

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

Church of God Servant



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Guthrie, Oklahoma

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The Christ of Prophecy

From the ancient days came springing
Prophecies of Christ, the Lord;
Through the ages came they ringing
Consolation to afford.

Spake they of a promised Saviour
Who would all our burdens bear,
Giving all who seek His favour
Crowns of victory to wear.

In their light we see the goodness
Of our God divinely willed,
And recorded in the Gospel
We can see it all fulfilled.

"And Thou, Bethlehem-Judea,
Small among the ranks are Ye,
Yet from Thee shall come a Ruler
Who shall set my people free."

In another place: "A virgin
Shall conceive and bear a Son;
Thou shalt call His name Immanuel:
'God with us,' 'The Holy One.' "

And when in the lowly manger
Christ lay down His infant head,
Shepherds heard the angels' message
And to worship Him were led.

Truly just as it was written,
Every promise was fulfilled;
"For our sins the Lord was smitten,
By His stripes we now are healed."

"Death is swallowed up in triumph,"
"Sin no more!" we hear Him say—
"For I am the Resurrection,
Follow me, I am the Way!"

"Unto us a Son is given,
Unto us a Child is born!"
Is He yours? Have you received Him?
Does His grace your life adorn?

—Leslie C. Busbee

Your Father

In II Cor. 7:1 we find these words: "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." The promises here referred to are found in the close of the preceding chapter—"I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

God promises to be a Father to you; to be *your Father*. He will do this upon condition. You must separate yourself from all that is unclean, and perfect holiness in His fear. We cleanse ourselves by separating ourselves from all that is unclean. The Lord can never make us clean if we are keeping in touch with that which is unclean; therefore we can never be His children if we touch unclean things.

It is the thought that God will be a Father to you that we wish to awaken in your mind. What can be more truly wonderful? Who has met with such honor, favor, or fortune as he who becomes a son of God? As a son of God he is an heir of God and all that belongs to God becomes his inheritance. It was an act of love when we became the sons of God. "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God." It is love, unfathomable love. Think of it for a moment, think seriously. Let us see ourselves the aliens and outcasts that we were, so sinful, vile, and unclean; but God took us and made us clean and adopted us into His own family and became a loving, affectionate Father unto us.

As a Father He will ever care for us. Jesus endeavors to get us to comprehend something of God's fatherly care of us by referring us to His care of the fowls of the air. They sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, but God in His care for His creatures has made provisions for them. "Your heavenly Father," Jesus said, "feedeth them." It is not their Father, but *your Father* that feedeth them. If He has such notice and care for them, will He not care for His own children? He is their Creator and He cares for them as one of His creatures, while you are one of His creatures yet you are more, much more. You are one of His children. Suppose you had power to create birds and

give them life, what would those creatures be in your affections compared to children born into your family? You would sacrifice a whole world of birds that your child might be cared for. Will you not have faith in God? See Him as *your* own dear, loving, affectionate Father, one who has a tender regard for your slightest need. To be the least anxious or troubled about your cares and the supplying of your needs is an offense to the love and goodness of God. Be anxious for nothing. Your Father will care for you.

You may say that you are not troubled about your bodily needs but about your soul. Jesus tells us to fear not man who can harm the body, but cannot harm the soul. Oh, be not troubled about your soul! Commit it to Him who notes the sparrow's fall. Remember it is *your* Father that notes the fall of the sparrows and ye are of so much greater value than they. He numbers the hairs of your head. If He has such care for the most insignificant and insensible part of your body, will He not care for that soul which is of more value than the whole world?

Have faith in God. Be not troubled about anything. Your heavenly Father will attend to all your bodily needs. He will also keep your soul. It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Keep separate from the world and all things unclean and He will be a Father unto you all through life and take you to His home in heaven when life is done. Jesus before ascending said, "I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God." That Father who was with His Son in all the trying scenes of life, is also *your* Father and your God. Jesus did not want you to look upon God as His Father and God only, but as *your* Father and God as well. —C. E. Orr

It's a Hard Road to Hell

Some think the Christian life is the hard road. We hear much about "crosses to bear." Some speak of their "trials and tribulations." It is true we must bear the cross of self-denial. It is true that "all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." It is a faithful saying that they who would reign with Christ must also suffer with Him. We read of those who were clothed in white robes with palms of victory in their hands, crying with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." It was said of them, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Because they had been faithful through tribulation, they were rejoicing evermore.

