and to his duties as a provider

for those he was responsible for, with time to extend a helping hand for any need that arose.

He is survived by two daughters, Ruby Marken and Mrs. Charles (Wilma) Harris, a son-in-law, Charles, a grandson Alvin and wife Pat Harris; three great-grandchildren, Tracy Eugene, Jeannie Elaine and Teresa Ann Harris; two sisters-in-law, Mrs. Carrie Tombleson of Mansfield, Mo., and Mrs. Amy Tombleson of Lamar, Colo.; also a number of nieces, nephews, and many friends, including Elders Orville and Sylvia Scantlin.

Funeral services were conducted by Elders Orville and Sylvia Scantlin at the White Mortuary Chapel on January 11, 1978. Burial was in Sunset Memorial Park, Twin Falls, Ida., by the side of his beloved wife until that resurrection morn.

### Note of Appreciation

We acknowledge our heartfelt appreciation and thanks for the cards of sympathy, floral offerings, prayers, and love that were shown through the long illness and loss of our beloved Daddy, Yes, we miss him and the home is lonesome now, but Heaven is more precious and we desire more and more to go to be with them there. God loaned him to us for a little season and then knew how to sever every root by which we were holding him. We loved him dearly, but God loved him more, so came with deliverance.

—The families of the late A. W. Marken

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### A DELAYED DEATH NOTICE

Sister Margaret "Maggie" Travis departed this life on July 1, 1977, in a rest home in Salem, Oregon, at the age of 92 years. She was a member of the Church of God congregation at Jefferson, Oregon, for a number of years. After the death of her husband, Harry Travis, she went to live with some of her children in Salem, and later went to a rest home, where she was for a few years and where she died.

—O. B. Wilson

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At press time word was received that Sister Neva Joiner, long-time member of the Church at Loranger, La., was called to her Home above on Jan. 23, 1978, after a short illness, though she had been very frail in body for quite awhile. May the Lord comfort the relatives and saints with the knowledge that she is at rest with the Lord. The obituary will appear in a later issue.

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### In Appreciation

We deeply appreciate all the love and concern shown to our family during the loss of my husband and our father, Waldo D. Eck. The many calls, lovely cards, flowers, food, and prayers were such a blessing in our time of sorrow. We pray the Lord to bless each one for your love and kindness to us.

—Beatrice Eck, Bertha, Berniece, Hurley,  
Lillie Mae, Waneta Ruth, and Larry.

### NOTICE FOR HELP

Sister Alma Smith, who is handicapped, is in need of a Christian woman to share her home. Anyone having a burden to fill this need may write for further information to Sister E. V. Davenport, 1406 W. Trenton, San Bernardino, Ca. 92411, or call 1-(714)-887-4130.

### CALIF., ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The Lord surely blessed in the California State Assembly meeting in Pacoima. The presence of the Lord was in our midst and He healed throughout the meeting. God sent forth His Word unto victory.

Although bad weather prevailed during the meeting, those in attendance were richly blessed. We were concerned that the attendance was poor. Those who were invited had not come, so we spent the night of New Year's eve pleading to God for souls. In the last service our prayers were answered. Several were saved and some received spiritual help. The meeting closed with victory. We thank you for praying for this meeting.

—Wynema Clay

### Prayer Requests

Okla.—"Have bladder trouble." —Virgil Patton

La.—"My daughter, Ruth, had an operation on her throat." —Sis. Rubye Quave

Iowa—"Healing for our bodies and for salvation for our unsaved loved ones." —Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mason

Colo.—"Have suffering in my chest." —Addie McEndree

Calif.—Bro. Ira Stover is not able to be out of the house. Has sinus trouble and other afflictions.

Mo.—Bro. Murphy Allen has had the flu, and is still very weak in body. He needs healing of the place on his face.

Okla.—Sis. Maude Britt had the flu and doesn't seem to regain her strength. She has other afflictions. She has trusted the Lord fully down through the years, and is still trusting Him for healing in her older days.

Okla.—Still pray for Sis. Evelyn McCoy for healing. At times she isn't able to be out much.

Okla.—Remember Lawrence Pruitt for complete healing of the places on his face and under his ear.

Okla.—Remember Bro. Orie Young in prayer for healing, also his wife.

Pa.—"I have an affliction at this time and it is causing me much discomfort, also remember my daughter who is finding it very difficult to find employment."

—Twila B. Lydic

Okla.—"Arthritis." —Alice Brewer

Calif.—"Pray that the Lord will heal me of sinus trouble. . . . I have had shortness of breath."

—Sister Susan Stinson

Okla.—"Please pray for the removal of cataracts on my eyes." —Mrs. Carl Thomas

W. Va.—"Diabetes, scar tissue on eyes." —Leoda Robinson

Ore.—"Ulcer, trouble in my side." —Ruby Hutchinson

There are two ways along the journey of life, each leading directly to eternity, but the ends thereof are widely different. "For wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13,14. —E. E. Byrum

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## REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

I have written to the young couple in Ojos Negros, Mexico, several times in the past two months and have not heard from them. There must be a problem in the mail again. Pray for them as they work diligently for the saving of souls there.

The Lord has been blessing richly in the Spanish printing work. Last month I reported that Sister Carrie Sheppard had come, and now there is more help. Sister Sandra Whitson of Jasper, Alabama, stayed after the Assembly meeting to help us and is proving real efficient in the office. The Lord made it possible this past week to purchase an electric typewriter, and has made it possible through the Lord's Print Shop to have access to their pair of Justewriter machines. On the first machine with a typewriter keyboard a person sets the copy and the machine punches it on paper tape. This tape is fed into the second machine which automatically prints the letters on a strip of paper at 100 words per minute with even lines right and left, and the finished galley is ready for the Spanish markings. It surely is a great advancement for the Spanish literature work and we do thank the Lord for it all. I also want to take this opportunity to thank those who have worked in other ways to help the progress of the work, and those who have given to help support the work. May the Lord bless each of you, is our prayer, for we know He is the One who laid it on your hearts.

