

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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The Mother of Us All



There is a pure and shining gem
Of womanhood we call;
She is the New Jerusalem:
"The Mother of us all."

To her we give a tribute dear:
We honour and esteem
Her beauty, charm, and heav'nly cheer
And faith's triumphant gleam.

From ages past we hear her voice:
The saints of long ago
Who made the will of God their choice
While living here below.

The holy prophets did reveal
Her true and holy light:
The love and worship, oh, so real,
Of hearts made clean and white!

From righteous Abel coming down
Each generation since:
The godly people of renown
Whose God was their defence—

This shining host of saints divine
My Mother is, I know,
Above the mists of earth to shine
The holy way to show.

She is a City on a hill,
Raised up in Christ, her King;
Her love and goodness doth me fill
The praise of God to sing.

So while the mothers of our land
We special honour give,
Do not forget to lift thine hand
To her who helps us live.

Look and behold thy Mother now,
The Church of God we call:
A crown of glory on her brow—
The Mother of us all!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Who Is Our Real Mother?



Mother holds a special place for all of us. Especially at this season of the year we pay special tribute and honour to Mother. It is altogether fitting and proper to do this, and to do it not only now, but always. For it is one of the commandments of God to honour our father and our mother.

In Bible history we have the record of mothers who were greatly used of the Lord and became heroines for the right. Think of Eve, the mother of all living, the mother of righteous Abel. There was the wife of Noah, who helped to influence her three sons and their wives for the right. Look at Sarai, wife of Abraham, whose name was changed to Sarah. She had faith to conceive and bring forth a son when the time of life was past the child-bearing season. Think of Jochebed, mother of Moses, and the sacrifice she made to spare her son from the cruelty of Pharaoh. And so the list goes on. Many mothers are not recorded for us to know about, but God knows them everyone.

I am inspired to speak of another Mother. Paul mentions her in Gal. 4:26, and calls her "Jerusalem" which is above. He said she "is free, which is the mother of us all." He then quotes a passage from Isaiah 54:1 which reads: "Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband." Now let us notice that he quotes this from the prophet and applies it to the Jerusalem which is above. He is comparing her with the literal Jerusalem which is in bondage with her children. The literal Jerusalem, the literal Israel, is not the mother of the saved and the redeemed. It is another Jerusalem, the one Paul mentions again in Hebrews 12:22,23 when he wrote: "But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the HEAVENLY Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, . . ." Here is our Mother. We have been begotten through the seed of the Church which is the life of God revealed in the gospel of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

As we think of those faithful saints who have lived and died in the faith, our hearts take courage and comfort to go the way of the Lord. The counsel that they

give, a counsel that yet liveth and is effectual for spiritual benefit, their testimony of faith in God, and the holy life and example of purity and righteousness that they left for us to follow, all these are a mother-phase from them to us. We are nourished, encouraged, and strengthened by the influence of their sweet and stainless lives. Thank God for our blessed mother, the Church of the Living God!

Paul also said that by faith the elders obtained a good report. Heb. 11:2. A better rendition of this statement from the Greek could say, "By faith the ancients were attested." The faith of these saints were tested and proven and their record has been preserved to be given unto us. They are a great cloud of witnesses. Their Spirit-led and Spirit-inspired lives challenge and stir us today to walk the same. What a blessing their record is to us today. Bringing it on down to the present time, how thankful we are for those faithful saints who have lived the life and been a spiritual help to us! This is more of the mother-phase of the Church.

Many times people speak and give praise to their home town. "There is not a city in the world like my home town" they say. I am glad for Zion, the home of the soul. I was born in her when I gave my heart to the Lord and obeyed the gospel of the Word of God. She is my dwelling place and will be for all eternity.

While we give honour, love, and special remembrance to our mothers, let us behold and give special honour to the Mother of us who are saved and living by the faith of Christ. Let us call to remembrance the holy saints and the example of godly living and holiness that they have left us.

—Leslie C. Busbee

An Excellent Home Motto

"Rejoice evermore; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks." So writes St. Paul in his first letter to the Thessalonians. It would be well if these admonitions could be printed in letters of gold and hung on the walls of every home in our land, in order that parents and children might have their attention constantly called to them. How important it is, in the first place, to keep ourselves constantly reminded that it is not only the privilege but the duty of the Christian to "rejoice always"! How many of us there are who darken our days and mar the pleasures of those about us by moping, sighing, and frowning from morning until evening!

You answer, "Don't you understand? I have so very many cares, so many things to annoy me. Besides, I am not at all well. How can I keep from worrying?"

Well, you may help matters, in the first place, by using your reason and your will. Suppose you remind yourself every morning as you enter upon the new day that it matters not what your troubles may be, worrying will only make them worse. Worrying about your business or your household cares will unfit you for your work and cause your burdens to grow heavier until they become intolerable. Worrying about your ailments will only aggravate them. Worrying about your children will help to bring upon them the very evils you dread. On the other hand, a serene and cheerful spirit makes all work easier, all burdens lighter, and even aids one in overcoming physical infirmities.

Having reminded yourself of all this, resolutely make up your mind that, whatever comes or does not come, you will not fret. Then help yourself to carry out this resolve by setting yourself to obey the third admonition: "In everything give thanks." This, too, will require some mental exercise. You will need to turn your mind away from your troubles and to hold your attention upon your blessings. The longer you do this, the larger they will grow, and the deeper will become your appreciation of them. By and by you will find yourself exclaiming with the Psalmist, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" Before you know it you will find your frowns changed to smiles and your sigh to songs. Gloom and gratitude cannot live in the same heart.

Finally, help yourself in your efforts to obtain freedom from corroding cares and soul-destroying fears by obeying the second admonition: "Pray without ceasing." This does not mean that you are to be always asking God for things. Of course you are to ask Him for whatever you really need, especially for wisdom and moral strength and the spirit of appreciation and gratitude, but prayer is more than petition. It is loving communion with our Father; it is walking with God, as Enoch of old walked with Him. By such fellowship we are changed into the divine likeness, made in an even larger sense, partakers of the divine nature. As the life of God comes into our souls, and we learn to look trustingly into the face of God and to think the thoughts of God, we come more and more to share in the peace and joy of God.

"How shall I quiet my heart? How shall I keep it still?

How shall I hush its tremulous start at tidings of good will?

How shall I gather and hold contentment and peace and rest?

Wrapping their sweetness, fold on fold, over my troubled breast?

The Spirit of God is still and gentle and mild and sweet;

What time His omnipotent, gracious will guideth the world at His feet,

Controlling the lesser things, this turbulent heart of mine,

He keepeth as under His folded wings in a peace serene, divine."

—Selected by Nellie R. Robinson

Cut Off



After admiring a lovely bunch of chrysanthemums that a friend had given me, I placed them in a vase of water. Every day I refilled the vase with fresh water. During the first day, the room was filled with the fragrance of the flowers. The second day on entering the room I found that they did not, as before, fill the room with their sweetness. On the third day, I could barely detect the odor, and they did not look as fresh as when I put them in the vase. They had begun to look faded. What was the cause of this? They had been cut from the bush where they had been supplied with the nourishment they needed. Although for awhile they lived in the

fresh water, yet for a short time only did they fill the room with sweetness, and soon died.

How true a type this is of some poor souls. God has pardoned their sins; but because they do not feed on God's Word and talk with Him often, they lose the sweetness of their experience of salvation. For a time they may seem to be living, but they will soon become spiritually dead. In order to retain spiritual life it is absolutely necessary that we feed on heavenly things. To keep shedding spiritual fragrance we must be nourished from above. By reading God's Word and going often in secret prayer, we receive nourishment fresh from the throne of grace. This will keep us filled with spiritual beauty. Let us watch and pray lest we become cut off from God, lose our fragrance, then wither and die.

—Mattie C. Forbush

The Sweetest Name and Voice

Of all the voices I have heard, the voice of Jesus is the sweetest. One sister was singing, "Is my name written there, in the page white and fair; Tell me, Jesus, my Saviour, is my name written there?" While she was still singing, the other sister broke in and started singing, "My name is in the book of life; Oh, bless the name of Jesus! I rise above all doubt and strife and read my title clear." Praise God!

How sweet is the voice of Jesus, and His name is above all names! We use His name when praying for the sick, for the salvation of souls, in preaching, to bring cheer, and to comfort our hearts in the time of trouble. Jesus helps us to solve problems, guides us in our daily life, directs our words, and in choosing a life's companion.