The Bible speaks of the "strait gate" and the "narrow way" leading to life eternal, "and few there be that find it." It also tells us of the wide gate and broad way that leads to destruction, "and many go in thereat." Immediately we jump to the conclusion that it is the strait gate and narrow way that is hard. According to Webster's dictionary *strait* does mean, "difficulty, distress." Doesn't that prove the way is hard?

May I present a thought here? We know there are very few who do enter the strait gate. Is it because the gate itself is so difficult and the way so narrow? It is difficult for most people to admit their need of a Saviour. Most everyone wants to be, and seems to feel self-

sufficient. The devil himself can be behind such a feeling. He may say, "Why, you are not such a bad fellow. Many are worse than you. There's no need for you to snivel around confessing your sins. Just do the things you know are right, live a decent life and you will be all right." It is a difficult situation to see one's self as a condemned sinner. Very few ever do! Most have "their own righteousness" which the Bible classes as "filthy rags" in God's sight.

The way to heaven is narrow—it doesn't allow any sin anywhere on its path. It doesn't wander around all over everywhere. It is a direct route—no detours and no curves. It is a plain, evident, open way, plain enough that a "way-faring man, though a fool [illiterate] shall not err therein."

I want to prove my point that the road to hell is a hard road. By hard, I don't mean paved and smooth. A definition of hard is "demanding great physical or mental effort or labor; fatiguing, difficult." Another definition is, "difficult to deal with; not easily managed or controlled; difficult to endure, trying." I am fully persuaded the road to hell is a difficult road, a demanding road, a fatiguing road; a road that is not easily managed or controlled. The Bible will back me up. "The way of transgressors is hard." Prov. 13:15. "The great God that formed all . . . both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors." Prov. 26:10. "Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed." Prov. 13:21. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal. 6:7. I could quote many Scriptures to prove the way of the transgressor (sinner) is hard, and the way of the righteous (saved) is a blessed way. For some of the blessings of the righteous, read the beatitudes and the beatitude in the first Psalm—with many others.

Shall I tell you some true accounts of how hard the road to hell is? Saul of Tarsus was intent on destroying the saints. He was "mad against them." He had the favor of religious leaders. He became notorious (famous). He "made havoc of the Church." Saul didn't have an easy time. The road he was traveling was a hard road! His conscience pricked him continually. When he was struck down on the road to Damascus, Jesus said to him, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Saul was a miserable fellow because he had a troubled conscience. It is not possible to break God's laws and go unchallenged. Sin is a hard paymaster. Saul's life is a Bible example of the sinner's hard road.

Saul, later called Paul, repented and got a "good conscience," although he surely suffered great persecution. His writings in the letters to the churches have brought untold blessings and instructions to Christians down through the centuries. He, who was a curse and a persecutor, became a blessing and inspiration because he forsook the way of the transgressor and entered the strait gate and traveled the narrow way for the rest of his life. He came down to the end of life with satisfaction and assurance. "I am now ready to be offered . . . I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day. . . ."

As an example of the hard road of those on the broad way, think of the man enslaved by drink. He cannot control his appetite for beer and strong drink. Countless

dollars are spent to try to satisfy this craving. As time goes on, he drinks more and more. As he becomes a greater drunkard, his life gets harder. The money needed to pay bills and buy necessities is squandered and poverty comes. His family suffers with him and often disowns him with disgust. Many who started out well with a nice home and family have been ruined and are "drunken sots." Sometimes their lives, or others, are shortened because of drunken brawls or wrecks caused by drunken drivers. Does the drunkard's road sound like an easy one?

Many, who could have been useful citizens and blessings in the kingdom of God with their brilliant minds and talents, have been ruined by sin. The devil delights in ruining lives. He rewards his best servants with all kinds of broken hopes, sorrows, and wasted lives. He is a hard taskmaster; like Pharaoh of old, he makes the burdens of his servants heavier as time goes on. People's lives are made hard because of sin!