Pray that we will continue to be able to carry on. I desire to be faithful in that which God has given me to do.

Yours for lost souls in Mexico,

Sisters Carrie Sheppard, Sandra Whitson, and Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 and Hno. Mayarino Escobar y familia, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. C. Mexico.

## NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Jan. 1)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints of the living God: Greetings in the matchless name of Jesus and best wishes for a prosperous New Year in the service of the Lord.

We are in receipt of your letter dated Dec. 1, 1978, and are thankful for its enclosures.

It is our earnest prayer that the saved, chosen, or called should be missionaries of a message that would change the world. All whom the Lord has called to His circle of friendship should move forward to summon the world to His feet now or never. Everyone has an office to fill or a post to occupy, whether great or small. All have a place in the plan of Christ.

The Lord is coming soon. Let us be careful and earnest in His work and rejoice in the choice we made in the service of Christ. Holiness is important as we anticipate a glorious immortality. We shall soon enter eternal rest. To him that overcometh shall the crown be given.

The Lord is helping us to do well. Without Him we could have achieved nothing. He is blessing and prospering our efforts to reach many more souls with the soul-saving gospel. Paul testified that he was not

ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes it, and there is joy and peace in believing the Lord.

The evangelistic open air meetings scheduled to begin by the middle of December at Tombia, near Port Harcourt, and meant to cover the riverine towns of Abonnema, Buguma, Degema, and Bakana had to be postponed due to the long wait for Bro. George Hammond who was due to arrive at Lagos, Nigeria, on Dec. 16, 1977. [Bro. Hammond did not receive his visa at the proper time, so dropped the plan to go in December.] The precious saints of Tombia and Port Harcourt have been advised to exercise patience as the meetings in their area have been re-scheduled to be held in March when the schools will be out on vacation, with the chance for students and teachers to hear and receive the gospel.

—Titus Enu, pastor

## Special Announcement

The Federal Ministry of Communications, Nigeria, has announced for the information of the general public that a mystery fire early on Sunday, December 25, 1977 gutted the General Post Office, Lagos, and the building housing mails was razed to the ground. Bundles of ordinary mail and registered letters awaiting delivery and dispatch were believed burned.

We request all the brethren who have written to us during the month of December, 1977, to please write again to confirm having written. Our reply to deny receipt of any of the letters will establish entrapment of such letters in the fire incident and action will immediately be pursued to prevent fraud should there be enclosures of monetary or valuable documents in any of the letters.

—Pastor Titus U. E. Enu,  
Church of God, P.O. Box 33, Kwale, Bendel State, Nigeria, W. Africa.

## From the Mail Box . . .

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. No other name is so sweet as Jesus, yet His Word is "above His name." (Psa. 138:2b). The Word of God is the Bible and it is so very precious to our souls. Oh, what would we do without the Word! It is a mirror for our soul. We can look into the Word of God and see just how we stand before Him.

We received your letter, tracts, and the little calendar, which we appreciate very much, and thank you for them. We also received the *Faith and Victory* paper. I was so very glad to see the articles written by Sis. Kathleen McMurrin and Sis. DeLoris Bradley. It makes our hearts rejoice to see the younger ones deepening down in the things of God. Many of the older ones are passing away and the younger ones will need to carry this truth on to the next generation.

My little granddaughter Hope fell down on the gravel driveway and hurt her knee several weeks ago. It seemed to heal, but there was a knot that wouldn't go down. It finally festered and looked bad. Her mother had her soak it in hot water and it opened up. She then could see there was something in it. She got the tweezers and pulled it out, and it was a rock about the size of a bean. We do thank the Lord for undertaking for her.



I was sorry to hear that Bro. Waldo Eck had passed away. I'm sure he will be missed in the Guthrie congregation as well as at the campmeetings, as he usually had a song to sing. I remember one he used to sing that I thought was very good. It was, "Move Up a Little Closer." I liked it real well. We have been praying for Sis. Beatrice Eck.

Bro. and Sis. Herbert Probst are here taking care of the work at Oak Grove while Sis. LaVern Manuel is in the West. We appreciate them. We also miss Sis. LaVern.

We trust this finds you and all the laborers in the Lord's work well and happy. I'm having a little trouble with my toe that had an ingrown nail. It is trying to develop again, but I'm trusting the Lord will rebuke it and make it well. Pray for me. Seems I'm so helpless and need the Lord so very much, but I have found Him to be a very present help in time of trouble.

Sister Katie Gibson was a real "Mother in Israel." She had a missionary spirit, and went to many places to tell different ones about the great love of God. She had to walk, but she never seemed to tire of going and talking to others about the Bible. If she had not had a vision, she would not have bothered about me, as I was so very worldly and proud. She looked beyond what the natural eye could see and she realized I was a soul for whom Jesus died. I was really tender on the inside and a great love was lying dormant and needed to be awakened by the power, love, and mercy of our Lord. Oh, I'm so thankful the Lord worked through her efforts to bring me to feel my need of getting right with God and giving up the world! Oh, praise the sweet name of Jesus! [Through Sis. Katie's winning Sis. Miller to the truth, she taught her children the truth and today a number of them and their families are saved.]

May God richly bless you and yours, is our prayer. We do appreciate you and the work there. Trust the Lord will help it to go forth in the future as it has in the past. Pray for my unsaved children. —Effie Miller

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

Okla.—Dear saints at the Print Shop and abroad: I am happy to report victory in my soul. Salvation is the sweetest thing that mortal ever found. "It is well with my soul since the Lord made me whole." Our God still rules and has control. The government is upon His shoulder. He loves us, one and all. I am encouraged to press on in His name.

As I sit here pondering over the gracious dealing of our Saviour, I realize He is worthy to be trusted, praised, and served as long as He lendeth us breath. Oh, I see Him in the power of His might and great glory!