I would rather hear the voice of Jesus than to hear the clinking of all the gold and silver in all the banks of the earth. There is an old song we at one time sang, "Oh, I'd rather be the least of them who are the Lord's His own, than wear a royal diadem and sit upon a throne." " 'Tis the sweetest name that the angels know, 'Tis the sweetest name here on earth below, 'Tis the sweetest name, and I love it so; tell it out to all the world that name is Jesus." "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Phil. 2:9-11. Jesus healed blind eyes, walked on water, raised the dead, walked through a door that was closed, calmed the sea, and many other things were done through the voice and name of Jesus. He is never too late. When we call, He said He would answer, and He has many times. I have heard His voice, which is always a pleasure.

I once asked Him, "Shall I go?" He said, "Go, and I will go with you." I cried to Him and He said, "Take the shield of faith, my brother." I did. I love that name! Life would be dull if we didn't have that Name upon which to look. That name can break the power of sin and set the captive free.

Time would fail to tell all He did. Are you, dear ones, hearing the voice of Jesus? If you are not, you may.

—A. E. (Gene) Harmon

The Deceitfulness of Gambling

"When the Inquisition House, at Madrid, was destroyed by order of Napoleon, the commanding officer found an image of a beautiful virgin. The workmanship was most perfect, its proportions were correct, and beauty rested on each chiseled feature. This image was an instrument of torture. The victim was commanded to go up and embrace the virgin, and as he placed his lips against the cold lips of the marble a spring was touched, an internal machine was set in motion and the arms of the virgin, filled with sharp daggers, arose and encircled the poor sufferer, and, cutting into his flesh, mangled him in a most horrible manner and destroyed his life. Gambling is such an image. It looks well at a distance, but it is armed with knives which will cut—not only the body, but also the soul. Flee from the gambler's house, as from the door of death. Flee from the gambler himself. He will strive to ruin you. Poison is in his heart and falsehood on his tongue. He seeks your ruin.

"Gambling is the staking of property upon mere hazard. The only difference between it and stealing is that in gambling the loser chooses to risk the loss of his property. Gambling stands in the same relation to stealing that dueling does to murder, the victim in each case taking the chance of becoming the victor. Just as dueling is murder, so gambling is stealing. The means employed or the methods adopted—you may call them what you please; they may be what you will—may include not only card-playing and dealing in pool, or lottery tickets, and also betting, etc. If you propose to get property upon any hazard you propose to get it by gambling; and the man who, upon any hazard, wins property is morally a thief and guilty of stealing. He who loses is an accessory to the crime. Now, in face of this view of the subject, the question seems almost needless: Is gambling wrong? God's Word condemns every principle used in gambling. 'Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.' II Cor. 8:21.

"Rarely is gambling condemned because it is a kind of action by which pleasure is obtained at the cost of pain to another. The normal obtainment of gratification, or of the money which purchases gratification, implies, first, that there has been put forth equivalent effort of a kind which, in some way, furthers the general good; second, that those from whom the money is obtained get, directly or indirectly, equivalent satisfaction. In gambling the opposite happens. Benefit received does not imply effort put forth, and the happiness of the winner involves the misery of the loser. This kind of action is, therefore, essentially anti-social. It sears the sympathies, cultivates a hard egoism, and so produces a general deterioration of character and conduct."

One wife told of her experiences in living with a husband who gambled. He was a miner and many times he would gamble away their entire pay check. One day he came home and told her they would have to move as he had lost their home in gambling. With tears she began to pack. Before they moved he had won it back. She was so glad when he was saved from his sins and the sin of gambling and that power was broken.

—M. Miles

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21 and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, the same gospel which Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including the divine healing of the body. James 5:14,15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the services and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

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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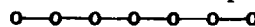
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EDITORIALS



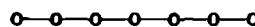
THE CAMPMEETING SEASON has arrived in the order of God's time during which special efforts will be made in many states of the U. S. to reach the unsaved with the good news of salvation from sin through Jesus Christ who "tasted death for every man." All praise unto our Lord and Saviour!

The Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie, Okla., is the first on the schedule this year. It will be in session, Lord willing, from May 26th to June 4th. (See further announcement on another page.) A large attendance is expected from several states. The saints are urged to come praying for a soul-saving meeting here and at all the campmeetings and tent meetings throughout the summer. Now on behalf of the local congregation and the pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, we give you a hearty invitation to come and worship the Lord together in the beauty of holiness at this 44th annual campmeeting on these grounds. Pray for a shower of spiritual blessings.



God designed His Church as the instrument to take the light of the gospel of Christ to this perishing world. Jesus finished His work and ascended to the Father over nineteen hundred years ago. Then He sent His Holy Spirit to sanctify, set in order, impart spiritual gifts, and empower His infant Church on the day of Pentecost to be witnesses of Him to the whole world beginning at Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit is the Presiding Officer in this gospel dispensation, and He dispenses charismatic gifts and sets the members in the spiritual Body of Christ as it pleases Him. No man or group of men has this authority, but it is reserved for the Holy Spirit alone.

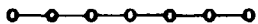
The Apostle Paul testified: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God." 2 Cor. 5:18-20. "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself," and reaching out His hands to this lost world, but now He has no hands but our hands, and no feet to carry the gospel but our feet, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us yield and submit to the Holy Spirit as instruments in Christ's stead with the message to the world, "Be ye reconciled to God!"



New Book Ready by June 1st . . .

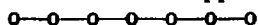
The Seventh Edition of the book, "God's Gracious Dealings," by Fred and Lawrence Pruitt, is off the press and is expected to be out of the bindery by June 1st. Containing 496 pages with many pictures, this volume will be bound in a nice cloth, hard-back cover. The price is \$5.00 each, plus 55¢ for postage and handling. Send your order and remit-

tance now and it will be filled and mailed to you as soon as the books are ready.

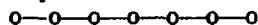


Bro. Hammond in Gospel Work in the Philippines . . .

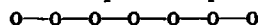
Bro. George Hammond arrived safely in the Islands of the Philippines on March 30th. He is doing gospel work with Bro. Florencio Granil, a native minister who has a mission station at Cauayan in the province of Isabela. His last letter dated April 11th reported that he had travelled several hundred miles on a motorcycle over rough roads to contact individuals with the gospel and checking the possibilities of establishing more mission stations. Some of the people are receptive to the truth. Beginning on April 12th they were to hold a three-day camp-meeting at Cauayan. Pray for Bro. Hammond and the native gospel workers as they endeavor to reach out into new areas in that Philippine mission field.



We would like to remind the ministers and others who intend to have obituaries of the saints published in this paper to please send them to this office as soon as possible after the funerals, so they may appear in the next issue. This reminder also goes for meeting reports. Please send them in at the close of the meetings. Thanks for your attention to these matters, for it will make our work easier and keep the information up-to-date.



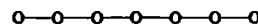
Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Ore., brought us three inspiring messages from God's Word here at the Guthrie chapel on April 2nd and 3rd.



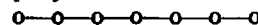
The revival meeting at the Third Street Church of God chapel in Oklahoma City closed with good results on April 16. The meeting was held by Bro. E. J. Trotter, pastor at Fresno, Calif., who brought messages of Bible truth which were used by the Holy Spirit to bring a number of souls to the altar of prayer for spiritual help.



Bro. Homer Fee, long-time reader of this publication and supporter of this gospel publishing work, departed this life to be with the Lord on March 24, 1978, at Columbus, Kansas. Bro. Fee obeyed the Word by laying up his treasures in heaven where he is now reaping the fruits of his labors.

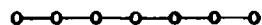


Bro. and Sister Mart Samons of West Virginia held a meeting at Enid, Okla., from April 2nd to the 9th. Then on Sunday, April 16th, he began a revival meeting here at the Guthrie chapel. Heart-searching messages have been going forth each night and a number of souls have already received help at the altar of prayer.



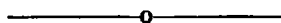
This writer and his wife are happy to announce the birth on April 23, 1978, of Carlos Lynn Doolittle, our first great grandchild whose elated parents are Nelson and Genece (Pruitt) Doolittle of Loranger, Louisiana. The maternal grandparents are Byron L.

and Clarice Pruitt, also of Loranger, La. The paternal grandmother is Patsy (Doolittle) Turner of Louisiana.