The thing that saddens me is that so few think upon His goodness, so few heed the conditional promises laid out in His Word. Man is forfeiting his right to the abundant life for which Christ so freely gave His life. May we be encouraged to ever lift up the shield of faith. God is calling for established, rooted, and grounded saints in the truth, those who are settled and "prepared for every good work." By the grace of God we will be ready and waiting to hear those welcome words, "Come, ye blessed of my Father."

... We feel the nearness of the approaching end of time. My heart is heavily burdened for the souls of the lost world. Daily I seek for more of the sound wisdom that is laid up for the righteous. I want to be as the tree

of life that is luscious and inviting to win souls for Christ. I love this way, the Word, and the Spirit's dealing. I want to be more obedient and not so timid in answering the call of my Lord in any small place He can use me in His service to glorify Him. Pray for me that I will be faithful even unto the end.

I am thankful that recently the Lord healed a large knot on my neck. —Sis. Erma Johnson

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

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . Many memories came back to me today of all the work that goes into the publications there at Faith Publishing House. There is so much proofreading, etc. I still appreciate all who are willing to sacrifice money, good homes, easier conveniences, etc., for the work of the Lord. Where would I be today had I not heeded the call from high school and gone to work there? I have never regretted it. The Lord has rewarded me over and over, and I'm not old yet. It surely pays to serve Him. —Roberta (Melot) Wilson

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: Holy greetings in the name of our blessed Saviour. I am happy and still saved and thankful to be permitted to see the beginning of a new year. I am resolved to press a little harder and walk a little closer than in the year gone by. I surely aim to make heaven my home. The outer man is growing more frail each day, but thanks be to God, the inner man is renewed each day and is still pressing on. As we grow older, we may be tempted to rest or relax a little, but the devil is busy as long as we are on this side of eternity. He can present so many simple looking things, little problems, trials, and tests.

The Lord gave me a song one morning not long ago. "My soul, be on thy guard, ten thousand foes arise, and hosts of sin are pressing hard to draw thee from the skies." We surely need to be always on guard.

Last summer I found I had to make a change. I prayed and hoped I might be able to accept the offer of several homes that were offered me, but after an all night of prayer, the Lord made it known to me that I should come to Pacoima, Calif., to the Home here. Of course, I obeyed the Lord. He surely knows best. This is a quiet, peaceful place. There is an air of love and kindness all around us. Sis. Mildred Sherman and her staff see to it that we are well cared for. We have prayer service every day. The stronger ones help look after those who are not so strong by reading to them or helping otherwise. There are four very old saints here who are sweet in spirit in ages 90, 93, 99, and 103. All are able to walk to the table but the 93-year-old one. She comes in a wheelchair. The 103-year-old reads without glasses, hears well and helps clear the tables, etc.

The Lord is good and I love Him with all my heart. I am asking the saints to pray for me that the Lord will bless me in my affliction. I pray that He will bless all of you and give you strength for the many tasks that you are called upon to do. —Sis. Amy Hunter

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Miles: Greetings in Jesus' name to you and to all at the Print Shop. Oh, yes, I truly love the Lord and am striving to please Him more and more every day, because He first loved me. He suffered on the cross that we might have eternal life. I truly praise and glorify His name every day, and solicit your prayers.

Thanks for the tracts, and I received them in good condition. Also, thank you for the encouraging written message, and I pray God to continue to bless souls and bodies and supply every need. . . .

—Sis. Minnie Ola Jones

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

Miss.—Dear Brother in Christ: Greetings in the name of our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ. Trust you are better in body. I also trust all at the Print Shop are well in soul and body.

Please keep praying for us. We need help from the Lord in soul and body. . . . May God bless you and the dear saints scattered abroad everywhere.

With Christian love, —Harold T. Griffin

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

La.—Dear Sis. Marie and readers of *Faith and Victory*: Greetings in the name of Jesus, that wonderful Gift the Father gave to the world, and He brought eternal life to all who would accept it. Sad to know that many will not receive it because they are not willing to meet the terms.

We have entered into a new year and know not what it may bring, but we know in all things our Saviour will be with us and supply all our needs. When we started into last year, 1977, we didn't know the changes in life we would meet and the sadness it would bring—the loss of our mother and dear companion within a month's time. Yet we can say the Lord has been good to us. He has strengthened, comforted, and supplied every need. Praise the Lord! I love Him better than ever before. I have a greater love and tenderness for all souls, and a greater burden for the lost ones. "Earth holds no treasures, but perish with using, however precious they be, . . . Heaven holds all to me." Yes, heaven means more to me than ever. There are more loved ones to meet over there.

The Word of God teaches us how to live as becometh saints (Eph. 5:3,4), to be separate from the world (I John 2:15,16). It teaches us how to dress as becometh women professing holiness (I Tim. 2:9,10). I love the Lord and want to keep His words. He said that "If a man love me, he will keep my words," and do the things I say.

Saints have always taught, and yet teach, that we are to dress plainly and modestly, not following the styles and fashions of the world. Sister Katherine Key, our pastor for many years, used to tell us that we should keep a good dress length, about halfway between the knees and ankles, regardless of whether the style went up or down. Even to lengthen the dresses because of style is not good, because God weighs the motives of the heart. The danger today is that of getting too close to the knee length. I pray that we, the mothers and grandmothers, may set a good example before them and teach our young saints to hold up the standard taught by our ministers, for the young ones are the Church of tomorrow. Sis. Key also used to tell us to try to discourage pride in the hearts of our little girls rather than encouraging it by fixing them with trim and frills like the world. I Cor. 10:31 tells us to do all to the glory of God. May the Lord help us to remember this commandment in all our doings, is my prayer.

—Myrtis Flynn

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

Kansas—Dear saints: We thank the Lord for His many precious blessings during 1977. He was so very good to us and we appreciate every benefit bestowed

upon us. We are expecting trials in '78, but also the blessings that come from the trials. We certainly desire to be faithful to God because He has been so precious and faithful to us. As one song says, "I'm depending on Jesus, He's depending on me."

The devil seems so tricky and sly in these last and perilous times. I feel that we as saints are going to have to be on guard at all times and seek God earnestly and continuously to be led by Him and taught how to behave.

In these confusing times of modernism and even compromise, it behooves us as saints to humble ourselves more and more so the Lord can keep us balanced and help us hold up the holiness standard and look for and walk in the "old paths." Also, we need to be careful to be bearing the fruits of the Spirit and forbearing one another with love. We must be careful about our attitudes and actions toward others whose lives we question. The Lord tells us not to strive with one another, but the enemy knows how to slyly cause humans to do so. In the Bible we are warned, "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Gal. 5:15. I fear that unless we stand against the tricks of the enemy, we will have a lessening of power because of inward war and breaking of unity. May the Lord help us all to watch and pray.

With Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

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

Ohio—Dear Brother Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' dear name in this new year of 1978. Another year is gone, and surely God was good to all of His trusting children. Many are His blessings and benefits that He bestows upon us. I can witness to the goodness of God, as He came to help me in answer to prayer different times during this past year. I was afflicted in body at different times, but the dear Lord did not fail me and brought me through. I surely desire a closer walk with God.

I trust that God is blessing you and helping you in your affliction. Your name is called often in prayer. We don't know what this year holds in store for any of us, but God will take care of the future if we live for Him.

I enjoy reading the good articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper. May God continue to bless the work there.

I have unsaved loved ones that I desire prayer for, as well as for two afflictions on my body.

God is blessing the church in Dayton, and we thank God for the straight preaching that we hear in the services. The ministry in Dayton is holding up the truth. . . .

In Christian love, —Bro. Earl Sharp

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

S. Carolina—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Marie: Greetings of love to all at the Print Shop. This letter leaves me still holding up the banner for Jesus, and fighting hard to make Heaven. All of God's people are going up against a battle, but I am sure God is able to help us win the race. Bless His name!

I am sending a little offering to help in the meeting. I do wish I were there eating the bread of life and drinking from the living fountain of water. Praise the Lord! Remember me in prayer that God will hold me up in this battle.

Your Brother in Christ, —Eddie Driggers

Minn.—Greetings in the holy name of Jesus: I am still on the holy way, walking with the Lord. Jesus said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," and I will never forsake Jesus because He has done so much for me in times past, and also provided a Home everlasting in the heavens. Where Jesus is, that is heaven to me.

I am well and get around fairly good. [He was 91 on Jan. 16, 1978.] Thanks to the Lord for supplying all of my needs. We are on our journey Home.

—Bro. Andrew Senti

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

Mo.—Dear Sister Marie and all of God's children: May God bless all of you with a happy new year, strength, and health. I still love my paper, *Faith and Victory*. I never fail to read it all.

I thank God for His love and mercy. I know we don't deserve it, but He is a merciful God. . . . We still need your prayers.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Jewell Lane

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints: Greetings of love in the lovely name of Jesus, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is our great High Priest, making intercession daily at the right hand of God for those who love, serve, and trust Him with all their heart and soul. He is touched with "the feelings of our infirmities." Heb. 4:14,15.

We trust that all of you are getting along well in both soul and body, and are encouraged to keep pressing "toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14. We are encouraged in the Lord, and find the service of the Lord richer, sweeter, and more rewarding in the spiritual blessings of life, as well as the physical and temporal, each day. We have no desire to give up the Lord or to seek the pleasures of the world, because "we are dead to the world and its pleasures, our affections are centered above, where we own such a wonderful treasure; 'tis our home in that city of love." Praise the Lord!

The Lord has been blessing here at Hammond, and has added a few to our congregation, and we are expecting Him to add more. . . . Truly, God's church is composed of all nations and races of people who have been born again, redeemed out of sin, by the blood of Jesus; and through and by His Holy Spirit made all one in Christ. If we all "walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7.

Pray for us, as we do for you saints there.

—Bob Forbes

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

Tex.—Dear ones in the Lord: . . . We greet you in His dear name who died that we might live. How wonderful is the love of God! He gave His only begotten Son that we might live and be at peace with Him. How wonderful it is that Jesus came willingly and died for us! Oh, the joy unspeakable and full of glory we have in our souls! Praise the Lord!

I'm rejoicing in the good Lord today. I heard Bro. Willie Murphey on the radio this morning and then I played a tape of Sister Margaret Eck's, and my soul just rejoiced in the Lord. Thank the good Lord for victory in my soul. I rejoice in the Lord to be saved, sanctified, and

living for God, filling the place He has called me to fill. He sets the members in the Body as it pleases Him. I am doing my best to keep Him pleased. Praise the Lord! If I do it willingly, I'll receive a reward.

Christian love and prayers, —Sis. Nellie Lovell

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

Pa.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the most precious name of Jesus. We are still happy in the Lord, and determined to follow Him all the way. I am trusting Him for all my needs.

My prayer is that the Lord will bless you as you labor for Him there in the Print Shop, and that He will heal your body. Your labors are much needed.

Pray for me and my brothers who are sorely afflicted in body, and also pray for their souls. . . .

Your Sister in Christ,

—Mary Johnson

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

Pa.—Dear ones: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus. I am so glad and thankful for the many, many times He has come to my rescue. I can never thank Him enough that we have this wonderful privilege of prayer given to us. We know prayer changes things. It is truly wonderful that we can worship Him undisturbed and unmolested. We also know we have a very determined foe, the devil. Therefore, we need a settled determination to resist him in the mighty name of Jesus.

I was sick with a cold and flu. I thank God for afflicting me, as David said, "Before I was afflicted I went astray." Psalms 119:67a. God does all things well. Life is so very serious and weighty.

Please continue to pray for me and all of us here, that God will deal with souls, and that they will receive a love for the truth and want to be saved.

May God richly bless you and yours, and all the household of faith, is my prayer.