We are sorry to advise that our stock of the 512-page hymnal, "Evening Light Songs," will be out before we can get it reprinted. Also, the clothbound, 432-page books, "Bible Readings for Bible Students" by Speck and Riggie, are about gone. These will be reprinted, Lord willing, as soon as possible. Continue to pray for us and this gospel literature ministry.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt



Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.00 each.

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

What The Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggie. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

The Revelation Explained by F. G. Smith. Reprint of 1906 original edition (fourth reprint), plus two 17x22 inch wall charts in two colors. 464 pages in nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Experiences of S. O. Susag is a record of the activities of S. O. Susag, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister of the Church of God. Price, 1.50 each.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. Just recently made available, this reprint edition contains 256 pages. Nice paper binding is priced at \$3.00 each, and the cloth binding is \$5.00 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggie. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$5.00 each.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Echoes From Heaven—a new song book of 195 songs in shaped notes. In a heavy paper cover, this song book is priced at \$1.65 each.

From Darkness To Light, a twenty-page booklet by Bro. Mart Samons, which is his inspiring testimony of his marvelous conversion, his call to the ministry, and some of his experiences of living by faith in the gospel work. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.00 per copy.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggie. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. Just off the press, this book is a reprint of her book which had been out of print for a number of years. With additional material, this volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.25 each.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, 50 cents each.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 33 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 30c each, or four copies for \$1.00.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Beyond The Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$4.00.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition should be available by June 1st. Containing 496 pages with many pictures, this volume will be bound in a nice cloth, hard-back cover. The price is \$5.00 each, plus postage and handling. Send your order and remittance now and the book will be mailed to you as soon as they are ready.

No. 2 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Eleven songs by the Phillips family—Bro. Paul Phillips and his six children. On the cover for the record is a large picture of the singers. This record No. Two may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash Street, Wichita, Kansas 67214. The price is \$6.00 each, plus 50c for postage and handling.

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"NOT TONIGHT"

The following is a true story: Several years ago a revival meeting was being held at a small chapel in Kirksville, Missouri. I had been attending, but was not there on the night that this happened. After the sermon was preached, several persons were contacting those whom they had reason to believe needed the Saviour.

Someone spoke to a young man in the rear of the chapel where people were standing, as the seats were all filled. The only answer from the young man was, "Not tonight, not tonight, not tonight." In a few minutes there was a commotion in the rear of the chapel. The young man had collapsed on the floor. They carried him to a car and started to the hospital. He was dead on arrival at the hospital. I was told the above story by a person who was at the church that night.

—Jessie C. Kibler

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Obituaries



Bro. O'Neal Pratt died March 12, 1978, at his home in Holly Hill, S. Carolina at the age of 65 years after a long illness.

Bro. O'Neal had been pastor of the Church of God at Holly Hill for many years. He stood for the truth against much opposition. His burden and prayer request was always for his people. He will be greatly missed, as he had been a leader of his people. A large crowd attended his funeral with many tears being shed.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his dear and faithful wife; seven daughters and six sons, and sixteen grandchildren.

The funeral was conducted in the chapel with burial in Scott Cemetery.

Pray for his family, and also for the congregation in Holly Hill.

—Bro. Mart Samons and Bro. Utson Platt
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Homer Wesley Fee, the son of David Wesley and Eleanor Ball Fee, was born Nov. 27, 1903, near Hallowell, Kansas, and departed this life to be with the Lord on March 24, 1978, at Columbus, Kansas, at the age of 74 years.

Bro. Fee was a member of the Church of God and attended the services of the Church that were within driving distance from Columbus.

Bro. Fee retired from General Motors at Flint, Mich., in 1966 and moved to Columbus, Kansas.

Survivors include three sons of Flint, Mich., three brothers and many other relatives.

The funeral service was conducted at the Jordan Funeral Home in Columbus, Kans., by Bros. Orie Young and Merrill Smith. Interment was in the Park Cemetery at Columbus.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oliver ("Jackie") Stephens, Jr. was born, Feb. 14, 1943, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Oliver Sr. and Lula Stephens. He departed this life on April 1, 1978 at the age of 35.

As a child, Jackie enjoyed Sunday school. He liked singing, and his favorite song was No. 61 in the *Evening Light Songs* book, "A Song of Joy."

Jackie leaves to mourn his passing, both of his parents of Los Angeles, Calif., five sisters, one brother, and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. F. E. Doolittle (text, II Cor. 1:3), assisted by Bro. Adriel Bowman.

In Appreciation

We sincerely appreciate your prayers, kindness, love offerings, floral gifts, food, telegrams, phone calls, and cards. May God bless you one and all.

—The Stephens Family
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

We have heard of a bird that will never learn to sing while in the light. The owner must keep the cage darkened that it may be taught to sing. The Lord must sometimes bring us into the dark that we may learn to sing. Some of the sweetest songs this world ever heard were learned in the dark.

—C. E. Orr

A TRIBUTE TO BRO. IRA STOVER

"He must have been a good man,"

Strangers were heard to say,
As they saw the large crowds gather
Their last respects to pay.

But he was just a humble man of God,
Who had preached the nation 'round,
And helped to change the hearts of men
When his Saviour they had found.

His name was not found written
On the marble slab of fame,
But he was famous in God's sight
And his friends' hearts just the same.

He was God's faithful warrior
Who has laid his armour down,
For he has been called higher
To receive a starry crown.

He has joined the heavenly family,
And we hope to meet him there,
And rejoice with our dear Saviour
In that home so bright and fair.

—Composed by Grace Jones

Campmeeting Dates for 1978

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates in 1978, and more complete announcements of each meeting will be made in later issues:—

- Oklahoma State at Guthrie, Oklahoma—May 26 to June 4.
- Holly Hill, N. Carolina—June 2 to 11.
- Jefferson, Oregon—June 9 to 18.
- Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 9 to 18.
- Green Bank, W. Virginia—June 9 to 18.
- Hammond, Louisiana—June 24 to July 2.
- Oakland, California—June 23 to July 2.
- Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico—July 3 to 9.
- Akron, Ohio—Will not be held this year.
- Fresno, California—July 7 to 16.
- National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 21 to 30.
- Myrtle, Missouri—August 2 to 9.
- Bakersfield, California—August 4 to 13.
- Boley, Oklahoma—August 18 to 27.
- California State at Pacoima—August 25 to Sept. 3.

OKLAHOMA CAMPMEETING AT GUTHRIE, OK.

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, May 26, to June 4, 1978, at the chapel located on the corner of Sixth and West Warner Streets, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this 44th annual campmeeting on these grounds. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Dining hall and dormitories are on the grounds. Expenses will be met by

free-will offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting, the salvation of souls, sanctification of believers, and the divine healing of bodies.

Contributions should be sent directly to the treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, Rt. 2, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044. For further information, contact the pastor, Brother Leslie Busbee, 1014 West Mansur, Guthrie, Okla., 73044, phone 405-282-2421. The phone number at the chapel is 282-5499. Come and hear the old-time reformation truth, and let us worship the Lord together in the unity of the Spirit and be brought to the unity of the faith of the New Testament.

—L. D. Pruitt

CAMPMEETING AT HOLLY HILL, S.C.

The annual Church of God campmeeting at Holly Hill, South Carolina, will be held, Lord willing, from June 2 to 11, 1978. Everyone is welcome to come. We are praying the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing and burden the saints to help in every way for the success of the meeting. May the Lord save and sanctify many souls.

The chapel building is designated, White Oak Church of God. From downtown Holly Hill, take Highway 176 west to Highway 310. Turn right approximately 1½ miles to Church of God sign, then turn right two miles. If needed, phone Hutson Crummie, 803-496-5231.

—Bro. Hutson Crummie

Rt. 1, Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059

OREGON STATE CAMPMEETING

The Oregon State Campmeeting of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) will convene in Jefferson, Oregon, on June 9, and continue through June 18, Lord willing. Those who come by bus from either north or south should come to Albany, Oregon, if traveling on an express bus. Some of the local schedules come through Jefferson. If you travel by train, get off at Salem as trains do not stop in Albany. When you arrive, phone 928-7223 or 327-2855, and someone will pick you up at the station.