Love and prayers,

—Cora Slifer

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

Ky.—Good morning to all who work at the Faith Publishing House! I have been reading the *Faith and Victory* paper many, many years, and I think it is one of the best papers that comes off the press. I do not want to miss any *Faith and Victory* paper as long as I am in this little world. Of course, that will not be much longer, for I will be 84 years of age if Jesus does not call for me before March the first. When men and women get up in their 80's, their journey is about ended. I know I am ready for the call. I found God at an altar of prayer on December 5, 1928, and I have never got off that road. I am happy in the Lord.

—Leonard Ruggles

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

Tenn.—I love the poems that you print in the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is food for my soul when I get the paper. I just like it all. I am getting to be an old lady now and I started taking the paper in the late 1920's. I am a widow and am 73 years of age. My husband passed away in 1960. Thank you for sending it on to me when I didn't have much with which to pay for it.

I keep house part-time for a lady, but I won't be able to work much longer. I had a car wreck in 1973 and I haven't gotten over it. Pray for me that I can work on a while longer. . . .

May God help you in your work.

—Mrs. Jesse Simpson

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie and workers: Greetings of love to you in the most precious name of Jesus, our soon returning Lord. I am yet thankful to be saved and am trusting God for both soul and body.

I should have sent my testimony in before now, as God did such a wonderful and complete healing on my body. I was at death's door. I couldn't lie down in my bed for about three or four months. I was eating three meals a day yet losing weight steadily. I lost 85 pounds. Some of the saints who came to see me would not look at me for more than two or three seconds. Most that came thought they wouldn't see me alive again. I guess the reason it is so indelible on my mind today is because it was one year ago today (Jan. 9th) that I first took ill. The only thing that I had to hold to when the pains were so severe was that God made me to know that "this sickness is not unto death." I firmly believe and testify to the fact that we, as saints of the Most High God, shouldn't trust in man for our healing. I believe that God, in His mercy, gave doctors for unbelievers. I firmly believe that if anyone among us is sick he should call for the elders of the Church as stated in James 5:13-16. When I was so very low some asked me to go for a check-up, and maybe I could get a special diet so they would know what to feed me. So I consulted God as to what to do. The Lord spoke to me, "Swear to your own hurt and change not." (Psa. 15:4). I said, "Yes, Lord," and in a few days I could lie down and I stopped losing weight. My appetite returned and I was able to go to services. I looked terrible, but God had healed me and I felt good. Through it all, the Lord taught me lessons that are most precious to my soul.

I would like to encourage all the saints that if we hold true and faithful, God will come to our rescue and heal our bodies and bless our souls.

Christian love,

—Gladys Doolittle

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

Okla.—Dear saints: I am saved and have the victory over sin. I am 86 years of age, a widow and live alone, yet not alone, for the Lord is with me. . . .

When I need someone to pray for me, I call the pastor, Bro. and Sis. Kelly. They are so sweet in praying, and even coming out and staying in the battle 'till the victory is won. I thank God for them.

I know that my time is not long here, as I am getting weaker every day. I thank all the saints for their prayers. Also, I thank Bro. and Sis. Porter. They also have shown their love and concern for me. I need your prayers. I am afflicted in body, but happy in my soul. I am ready to go. I mean to stay ready by His grace.

—Sis. Della Harris

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

Okla.—Dear saints: I have had many trials and heartaches in the last year, . . . but the Lord would bless me and give me complete healing. I am thanking and praising God for my pastor and the saints everywhere for their prayers.

I had a bad heart attack on Jan. 14th, but I thank God He always has someone to whom He can talk. He spoke to Sis. Tillman to go see Sis. Lefford. She obeyed and came over. Thirty minutes after she got here I had

a bad spell. I was completely unconscious and didn't know anything. They called the pastor and my daughter. The Lord healed me. . . .

Saints, I thank all of you for your prayers. Continue to pray for me. My trust is in the Lord.

—Sis. Ophelia Lefford

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

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I am thanking God for blessing me through 1977 and sparing me to see the beginning of another year. I mean to do more for the Lord this year. The Lord is so very good to me. So many times it seems like I have gone as far as I can, but Bro. and Sis. H. Kelly would always pray and call to encourage me to hold on and trust God, for His Word is true. . . .

Pray for my husband and children. Also, pray that my faith will be strong in the Lord.

—Sis. Tillman

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

Okla.—Dear Brother Pruitt and saints: I do appreciate all of your prayers for the healing of my leg. It was about two weeks before Thanksgiving when I started to get out of bed and could hardly walk. This happened to me about two and a half years ago, and I didn't write my testimony, but was waiting for the numbness of my foot to go completely away. Sometimes it would go and again it would come back. This time I am not waiting for it to go, for I know God can take away numbness just as well as He can take away the pain, and that is what He has done. He has healed it completely.

I was a very sick person, but I knew if it were a blood clot, God could heal it, and He did heal whatever it was. I give Him all the honor and praise. . . .

—Sister Eva Hardman

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

La.—Dear saints: Thank the Lord for salvation, truth, and light. The Word means so very much to me. Thank the Lord that He led Sister Marie Miles and Bro. Leslie Busbee to help us with the study on Revelations in the *Bible Lesson* quarterly, and awakened in us the need and value in studying it. We are learning and gaining soul food. Praise our Lord! We pray much for understanding, and as the Lord unfolds its truth, we can see it shine forth crystal clear! Then we feel the warm spirit of His love and know we are walking in truth. It is heaven to know we are on the right road. Oh, if only people who profess to be children of God, but are out there in the sects would only humble their hearts, die to self and let God have full control, they, too, could see the difference! It's so sad for poor people to spend a lifetime in their church work and die lost, all because they did not take the Bible way, and be born of the Spirit of Christ. The Word and the Spirit is dead to them. Surely, the anti-Christ spirit is opposing the truth.