The meeting is financed by free-will offerings only and the ministers who work in the meeting are supplied by the same means. We urge all saints and lovers of the truth throughout the Northwest to attend this meeting as it is the only campmeeting of the Evening Light Saints in this area. There are cabins and a dormitory available on the campground and also a limited number of places available in the saints' homes. All who come will be cared for.

We are expecting several ministers to be present who will be able to preach and teach God's Word with the inspiration and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The truth of the gospel will be expounded in a way that all souls may be enlightened, instructed, edified, built up and strengthened. Let every one come with a true purpose of heart to do good and to receive good.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at the campmeeting on Friday, June 9, and on through the meeting, Lord willing. Yours and His in the Master's service.

—Ostis B. and Evelyn Wilson

6505 N. E. Sunset Dr., Albany, Ore. 97321

TULSA, OKLA., CAMPMEETING

The Church of God campmeeting on the corner of Norfolk and Pine Place in Tulsa, Okla., will be held June 9 to 18, 1978, Lord willing. Everyone is cordially invited to these services, and all who come will be cared for. Pray much for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon this meeting.

For additional information, contact Bro. Norman Simpson, 2215 N. Norfolk, Tulsa, Okla., 74106, phone 583-2096 or Bro. Charles Lowe, 1823 N. Main, Tulsa, Okla. 74106, phone 584-6838. —Maple Littlejohn, Sec.

GREEN BANK W. VA., CAMPMEETING

The campmeeting of the Church of God at Green Bank, W. Va., will begin, Lord willing, June 9th and continue through the 18th.

Green Bank is located 50 miles south of Elkins, and 57 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., on Route 92. The tent will be located one-half mile south of Green Bank on Rt. 92.

There will be two services daily. Meals will be served, and all that come will be cared for. Bring a coat, as nights are cool.

This is a special evangelistic effort. The Lord is blessing the work here. We are expecting greater things from Him. The congregation extends a special invitation to all isolated saints, lovers of the truth in the East, and all others that can, to come.

We desire your earnest prayers for this effort. We will be looking for you.

For more information, call or write Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944, phone 304-456-4469, or Diane Buzzard, treasurer, P. O. Box 26, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944, phone 304-456-4650.

—Mart Samons

FRESNO, CALIF., SPRING MEETING

The Fresno, Calif., congregation welcomes everyone to its annual spring revival, beginning May 5, 1978, and continuing through Mother's Day, May 14, 1978.

Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel in Easton, not at the campgrounds. There will be all-day services on both week-ends. On the first Saturday, May 6, Pastor E. J. Trotter will be teaching the young people and saints in general at 2:30 p.m. The 7:30 p.m. service on that day will be a singspiration service.

Please come, praying the Lord's blessing through the meeting. For further information, contact Bro. E. J. Trotter, 811 W. Alamos, Clovis, Calif. 93612, phone 209-291-6003, or Bro. Philip Matthews, 4526 E. Hedges, Fresno, Calif. 93703, phone 209-255-4429.

Sometimes the way in which God leads you may be through the storm and through the dark, but you need not fear nor falter. Only listen, and you will hear him saying, "Fear not, for I am with thee." He may lead you over some stony places, but He is only bringing you to the green pastures and the still waters just beyond. He may need to lead you close by a dark and dangerous precipice in order to bring you into the land of flowers in the valley.

—C. E. Orr

Prayer Requests

Iowa—"The Lord is our Healer when we are sick. . . . We still need prayer for our unsaved children. . . . I have a burned place on my left leg and it stays black and blue all the time. I know that the Lord can, through the prayer of faith, make it go away. . . . My wife needs prayer for her nerves and her body."

—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mason

Ariz.—"Please pray for my husband as he is in a serious condition, and pray for me that I will have strength to care for him, and also for a spiritual need."

—Sister Hinson

Pa.—"I feel my eyes can be healed, as nothing is too difficult for the Lord, so do pray for me. . . . The devil tries to get my mind on my eyes and health, but I am determined to trust the Lord."

—Bernice McKenrick

Oregon—Remember Sis. Margaret Cable in prayer. She has some serious afflictions. She is trusting the Lord and has been healed by God in the past.

La.—Sis. Snowden has a request, which is serious to her, that she wants prayer about.

Canada—"Our son needs a definite touch [for healing] from God. Please agree with us that God will exalt His name in healing him completely, . . . and strengthen him in soul and body."

—Daisy Rabel

Okla.—"Sis. Elam is still on the sick list. She gets a healing touch, but still needs prayer . . . Sis. Portia Hawkins has been ill with a throat condition, but is some better. . . . I am encouraged in the Lord and am determined to press on to the end."

—Sis. Vera M. Hawkins

Ark.—Remember dear Sis. Della Anshultz in prayer. She has a serious affliction, but nothing is too hard for our God to heal. She needs courage to hold on for her healing.

Mich.—"Pray that I can trust the Lord more fully for healing."

—Blanche Carson

Calif.—"Please pray for my husband and for me. The doctor told my husband that he has cancer of the spine. We are trusting our Lord and we know that He can heal. I have hardening of the arteries and have had two strokes, but praise our blessed Lord, He can heal both of us."

—Mr. and Mrs. Willie Brown

Ill.—"I appreciate every prayer that has gone up for me. I am not well yet, but feel sure it won't be long until I am."

—Sis. Vivian McClain

It is truly a privilege to trust God for our healing. I know what it means to be under the hand of affliction for months at a time and become so weak that you want to go on and be with the Lord. I also know what it means in the middle of such a time to feel the power of the enemy coming hard against me to try to cause me to feel that the Lord has forsaken me. But, thank God, I also know what it means to have the comfort of the Spirit of God to give me a renewed inspiration of trust and faith to wait upon the Lord until He sees it is time to completely heal. He has brought me through again and again, and I know that He will continue to do so until He has tested my faith to the limit. I want to prove faithful. Dear ones, I am convinced it pays to trust God rather than man. I know God will see me and all of those through who will put their complete trust in God without wavering.

We can be divinely healed. I know that not many in the world today believe in divine healing, but that does

not alter the truth or fact. "What if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the Word of God without effect?" Healing work was prophesied by the prophets even before Jesus came. "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings: and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall." Mal. 4:2. Praise God! Jesus did come as the Sun of righteousness with healing in His wings. He came to heal, and, as the Apostle Paul said, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." We find Him still our Healer today. Praise God!

—Sis. Marie Miles

PATZCUARO, MEXICO, CAMPMEETING REPORT

Our campmeeting is over. We feel that it was a real success, and that God was honored and the people were blessed even though there was no altar work in the services. Many people came and there was good attention from beginning to the end. Before our meeting started, we had a series of earthquakes and some were pretty hard. It seemed that the people were really stirred all over the valley and many were coming to the services. At least, they came and the Lord blessed His Word day by day. The messages were so precious and so stirring for every one.

Sis. Opal Kelly, Sis. Sandra Whitson, Bro. Mayarino and Sis. Panchita Escobar, Sis. Mildred Sherman and several young people came to be with us from other places, during the meeting. It is a real lift and blessing when other folks come to help us.

—Edith and Paulino Lara

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (April 4)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind. "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." John 1:29.

The reply to your letter dated March 1st had to be delayed as we have been out in the field of mobile evangelism to reach as many souls as possible with the gospel of Christ before time is brought to a close. Compliance must be made to the command of the Lord Jesus who charged His chosen vessels to go into all the world to proclaim His gospel. Thanks to the Lord for the enclosures in the letter.

The Lord is saving souls wherever the gospel is preached in its fullness. Many professed Christians in false churches are not saved and need to be "born again" before they can get into the Church of which Jesus is the Door. All are told that the spiritual birth is the passport for entrance into the Church of the living God. It is our commitment to preach the entire truth that alone can silence falsehood. Our boldness is divine and our utterances are given by the Holy Ghost. Praise the Lord!

With sadness I announce the death of my Christian mother, Sister Oze Osakwe Enu, whose passing was on March 20, 1978, at the age of 91 years. She encouragingly told me, "Your mission on earth for souls as ordained of God is great. Labor faithfully and fearlessly in the work of the Lord. . . ." She blessed me and my family. The congregations mourned her passing, and even the unbelievers came in hundreds to pay their

last honor to a sainted mother. The funeral service, held at the Church of God chapel at Abbi, was conducted by this writer, assisted by Bro. J. E. Enebeli, and the interment was at Ogbe-Ugba Abbi, her place of birth.

Let the Lord have the final say in my desire to participate in the summer campmeetings of the Church this year in the U.S. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isa. 55:8,9. We, as His servants, should bow with humility to the will of the Master.

The churches in Nigeria salute all of you.

Yours in Christ,

—Titus Enu, pastor

(Editor's note: After Bro. Enu wrote the above letter, he was sent the proof of a prepaid airline ticket and an affidavit of support for his coming to attend the campmeetings. Provided he can secure his visa to this country, he is scheduled to arrive in Oklahoma City on May 24th to attend the first campmeeting which begins here at Guthrie on May 26th. Pray that he will obtain the visa and arrive safely on schedule.)

CONCERNING JOHN VARGHESE IN INDIA

A mission report has not been received from Bro. John Varghese in South India since the last issue, but on April 10th, we mailed him a notarized form of "Sponsorship Declaration," so that he and his wife could obtain their passports and visas to come to the U. S. to attend and participate in the campmeetings this summer. The total cost of two round trip airline fares will be about \$2400.00. However, up to this day of April 24th, just slightly more than one-half of that amount has been received for their fares. If any of our readers feel concerned to increase this amount in order for both of them to come to the States, please send your free-will offering at once to this office, specifying what it is for. Thanks for your prompt attention.

—L. D. Pruitt, editor

OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, REPORT AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Ones: Greetings to all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Continued from last month.) We were delayed in going to Edith's, so we made a side trip to Pacoima, Calif., and visited the Senior Citizens' Home, all the patients and met some new faces, then returned via Pomona and were in Wednesday night service. The Lord made each visit a blessing to us and we trust it was to them.

Contact was made by phone to Mexicali asking information concerning the weather there. We were given an all-clear, so we went. It was plain to see why the Lord had burdened us to go West first when we realized what little help Sis. Edith had. The Escobars couldn't go until the last three days. We believe all of us were drawn closer to the Lord through the meeting.

Our stay with Bro. Irineo Rama and his group was short, yet we felt the Lord's presence and blessings in all. Many hundreds of tracts were distributed throughout the four days of traveling from Sis. Edith's to Bro. Irineo's with a prayer that honest souls would find the peace God

has for them. God protected us over the whole road where most of the time we were between trucks and loaded buses each taking many chances of overtaking on blind curves and hills.

Sis. Sandra Whitson took ill, and as I saw her suffer, the decision was made to come straight home, committing the rest of the trip into the hands of the Lord. God always knows best. We learned on arriving home that there was a bombing in one of the places we had planned to go. We surely appreciate God's care over two of His little children.

The Lord healed Sis. Sandra, and it was deemed necessary for her to return to her home in Alabama, so Lord willing, I will continue working alone until the Lord sends someone to help. Please pray for some heavy burdens concerning the work in Mexico.

Yours for souls in Mexico,

—Mayarino and Panchita Escobar, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mex., and Sister Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Ok. 73044.

From the Mail Box . . .

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I was sorry to hear of the passing of Bro. Ira Stover. I was under the sound of his ministry several times. The Lord knew best in taking him Home to Glory. Now he is waiting at the portal for the rest of us to come, and it won't be long before that meeting, never to part again. Praise the Lord! Oh, what will it be to be there? It will be joy, peace, and happiness forever more!

I receive the *Faith and Victory* papers regularly.

I am still in good health, and haven't had a cold all this winter nor last winter. —Bro. Andrew Senti

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie, co-workers, and saints far and near: I hope all of you are getting along well at the Print Shop and enjoying the blessings of the good Lord. We are well, for which we are most grateful.

I'm encouraged in the Lord and determined to press on to the end. I'm running to win the race, for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Remember us in your prayers as I remember you.

—Sis. Vera M. Hawkins

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Tex.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I thank the Lord for being saved, sanctified, and encouraged to "press the battle on 'till the victory is won, for the crowning day is coming by and by." I thank Him for the consolation we can find in the Word of God. Surely, it is a "light unto my path and a lamp unto my feet." I thank Him for the consolation in II Cor. 4:8-10. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."

We wish at this time to report the Lord's gracious blessings here in Dallas. Today, Easter Sunday, the Lord blessed us with an ordinance service. It was the first one here. We had been praying and desiring it for some time. Heaven came down and flooded our souls in remembrance of the great sufferings of our Lord, and He did it for us individually. "He was bruised for our

transgressions." We're thankful for the fountain opened in the Saviour's side; we can rejoice as the thief did. Sis. Katherine Williams and Sis. Nettie Celestine were in the service.

We desire your prayers that the Lord will continue to bless here and glean out others in these last, evil days.

—Sis. Doris Hardman

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—I receive your paper, *Faith and Victory*. I like it very much. I am very much concerned about the article in the April issue entitled, "Values Clarification." I would like to see it in tract form to be circulated to the public. The minds of our youth are being poisoned by the devil and his host. . . . I'm enclosing three 1-year subscriptions.

I keep a supply of your tracts and pass them out where needed. At my age (86 years) I can't work as much, but my life has been faithful in God's service.

—Vertie M. Patterson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

W. Va.—Dear ones: . . . Jesus is our all in all. He has been so very good to each of us that we can't thank Him enough for all He has done.

Today we are so thankful for God's people and appreciate them. It's truly wonderful that we have the same blending of spirits even when we have never met before. I John 4:1 says, "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." I am glad there is a sure way that we can know whether someone has the Spirit of God or whether they are just professing.

We are glad for God's true ministers. We have met many, and they have truly been a blessing to our souls. It is marvelous how God leads them to have a meeting somewhere, leads them to go and talk with someone, directs where to move to be a pastor, or whatever. We think of how the Lord burdened Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons to move here. I'm sure some wondered how it would work out since his calling had been to be an evangelist, but the Lord has wonderfully used him in feeding our souls. Since this is a new field, his capacity as an evangelist has been very helpful. He and Sis. Samons have been a real example and encouragement to each of us. We appreciate them very much, and much good has been accomplished since they moved here almost three years ago. Many closed doors have been opened, and more and more are being opened all the time. We feel that there is still a greater work to be done here. A lot of people are looking our way. Many are so discouraged with things going on in sectism. Several have commented how they can see that things are different in our congregation where there is love and unity. They can see how the real saints work and labor together and the fellowship we have with one another.

Some in the community have become discouraged and quit going to services altogether, but some of them have said that if they ever do go to service again it will be with us because they can see that we are trying to live the Bible way. Some are afraid of what their neighbors or relatives will think of them. Please pray for them that they will come on out to service anyway. There is a rich field here, and we're so thankful for the ones the Lord has already saved and we are expecting the Lord to add more to the fold. . . .

—Diane Buzzard

Mo.—Dear saints: Trust this finds all of you prospering in the Lord and in every needed way.

I want to take this privilege to thank each one for your prayers in behalf of this affliction. I really do appreciate it, and all the love you saints have shown to me.

According to looks, this affliction is getting worse, but I'm endeavoring to look above the affliction with firm faith in the Lord. The Lord comforts my heart many times and encourages me to press on. I want to be faithful all the way.

I desire your continued prayers. I know all the tears of the saints are bottled up.

May God bless and reward you, is our sincere prayer.

Yours in Him,

—Murphy Allen

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Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and fellow saints: We can of a truth say we are saved and sanctified, believing in the power of prayer.

For nearly four years we carried a continual burden for our oldest son who was many, many miles from home. Many times we would request prayer for him in the congregation and the saints were faithful to call his name in prayer. The devil would present discouraging thoughts, but the Lord was faithful to give us hope and encouraging scriptures to stand on. One morning, we again felt impressed to pray, starting with our oldest son and continuing for others. While communing with the Lord, it seemed that our hope brightened. That very same day we received a call telling us that he was returning home.

How blessed it is to trust in the Lord! We are truly grateful that the Lord so miraculously kept His angels of mercy around him and spared his life that he might return home again.

Continue to pray for our unsaved loved ones, and especially all the saints' children.

—Olive A. Davenport

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S. Carolina—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I am still pressing on and I am feeling much better in my body. Thank the good Lord! I desire a closer walk with the Lord. He has been real good to me.