I am so very glad to be saved, and I am looking forward to my eternal Home. Sometimes I long to go. It was one month ago today that the horse knocked me down, re-hurting my already injured back, and badly bruising my leg. I was back in bed for two weeks with great suffering. The precious saints here were faithful in prayer and helping me, but the first real, restful sleep was the night following the day I called Guthrie for prayer on Dec. 28th. For some reason God is permitting me to be tested more. Oh, how I long for Him to help me

learn all He would have me learn and be all He would have me be! With all my heart and understanding I want to please the Lord and go all the way with Him. The Lord knows my heart. When I sleep awhile, I awake with that place in my back hurting so bad, or when I get tired the pain increases. I know God is my help and I am trusting him fully. Will you who know the worth of prayer, please pray for the Lord to relieve me in His own good way. I do my housework in much suffering, or when I go to church services it is with great effort, but I want to do my best and not fail. Praise our Lord for the victory that awaits the faithful!

In Christian love to all, —Sis. Gladys Cashio  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: I feel the Lord wants me to send in my testimony of God's healing power. The days of miracles are definitely not past, if we will only fling ourselves out on God's unfailing promises and have believing faith.

Tonight the Lord awoke me from sleep, with part of a Scripture going over and over in my mind, "Ye do not well." I was instantly alarmed, for my greatest desire is to do only that which is pleasing in His sight. I asked the Lord what I had failed in. The message we had heard the previous Sunday came to my mind about hiding our candle, or whatever the Lord had blessed us with, be it salvation, healing, talent, or whatever. I arose from bed and looked up the Scripture still ringing in my mind, and found it in II Kings 7:9. "We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household." As I was thinking on this Scripture, the chorus of No. 225 in our songbook came ringing in my mind, "Oh, tell what he's done for you, of his love so strong and true; oh, tell what he's done, what he's done for you; others may need him, too."

Now I knew what God wanted me to do. That is, to testify and not keep hidden what the Lord had done for me. Maybe some other sister who has had the same problem I had might be encouraged to lean hard on God for victory. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Heb. 13:8.

A little over a year ago I started having pains in my breast and discovered there was a lump in it. My first thoughts were: "Oh, no! It could be breast cancer." Almost immediately came the soothing thought, "Take it to the Lord in prayer." What a wonderful privilege we have! I knew that nothing was too large or too small for God's healing power, but it all depends upon us. We are the ones who put limitations on God. He is almighty, He is willing, and "with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. But will we believe? I was having a real battle with my faith, so I started reading books on faith, healing, etc., from the Faith Publishing House. My faith was increased. The pain had also increased, until it would awaken me in the night. Several in the congregation here and my family were praying with me.

One day, after I had felt burdened to fast and pray, I was able to just totally commit myself to God, live or die, and trust Him. I had no intention whatsoever of turning to the arm of flesh to be checked or tested, which would only hinder faith. The next time we went to meeting I asked to be anointed and prayed for. The Lord instantly

took the pain away, and I've been free from it for a year now. Praise the dear Lord! He is so precious to me!

The devil wasn't at all pleased, and every time I would testify to a sister I would have to resist him in the name of the Lord and he always had to flee. I was so happy that I wanted everyone to know of His wondrous working power, but because of the nature of the matter I had kept it quiet. Now I know God wants me to testify about it, and trust that it may encourage and help someone else.

We also want to thank the Lord and the saints for their prayers in behalf of our little boy, Robby. The day after Christmas he had a bad earache in one ear. The next day he had one in the other ear. The Lord blessed and took the pain away. Then we noticed he wasn't hearing us, and it kept getting worse until he wouldn't hear unless we were real close and spoke loudly. We sent in a request the last Saturday night of the Guthrie Assembly meeting for him. On Sunday, he was improved, and on Monday his hearing became normal again, just in time for him to go to school the next morning. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation." Ps. 68:19.

May God bless you each one with whatever needs or burdens you have, is my prayer.

—Norene (Cole) Harmon

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

New York—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Holy greetings in the beautiful name of our Lord and Saviour who is the author and finisher of my faith. I thank God for my salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ who suffered, bled and died for our sins that we may have a right to eternal life. Praise God for my inheritance among those who are sanctified. I love the Lord with all of my heart. My determination is to see Jesus' face in peace, and to hear Him say, "Well done." . . .

Your Sister in Christ, —Henrietta Davis

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

Ohio—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. This leaves me yet saved and encouraged to press the battle on until the end.

I would like to tell how God helped and blessed me in the passing of my husband, Earl Knight. We went to Tulsa, Okla., which we did every year. I was blessed to go to Guthrie and also to attend some of the Tulsa camp-meeting. Before we left Tulsa, Earl had told his sister Lela that he may never see her again on this earth. He also told his sister Mattie he wouldn't be coming back again, that things would be different. We had prayer and left for Akron. God gave us a safe trip. While we were in Oklahoma several ministers talked with Earl about his soul. He told one that he would be ready. When we got home, Earl asked me to forgive him for some things he had said to me. I told him, "Oh, yes, I forgive you!" Brother and Sister Zedore Francisco were here and they spent Wednesday night with us. Earl talked to Bro. Francisco Wednesday and Thursday night a long time about his soul. He told him he had only one thing to give up and that was his temper. Brother Francisco told him he could do nothing with his temper, but God could, and for him to pray and ask God to help him. Earl told him he would pray. So on Friday, July 1st, our camp-meeting started. I got up early and fixed Earl's break-

fast, and I left for the campground to cook. I came home Friday night and went into the basement to wash some things. Earl was down there crying. I asked him what was wrong. He said he was praying and that I did not know his heart. I told him that was true. I tried to get him to go to bed. He told me, no, he was praying. So I went upstairs and called down the clothes chute and asked him if he were going to bed. He told me, no, he was praying. So I went to bed. I got up early to fix Earl's breakfast. He was in the kitchen. I spoke to him and asked how he felt, and he said, "All right." I left and went to the campground to fix the meal. At about 6:30 that evening I got the message that Earl was involved in an accident and was in the hospital. Sister LaDolia Fuller drove up and took me to the hospital. On our way, we had an agreement in prayer. I was telling the Lord that I did not know what to expect, and asked Him to fortify me for whatever it might be. When we got there, they told me they did all they could, but he was gone. He lived for half an hour after he got to the hospital. God gave me the Scripture in Psalms 46:1, that He was my refuge and my strength, a very present help in trouble. God got under me and held me up. I thank God! You know, dear ones, God could have taken me around it, but He saw fit to take me through it. I know God does not make a mistake because He is an all-wise God. He knows what is best. God knew when to call Earl. He let it happen on the second day of the meeting. I was surrounded by saints. God knew what I needed. I appreciated the love and care, both spiritual and temporal, I received at that time. Saints came from afar to be with us. We thank the Lord also how he stood by the family. There is one thing I do know, Earl is in the hands of a just God. I desire your prayers. I am determined by God's grace and help to see my Saviour's face in peace. I am willing to go all the way. Pray for me and my family.