I was real sick with my throat bothering me. It was on a Sunday morning and we were getting ready to go to Holly Hill, S. C. My companion told me that the Lord would bless us if we went. I told him I would try to go. Something spoke to me and said, "Call Bro. Fry to pray for you." My companion did. I dressed and we went. Honestly, before we got to Holly Hill I was feeling better and I tried to sing a song. I sang, "I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today." I know the Lord helped me. I desire the prayers of all the saints that I'll ever be found in the will of the Lord, and pray for my companion, also.

—Sis. Minnie Boulden

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

W. Va.—Dear Sister Marie: . . . I got your encouraging letter and was glad to get it. . . .

I had had a slight pain in my neck for a couple of months. On Saturday night, it got so bad that I hardly got any sleep and couldn't even twist my neck. Also, the pain went up behind my ears. On Sunday morning, on top of it all, I woke up with a virus. Bro. and Sis.

Mancil Doolittle came over after services and prayed for me, and for the first time God led me to stand up by faith. I got up, and praised God. Right away the virus and the pain in my neck and head left my body. What a mighty God we serve! Right now my neck is just slightly sore, but I'm still standing on faith that God will remove it all. He has been so very good to me, talks to me through His Scriptures, and answers so many prayers for me, and guides me in different things. . . .

It is such a blessing to be encouraged at all times. It seems as though I'm not tossed to and fro anymore, and can see the devil's ways much clearer now. Praise God!

—Sis. Janet Patrick

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: . . . Hope all there are well and happy in the service of our King, Jesus.

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:1-3.

I am praising my blessed Lord for victory over sin and the world. I believe my Lord only prepared one way to heaven and we all have to walk the same road. He said, ". . . Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. The Holy Spirit came down to set up the Kingdom of God, or Church of God, on the day of Pentecost. He set the Church in order and in action. Praise the Lord forever and ever! Jesus is coming back at the end of the world for the blessed Church of God and will deliver it up to the Father. (I Cor. 15:24). Praise God forever! Amen. . . .

Remember my wife and me in your prayers, as we do all the saints everywhere.

—Nathan Mobley

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

Calif.—Dear saints of God: I want to thank all of you for the many pretty cards and gifts sent me for my 94th birthday. It was so sweet of you to remember me. Oh, how precious it was of you! The flowers sent by my "Oklahoma boy," Bro. Charles Smith, were beautiful. I have loved and worked with him since he was eight years of age. He came with the family to Oklahoma City where I was pastor, seeking the truth, and the whole family found that for which they were looking. Charles was the first one to go to the altar and get saved. He then brought a bunch of children back to the altar and they got saved. I still love children. Some come here to the Home and sing for me.

Thank all of you for thinking of me. Bro. and Sister Sherman, managers of the Home here at Pacoima, did so much to make me happy on my 94th birthday. They are very precious to us all. . . . God's family is a wonderful family. Thank you all, far and near. I am not able to write a separate letter, but I do love and thank you. After awhile we will meet in heaven and never say good-bye. . . .

—Sister Essie Wilson

(Sister Wilson was 94 years of age on April 1, 1978.)

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

N. Carolina—Dear Sister Marie: . . . We surely thank the good Lord for you saints there at the Lord's Print Shop. We enjoy the *Faith and Victory* so very much, also

the books and tracts that we read from time to time. I just love to give out the tracts and books that we get from you. We take them far and near.

Do pray much for us in the Lord's work here. We are praying for all of you there. —Sis. C. B. Nelson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear ones: . . . We surely do enjoy reading the paper each month. It encourages us to know there are people all over the world who love the Lord more than the things of this fleeting life. There may be only a few, but that makes them all the more precious. . . .

I well remember how a missionary from China made a deep impression on me when I was young. I feel that was instrumental in giving me a desire to work at Faith Publishing House. Those were years well spent, for me!

The way the world is going makes us realize how the devil is working fast, for his time is short, so we must do what we can, too, to rescue souls. We feel that the enemy is trying to hinder even our feeble efforts, so I can imagine how he works on those who are really instrumental in the spreading of the truth.

—Bro. Louie and Sis. Evodna Marler

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: . . . I was sorry I was not permitted to attend Uncle Ira Stover's funeral. There was no one here to take my place caring for the invalid lady. . . . It seems we are losing so many of the saints lately; two ministers in one week.

How little did we think that Ira would go before his sisters, Lydia, 92, and Edith, 86, and his brother, George, 84. These three have all been so frail for so long before Ira even took sick.

I appreciate all the Lord is doing for me. When I see how much money people are spending for doctor and hospital bills, how long it takes to get an appointment with a doctor, then how long they have to wait their turn to be interviewed, I count it a great privilege to obtain divine healing. The cost was already paid by our loving Saviour. He makes no mistakes on our bodies. He has the healing balm that no doctor can purchase. He also sends the needed help in a moment's time, and He is One we can really trust. . . . —Lucille Trimble

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: . . . I am sending some names for the paper. Some I know, but most of them I just feel led to send in. As Bro. Lawrence says, I am so burdened for souls. People just seem to go through life so unconcerned about their welfare and their end. Hell is such an awful place with no ending. People need to wake up. Some can make a big show here, but never think of the hereafter. I do hope and pray that the *Faith and Victory* paper will wake some up before it is too late.

My sister knew a young man who ruined his life while young by drinking himself to death. Before he died he said, "I don't see hell, but smell the brimstone." I wonder about people like that, if they don't call on someone like the rich man did, who didn't want his brothers to come to that place. (Luke 16:27-30). I do pray God to speak to people. He is so very merciful and full of love. He always has His hands outstretched to save. I know He is grieved the way many go on and on the downward road, never to return. They are like the rich man, only thinking of making money. . . .

I surely enjoyed the book, *Lest We Forget*. I gave one to my landlady. She believes a lot in prayer. It has increased my faith and helped me to pray more and trust more. . . . —Sister Mary Worley

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

La.—Dear saints: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Thanks be unto Him for His great love in making the way through Jesus' precious blood that we could have Him as our very own. Not only a Lord and Master, but a wonderful Father who loves to give good gifts to His children. It is such a privilege to belong to the One who holds everything at His command, has nothing but good for us, and has promised to go with us all the way, even unto death. What more could we ask?

The Lord has been very good to me. When He saw best to take my companion Home, over seventeen years ago, the way looked so lonely and empty. The enemy tried to put such a fearful, insecure feeling over me. It was then that the Lord just moved right in to defend me. He assured me that He would be my companion and could do more for me than my dear earthly companion could ever do. Such a comfort those words were to me. Truly, He has not failed me once. Surely, everything that concerns His children concerns Him and not one thing is too small for Him to take notice of and do for us, neither is there anything too great for Him to handle or control.

The articles and testimonies in the *Faith and Victory* paper of my brothers and sisters in the Lord are such an encouragement to me. I rejoice to read of such wonderful instances of healing. Jesus went about doing good and healing the sick when He was in the world in His physical body. His Word tells us that He is "the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Heb. 13:8. Truly, it pleases Him for His children to trust Him today as their Healer. Sometimes He sees best, for our good, for us to wait awhile, or in His wisdom, He sees best to take the afflicted one Home, when it seemed to us it would be so much for our good and to His glory for Him to heal. But we should never try to dictate to Him. We can always trust His love, power, and wisdom, and He will always be true to us and do what is best. He'll stand by us to the end, then take us Home to Glory. What more could we ask?

I must testify, as I promised Him, to the wonderful blessing of the Lord in how He has undertaken in a condition on my face which had its beginning ten years or more ago. First, it was just a light brown spot. Then a thin scab came over it. At times there would be an itching, biting feeling. I have trusted the Lord to take care of it. Others, also, were concerned and praying. The scab would come off, but in time form again. As time went on, the spot became a little larger and darker. Recently, I came in contact with someone who had just a short time previously had two skin cancers burned from his face. I pointed to the spot on my face. He said his were about the same, and if let go, there was danger of them becoming malignant. The devil tried to disturb my mind, but I soon found rest in just committing it to the Lord. He knew my trust was in Him. Thanks be unto Him, in just a few days, the scab was completely gone. It had been years since that spot has been as smooth and

normal as it is now. All praise is to the Lord for this and the many things He daily does for me! Truly, I want to ever put Him first in my life, take up my cross daily, and follow Him. That is the only way that leads Home in the end.