With Christian love, —Sis. Zenola Ruth Knight  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o

W. Va.—Dear Sister Miles: Greetings to you and everyone in Jesus' dear name. I love the Lord and His dear children. They mean so very much to me. I am thankful that others can get out and work for God and His cause. I feel burdened at times for I do so little for Him and He has done so much for me. . . .

I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper and I do appreciate all of you toiling there day after day to get the papers and books out. . . . The letters in the paper are very inspiring. It is all food for my soul. What a mighty God we serve! Truly He is wonderful.

God has healed my back or my heart. I haven't had any spells since the first day of November, 1977. Bro. and Sis. Dwayne Sizemore from Green Bank, W. Va., and Bro. and Sis. Roy Harmon from Overland Park, Kansas, were here. They anointed me two times and prayed for me. . . . God truly undertook on my behalf. Praise His holy name!

On the 19th of Nov. 1977, I was coming up the steps from the yard to the porch when I stopped to talk to our son who was standing in the yard. The step gave way and down I went between two steps to the ground. Just my head didn't go through. I was bruised terribly and my right limb looked like I had been dragged through cinders. One cut place was 13 or 14 inches long. Our son

Vernon helped me around to the back door and into the house. My husband never heard me holler. If the children hadn't been there, it is just hard to tell how long I would have been there. I remember saying, "Oh, Lord, help me!" The calf of my right limb was badly bruised. It turned all different colors like bruises do at times. Before I got in the house I had a severe headache, and had other headaches for a week, day and night. Vernon's wife washed all the cut places with soap and water the best she could. . . . By Sunday afternoon the places were all full of pus, and my limb was swollen and fiery red with streaks going several ways. . . . Then Satan tried to tell me I would get lock jaw, for I had never had a shot for that in all my life. I rebuked him in Jesus' name. . . . I never got discouraged, but put my trust in my Lord and Master. My other limb was bruised and the flesh was torn. . . .

My right limb is healed up, except for some soreness yet. . . . God has surely been with me in this accident. I could have had broken bones or broken my glasses in my eyes. . . .

I want you to know that I do appreciate everyone's prayers for me. I always pray for you there at the Print Shop and for all my brothers and sisters in the Lord. . . .

—Sister Queen Luzader

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## Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** Please explain Luke 16:9.

**Answer:** Luke 16:9 reads as follows: "And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations."

There are several qualifying points in this text but before we analyze them let us notice some other similar passages. I Tim. 6:17-19 says, "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." Again in Matt. 25:34-36 Jesus said, "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Again Jesus speaking in Luke 12:33,34 says, "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." In Matt. 19:21, Jesus said to the rich young man who came to Him seeking the way to obtain eternal life, "If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."



All of these texts and others are parallel and identical in their message with the text of our question—Luke 16:9. They are all teaching the same thing but all of them together broaden the perspective of the thought more than any one of them would alone. All of these passages seem to teach the idea of being saved through our good works, benevolences, and charities. But that could not be true because such an interpretation would clash head-on with many other plain Scriptures pertaining to our obtaining salvation and eternal life. In Titus 3:4-6 we read, "But after the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." This passage makes it perfectly clear that it is a distinct work of God through the operation of the Holy Ghost in one's soul that saves him and not the works of righteousness one does. All the good works, benevolences, and charities spoken of in all the above texts are certainly works of righteousness and pertain to salvation, but that is not what saves one. Eph. 2:8,9 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." Here is another plain text which makes it plain that one is saved by grace and not by his works. Also II Tim. 1:9 says, "Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." There are many other texts similar to these, but according to God's law every word is established by two or three witnesses, so I feel it unnecessary to multiply Scriptures and take more space on this point.

Now the question naturally arises, "If these Scriptures do not teach salvation by works of righteousness consisting of one's good deeds, benevolences, and charities, then what do they teach?" They certainly seem to teach this, I agree. As has already been pointed out; they could not teach this without clashing head-on with other plain Scriptures pertaining to obtaining salvation. This the Scriptures never do.

What we need to realize and recognize is that many specific Scriptures have a specific objective and emphasize a certain point. Perhaps no one Scripture covers all the conditions of salvation. Failing to recognize this, many in the religious world today have missed the mark and established wrong doctrines on certain Scriptures. For example: In Acts 16:31 where Paul and Silas were giving instruction to the penitent, broken, contrite jailer inquiring the way to be saved, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house." On a broad scale this Scripture has been seized upon to establish a doctrine that all one has to do is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. This doctrine overlooks and by-passes the ideas of repentance, restitution, confession of sins, forgiving others who have wronged us and seeking the forgiveness of those we have wronged, brokenness of spirit, contrition of heart, godly sorrow, etc. and just makes it a simple matter of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. This jailer had already reached this place and his works and attitude proved it. Paul and Silas re-

cognized this and cried out to him exultantly, "Jesus is the one who can save you; believe on Him." That was all that was left to do in this case. Again in Acts 22:16 when God had sent Ananias to Saul of Tarsus to pray for him that he might receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost, Ananias said to him, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." On this Scripture and other similar ones the doctrine has been founded of being saved by baptism. Let us not overlook the fact that Paul had already repented and humbled his heart in surrender to the Lord and submission to His will and had been fasting and praying for three days and God made this known to Ananias. Now all that remained for him to do was to be baptized and put the seal on it.