Let's be faithful, dear ones; the reward is just ahead. We are in those perilous times that the Bible speaks of, and only by watching and praying will we be ready when we are called to meet the Lord.

In Christian love, —Alta Flynn

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

Calif.—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of our Lord, who "was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5.

I am thanking the Lord today that I can witness that our Lord's death was not in vain for the salvation of our souls (saved from all sin), and the healing of our bodies. One of my recent healings was about two weeks ago. I was preparing to move from Akron, Ohio, as the Lord had previously given me the full assurance of His will, and that I had fulfilled my duties there as pastor. I began to feel a sudden shortness of breath, and it was fast getting more severe. This being my first symptom of any kind of heart trouble, I didn't realize the seriousness of it. One of the saints called at that moment and I asked for prayer. Later, others came in, and prayer continued, and I was also anointed. The breathing with difficulty continued most of the night, and it rendered me bedfast for at least three days. During that time my children from New York came to see me, and with their time being limited it was causing much anxiety in trying to arrange for my comfort. On the fourth morning, in an early prayer session to the Lord with the saints agreeing, I was healed instantly. I got out of bed and decided to move while the children were there, and with the help of the saints on the 7th day, with everything packed, I arrived by plane here in Los Angeles, California, to be near my son and daughter who live here. Praise our Lord, for He is mighty and His name is worthy to be praised!

Today, on the 7th of April, I am still feeling fine. My daughter has been seriously ill since I came to her home. The Lord is still continuing to bless and help me, with no return of the attack.

I would like to add this to the praise of His holy name that I am now at the age of 77 years and that I have not, up to this date, been in a hospital for treatment of illness, nor an accident. Praise the Lord!

Pray for me, that His name will continue to be glorified in my life.

My present address is, in care of Mrs. Dorothy Crosland, 1002 N. Dwight St., Compton, Calif. 90220, phone 213-636-1526.

—Sis. Hazel A. Clark

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I thank God I can still report victory in my soul this beautiful day. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalms 118:24.

We have had more rain, but the mudslides did not come near our dwelling. Praise the Lord! We do appreciate the beautiful sunshine after the floods and storms.

I do trust Bro. Lawrence is improving in health. We are praying for him.

We miss dear Bro. Ira Stover, just knowing that he is gone. We had many nice visits while they were here before he got too sick to visit us.

—Sis. Agnes Huskey

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

W. Va.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. We are thankful for the saints of God and for salvation. The Lord has been very good to us. We thank God for how He answered prayer when we had the flu. Oh, praise His dear name! . . .

—Sis. Lula Sizemore

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

La.—Dear saints: Love is the explanation of the whole wonderful life of Christ, and of the wonder of His death. Divine love in God's children will still work its mighty wonders. It will be that way, when in living faith and true consecration the command of Christ to love even as He loved, is accepted by His children as the law of life! The love which loves like Christ is the sign of true discipleship. Praise the Lord!

I love every saint of God deep down in my heart, and I love to pray for them. Dear saints of God, Christ longs to make you a channel of love! Take time in prayer and meditation to fan the desire into a burning flame! All around us there are people whom Jesus loves and longs for their souls to be saved. We must love. May we understand that we can love, not with our own love, but with the Lord's love. His Spirit dwells in us, works in us, and from the Lord streams into me the love with which we can love others, and help all we can to get to heaven. Let us do some travelling in Zion! In the strength of our Lord we can live to love, even as the Lord has loved us! "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." John 13:34. "This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12. "Even as" are blessed little words! Those words give us the measure of the love wherewith we must love each other! Love seeks not its own. Love gives itself wholly! Oh, let us close our heart to our own reasonings, and fix our eyes on Jesus, and obey Him. Through His strength is the way we can have more love, and be rooted in it. Christ can enable us to love as He did—wholeheartedly!

I want to so live and love that I can please my dear Saviour and see His dear face in glory. I have always loved truth, yet in the flesh I've made mistakes. Thank the Lord, He can make us more spiritual and we won't repeat those mistakes. Oh, to be like Jesus should be our earnest desire and prayer! We are married to Him who is raised from the dead that we might bring forth fruit unto God! "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." Phil. 3:10. Let us love Him more and more until this fleeting life is over.

We are having precious spiritual cottage prayer meetings and also at the chapel. The Lord has met with us and poured out His love and blessings. We appreciate Bro. Bobby Forbes and his burden for the lost. Some have gotten saved, and were baptized in the cold river! We are looking forward to be more and more blessed of the Lord with His precious love. We want to help all we

can to get souls into the fold. There is one fold and one Shepherd. We shall see Jesus face to face in peace if we all keep true and faithful.

Pray for me and my unsaved loved ones.

—Sis. Rubye Quave

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Because there are so many dishonest people all through our government "cheating the people," does this mean it's all right for us to claim "just a little" of our income? Many people are being paid in such a way as to avoid paying taxes. Will God "knit pick" when it comes to Hebrews 13:17?

Answer: The answer is "No." Absolutely not. The scriptural code that saints live by demands absolute honesty with God, with ourselves and our own souls, and with our fellow men. The Scriptures nowhere give us a right to "cheat" the "cheaters." If we cheat the "cheaters" we are "cheaters," too. The amount is not important whether it be large or small. To be dishonest in small matters or amounts indicates just as faulty a character as to be dishonest in large matters or amounts. It can be pretty accurately adjudged that one who is dishonest in small amounts would also be dishonest in large amounts if he were just in a position to do so. Let us be assured that "God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:14.

This question reminds me of the story I heard about a preacher who, in going back and forth from his home to his place of worship, passed by where a chicken pen was close by the side of the road. He had noticed a real fine rooster that roosted on the fence along the road. He got to thinking about that rooster and how easy it would be for someone to just pick him off and take him away. On one of his trips past this place when the rooster was perched on the fence as usual, he stopped and said "Mr. Rooster, some old thief is going to come by here and get you some of these nights and I think I had better just take you home with me before some old thief does come by and get you." So he lifted the rooster and took it home with him to be cooked in his pot. But in "rescuing" the rooster from "some old thief" he became the thief himself. So with those who "cheat" the "cheaters" on income tax or in any other way become cheaters themselves.

Also every person who files an income tax return must sign an oath or affirmation that the statements contained therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge. It also says that the penalty for signing any false statement is a fine and/or imprisonment or both. How could a Christian sign this statement knowing he had held back something and had not properly reported all of his income? My judgment is that he would suffer a worse penalty for perjuring his conscience before God than he would from the government for perjuring himself before them.

God's Word says in I Peter 2:12, "Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." "The Gentiles" in our case

would include all unsaved people which would include the "cheaters," too. We are instructed to have our conversation honest before them also. Let us realize that two wrongs never make a right.

Again Romans 12:17 says, "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men." Also II Cor. 8:21 says, "Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men."

I Cor. 4:5 says, "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God." I do not hesitate to say, in that day we will all want to receive praise from God and not condemnation. We can be assured in that day all the hidden things of darkness will be brought to light and the counsels of all hearts will be revealed. I Cor. 3:13 says, "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." Also II Cor. 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

Finally, let us conclude that we, as well as the writer of the Hebrew epistle, are "In all things willing to live honestly." Heb. 13:18. Let us realize that any thing gained through fraud or dishonesty is not worth it in the end when every man will be rewarded according to his works. (Rev. 22:12).

In regard to God "knit picking" in reference to Heb. 13:17, let me say that the answer is again "No." It is not God who "knit picks" but it is we who do the "knit picking" with ourselves, with our fellow Christians and fellow men and even with God Himself, sometimes trying to pick out the fine points to either justify or condemn as the case may be. God never "knit picks" but He searches the heart and tries the reins of every individual (I Chron. 28:9; I Kings 8:39; Jer. 11:20; I Sam. 16:7). Therefore God sees and knows the true condition of all hearts. We only see the outcroppings of things but He sees the roots of everything and the true condition of everyone's heart. Therefore He is in a position to judge everyone clear, straight, and clean cut according to what He sees in the heart.

However, Heb. 13:17 does not refer to government authorities but to spiritual authorities in the church. After instructing us to obey those who have the rule over us and submit ourselves, it goes on to say, "For they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Surely this could not apply to politicians in government because many times they could not care less about our souls and the things pertaining unto our spiritual lives. It is the God-called, God-sent, God-appointed pastors, overseers, and ministers who care for our souls and watch out for our spiritual welfare.

However, there are several other Scriptures which teach us to be subject to the governmental authorities. I Peter 2:13,14 says, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well." In Rom. 13:1-7

we read, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. . . . Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake (verse 5). . . ." Let us realize that God has ordained governments both political and spiritual and for us to fail to be subject to either the governmental powers or the spiritual authorities in the church indicates a disposition of rebellion in the heart and God denounces rebellion as being equal to the sin of witchcraft. (I Sam. 14:23).

Titus 3:1 says, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work." In the 8th verse of his epistle Jude speaks of a degenerate class of people who "despise dominion and speak evil of dignities." Then he continues in verse 19 to say, "These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit." Let us realize that the Spirit of God in men's hearts makes them different from that and makes them humble, submissive, and obedient to authority whether it be in the government or in the church.

Peter describes the same class of people as Jude and in II Peter 2:10 he says of them that they despise government, are presumptuous, selfwilled, and are not afraid to speak evil of dignities. Saints who have the Spirit of God are not like these people in any respect and are inclined to honor rulers and those in authority whether they be righteousness or not, for the sake of their office and position.

The Pearl of Great Price



The Lord gives an illustration of a man who found a pearl of great price, and went and sold all that he had and bought it. Now there is a pearl of great price which can be obtained, but in order to secure the same it takes all our possessions, and leaves nothing that we can call our own. While we may be steward over them as before, yet all things we have must be subject to the will of God, to be used at His direction. It is something of greater value than all the wealth of this world, and is to be enjoyed in eternity, as well as in this world. It is something that cannot be bought with money, or worldly riches. It is just as difficult for the rich man to obtain as it is for the poor man. Could this be obtained by worldly wealth, then there would be a poor chance for those who are so unfortunate as to be poor in this life. We read in Luke 12:16 about a man who was so rich that he did not know where to store all his goods; he planned to tear down his barns and build greater ones, and said: "I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." What do you suppose the Lord said to this man? He said, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasures for himself, and is not rich toward God."

We cannot take with us our gold and silver and worldly possessions when the death angel comes; but if we seek and find this pearl of great price, which is the abiding Comforter to the soul, it will be a possession of which we will not be deprived when we are called to take our departure from earth.

—Sel.

An Ode to My Mother, Ella V. Phillips

Dear Mother:

It is to you so kind and true
I write these lines of gratitude,
For all the things you've done for me
In motherly sincerity.

When I was very young indeed,
And knew not of my daily need,
You took me in your arms with care,
And all my pains were yours to share.

Each day you watched my little feet,
And prayed that God my steps would keep,
Lest I should wander far away
Into the paths that led astray.

And when in years I older grew
You taught me of the Saviour true,
And of His love for all mankind—
His wondrous grace and power divine.

Yes, you would stop some daily toil,
Lest Satan would your purpose foil,
And bid me cease my childish play,
To sing with you, and read and pray.

And then my heart I gave to God;
He washed me with His cleansing blood.
'Tis wonderful indeed to know,
That Christ did make me white as snow.

And now by grace divine it's true
That Christ your Saviour is mine, too,
And I shall labor, watch, and pray
Pressing up the heavenly way.

And when my life on earth is through,
I'll dwell with Him along with you.
Such glory we'll together share
With Christ and all the angels there.

—Olive Davenport

"I Can Handle It"

"What does Jeff's death mean to me? Well, some kids will probably stop dropping flippies for awhile. I mean, you got to watch that stuff and know what you're getting so you don't take some with too much rat poison in it. Me, I know what I am doing, I can handle it."

This was the answer to a question asked of one of Jeff Stewart's friends who came to the cemetery, with other barefooted friends, who were clutching wild flowers, to place on his grave. Jeff Stewart was the son of a Methodist preacher and had refused to listen to his parents. They had pled with him in tears to turn away from drugs. He had gotten into it through others' influence, but when his parents tried to help him, he would generally say, "I can handle it."

Jeff Stewart was a handsome boy, so said his mother, and a B student. He was only 17, but had died of an overdose of barbiturates on August 22, 1970 in a shack that he and his drug addicted friends had built on a side street in Hopewell, New York. In the midst of

"rock music" he and his friends "smoked marijuana" and "dropped acid," (LSD) regularly.

At times Jeff wanted to get off drugs and had told his mother that he wished he had never started taking drugs, was a little boy again and could start life all over.

There is a struggle going on in the minds of every young teen-ager. At times he is a carefree person but then at other times he tries to act grown up or feel that he knows what he should do and the path he should walk. These are difficult times in a teen-ager's life. Influences from within and from without will cause him to decide upon his course. Parents see this indecision and they try to guide their teen-agers in the right direction. The pastor, Sunday school teacher, and the young people's leader are all interested in the teen-agers and are trying to show them the right way. At times the teen-ager thinks his parents or other spiritual instructors are right, but the crowd at school, and often the teacher, use their influences to pull him the other way. Day after day he is making decisions. The wrong influences seek to turn the teen-ager away from morality and God's Word but they do not give anything to take its place in his heart or erase guilty feelings. Therefore he finds emptiness within, so is compelled to continue to seek something else to satisfy him. Then he is led deeper into grosser evils, trying to "handle" his inner longings.

Some might say, "But how do you know?" I know because I went through those years and I know the influences to which I was exposed. One time I wanted a certain thing or would want to do a certain thing but then later I didn't like or want it. Some at school would present their ideas and my parents and spiritual advisers presented their ideas. In my mind I was continually weighing out what was right or what I really wanted to do.

As we think of the young boy who died of continually taking drugs and felt that he could "handle" his own life, we see how he chose to travel the wrong road. Even though his buddies saw what had happened to him they were so stuck on drugs that they, too, thought they could still "handle" their lives. What a mistake they are making and I am sure you are convinced of that fact. None of us are able to handle our own lives. When we are born we have within our very nature a bent toward evil. That bent toward evil has to be curbed. God gave children parents because they needed help to face life and to curb that which was within them that would lead them to the wrong path. Children and teen-agers should recognize this fact and listen to them. Even if you do not want to admit it, you can't handle your own life without the aid of your parents. Furthermore you can't handle your life and walk the right path without God's help. The devil works through the influences of others to lead you astray. Only through the power of God can the power of the devil be broken, the bent toward evil be destroyed, and you be able to do the right or choose the right path. Never feel that you can handle your own life. No man, woman, child, or teen-ager can handle his life or obey the Word of God, which teaches us the way to live in this life and to be ready to die, without help from outside of yourself.

In my early teen-age life there were two verses of Scripture that I had learned by memory which were a guide to me. One was, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right," Eph. 6:1. The other one was,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. The first one made me know that God would bless me if I obeyed my parents. Many times my idea of what they required wasn't the thing that I wanted to do, but I obeyed. Why? Because I loved Jesus. I was convinced that I was doomed for hell, but Jesus had loved me so much that He came to this world, lived, and died on the cross and arose again for my salvation. If it had not been for Jesus taking my sins and loving me so much I would be eternally lost. That was a great influence in my life and today I am very glad that I obeyed my parents and also let Jesus handle my life and lead me in a right direction.

When teen-agers rebel they are headed for trouble and oh, what great trouble! Let us remember the young man who thought he could handle his life but had a tragic ending and was eternally lost. Remember, the Bible has the answer to every problem, and Jesus will help you handle your life if you will let Him.

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

CRY FOR PERFECTION

Speak to me, gentle Spirit,
And never leave me alone.
Help me walk in the paths of righteousness
Till I have reached my Home.

Help me wander not right nor left,
But give You full control,
To nourish that sweet flowing peace
Deep in my precious soul.

Help my feet to walk the paths
That are so narrowly lain;
With You holding my trembling hand,
It is so visibly plain.

Help my lips to speak the words
That only You should choose,
They shall not pierce another's heart
And cause them gladness to lose.

Help me, God, is my cry;
I know you tarry not—
It's not your will that I should perish
In fiery hell so hot.

Help me, Lord, through these trials
And burdens I must bear;
I know Thou hast tender feelings
Upon my every care.

When my time has come to go,
Take me Home so safe.
The last thing I would conquer is death;
I want the death of a saint!

Perfect me, O Lord, to do my best;
Let all I do be right
That humbly, boldly before Thee I'll walk
Perfectly in Thy sight.

—Wanda Christian