Thus it is evident and plain to be seen that no one Scripture sets forth all the conditions of salvation but each has a specific objective and emphasizes a specific point according to its setting and related conditions. We are to view Luke 16:9 and all the parallel texts in this light. Certainly no one will be saved and obtain eternal life just because he did good works and because of his benevolences and charities. It is also certain that no one can be saved without this kind of a spirit and disposition. It is the Spirit of Christ without which no one can be saved. Romans 8:9 says, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." In Matt. 25:41,42 we read, "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was an hungered and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not." Here is a people being doomed because they had not the spirit of Christ and therefore neglected to help the needy people around them.

Now let us analyze Luke 16:9 specifically. The occasion of this statement is a preceding parable which Jesus had spoken concerning an unjust steward who was going to be dismissed from his stewardship because he had wasted his master's goods. When this was announced to him, he called in all of his master's debtors and discounted all their bills with the thought in mind that when he was put out of his master's house they would receive him into their houses in return for his favor to them. Jesus commended him for looking ahead and making provision for himself in the future, and then proceeds to instruct us to do the same thing. Not to defraud and embezzle as this man did, to be sure, but to look beyond this present world and present time and make provisions for everlasting habitations in the world to come. He also makes it clear that the proper use of our material substance in helping the needy people around us is a part of doing this.

In Matt. 6:20 Jesus instructs us to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven; and in Matt. 19:21, He tells us how to do this: "Go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." Again, in Luke 12:33 Jesus said, "Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves . . . a treasure in the heavens that faileth not." This makes it clear



that our good deeds, benevolences, charities, and help to the needy people around us are a part of the process of laying up treasures for ourselves in heaven. When a traveler arrives in a foreign country, he must go to the money exchangers and exchange his money for their currency which is legal tender in that country, so he can spend it there. God has His own currency exchange whereby when we perform our services, almsgiving, charities, and benevolences in the right spirit and in His Name and for His glory, He converts our material substance into spiritual substance which is legal tender in the heavenly country and becomes a treasure laid up in heaven for us.

The "mammon of unrighteousness" in the text is the material substance over which we are stewards, and we are instructed to use it in the manner outlined above. The phrase, "When ye fail," refers to our death when we quit the walks of life. The last clause in the text, "They may receive you into everlasting habitations," could not be interpreted literally, and for the following reasons: The friends we make through the help we give with our material substance are not the ones who will receive us into heaven, but Jesus is the Judge and He will receive us when we pass His judgment. Also, we might die and pass on to our eternal home before those we have helped do and they would not be there to receive us. Also, many whom we help may not be saved in the end and consequently would not be there to receive us. It is all emphasizing that this is a part of the over-all process of one working out his own salvation and laying up treasures in heaven and obtaining eternal life.

Let us make no mistake about it. Salvation is not the result of our good works and charities, but these things are the result of our having salvation and part of the fruits of it, and are part of the process of maintaining our salvation and obtaining eternal life.

### **"Study to Shew Thyself Approved Unto God"**

A few days ago here at the office I was working extra hard trying to get a lot accomplished by a certain time. I was well pleased with the amount I had accomplished, and estimated that if I could continue at the rate I was going I could get done ahead of schedule. I was so very thankful, and had even mentioned to some others who knew the amount of work that I had to do that day how much the Lord had helped me.

Shortly after noon I discovered that about half of what I had done in the morning was wrong and would have to be done over. I felt very sad and discouraged, realizing that what I had worked so hard and energetically on was useless and that my labor had profited me nothing. I then wished I had not accomplished so much as that was just more that had to be redone. As I was meditating on this, the thought came to my mind how much worse it would be to work hard all of one's life and come to the end of life's way and realize that his labors were not acceptable to the Lord. Immediately the Scripture came to my mind, "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own

righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." Romans 10:2,3.

Had I been very careful I could have avoided my mistake all together and even partial checking could have limited it to a small one. I was so sure I was doing right that it never entered my mind that I might be wrong, yet when I did notice it, the mistake was very easy to observe and I wondered why I had not noticed it sooner. I thought how in the spiritual life we need to do as Paul exhorted, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15.

Some people say it doesn't matter what we believe so long as we are sincere. This is not true. I was very sincere in thinking my work was done correctly, but in fact it was wrong. If this theory were true, the Bible would not say, "... they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth. ..." II Thess. 2:11,12. Others believe that if a lot is accomplished through our labors, it is a sign of the Lord's approval. This is not necessarily true. We read in I Tim. 4:8, that "bodily exercise profiteth little. ..." Although the Lord does, at times, bless His children with immediate, visible accomplishment for their labors, at other times we do not see the accomplishment until later. Oftentimes, when we see spiritual accomplishment we do not know what labor is responsible for it. Therefore, we cannot always judge the righteousness of our labors by the accomplishment we see.

Let us all be diligent to search our own heart and life to see if there be any wicked way in us. "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 wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Heb. 13:20,21. We want to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matt. 25:21.

—Eldonna Rhoades

### **THE HOUSE—WHO SHALL BUILD IT?**

In Psalms 127:1 we read, "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Read the rest of Psalms 127 and 128.

Many people who marry are young, unsaved, and inexperienced in the will of the Lord or in the ways of life. Therefore, they are incapable of ruling and directing their home. Much trouble starts because of this immature condition. So I feel inspired to say that the marriage vows should include this provision, "Will you together agree to seek the will of the Lord about all things and do His will so far as you know it? Will you do unto the other as you would have him to do unto you?"

The couple should study and know the requirements of the marriage vows before the time of their wedding. I believe that this would be the will of the Lord and the proper instruction to those who are considering marriage. The Lord should be the Head or Ruler of every home.

—Tressie V. Sivils