What will old age bring to those who have served sin? Their beauty, usefulness, talents, or whatever they formerly possessed are gone. Many are bitter, cantankerous, hard to please, spiteful, dissatisfied, besides being ill and wracked with pain and nausea. They have no peace or hope. God is not mocked; they must reap what they have sown. They have sown to the flesh, now they must reap corruption. Death is all they can look forward to, and it is a death without hope or assurance for eternity!

Some mistake natural sorrows and griefs that come to everyone for "crosses." Sinners have lots of troubles; more than saints do. The saint has the Lord to help him through the sorrows of life. In distresses the saint can lean on God. In necessities he has the God of all abundance to call upon. "For your Father knoweth what things ye have need of even before ye ask." In sickness or affliction, the child of God has an audience with God, "the great Physician" and Healer. There will be no big medical or hospital bills, and no disease is incurable with the Lord. The saint has a sure hope where there is no hope for those in the world.

Another positive assurance for the child of God is the knowledge that his life is in God's hands. God can lengthen or shorten the brittle thread of life. God can take the righteous away from the sorrow to come. It is such a comfort to rest calmly on the promises of God! We have the help of the Lord in every situation and circumstance of life. His grace is sufficient. Oh, what a blessing to be one of God's little ones!

Poor, poor transgressor! His hope is vain. No where can he be certain about anything. He has no anchor of hope to hold him in hard places. He has no enduring promises to stand on. In all his tribulations he only has a fearful looking for of judgment, for in the depths of his heart he has no assurance for an eternity of rest. He has no peace, but is like the troubled sea that casts up mire and dirt. Is not his road a hard road to travel?

Dear one, if you are thinking the Christian life is too hard, I want to assure you it is not! It is the good way, the way of peace and hope and glory. God satisfies the soul and gives a blessed life, no matter what the circumstances may be. He has grace and He has calmness and rest. There is "joy unspeakable and full of glory" and "peace that passes understanding" on the strait and narrow way.

"Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call ye upon Him while He is near. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow. . . ."—Thelma Sprague

Purity of the Mind

Many people seem to have difficulty in keeping their thoughts pure and their minds free from things they know are not according to the life of a Christian. If we closely follow the Word of God on this, as well as on other lines, we will have no trouble whatever. We are told to "gird up the loins of our mind." We can have the mastery over them if we just will. It depends much on what we permit our minds to feed and dwell upon. We will always have pure, holy and good thoughts and our minds will be pure and stayed on God and heavenly things if we obey the injunction in Phil. 4:8—" . . . Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, *think on these things.*" Why allow our minds to dwell on impure or unholy things when there are so many good things of which to think?

If we would keep the loins of our minds girded up and, as an impure or unholy thought comes, banish it at once, there would be no crop of impure thoughts, for the soil of our minds would be continually kept pure. Nor should we listen to impure or unholy language, for it will make a greater or less impression on our minds that will have a reflection, and often when we want our minds for clean, pure thought, the enemy will try to bring these things to us to scatter and hinder the pure, holy thoughts we want for our profit. Neither should we indulge in, nor listen to impure and unprofitable stories or gossip. All these things have their influence, and the reflection on the soul and spiritual life is harmful.

Let us guard our thoughts as well as our words. Let every thought be so pure that we would not be ashamed to have it written out that all might see it. This is not impossible, for He whom we serve has promised that every thought shall be brought into subjection to the obedience of Christ. II Cor. 10:5. —J. M. Byers

PEACE

When winds are raging o'er the upper ocean
And billows wild contend with angry roar,
'Tis said, far down beneath the wild commotion,
That peaceful stillness reigneth evermore.

Far, far beneath, the noise of tempest dieth,
And silver waves chime ever peacefully,
And no rude storm, how fierce soe'er it flieth,
Disturbs the Sabbath of that deeper sea.

So to the heart that knows Thy love, O Purest,
There is a temple sacred evermore,
And all the babble of life's angry voices
Dies in hushed silence at its peaceful door.

Far, far away, the roar of passion dieth,
And loving thoughts rise calm and peacefully,
And no rude storm, how fierce soe'er it flieth,
Disturbs the soul that dwells, O Lord, in Thee.

—Harriet Beecher Stowe

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year	\$.35
Single copy, three years	\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year...	\$1.00
Write for prices on larger quantities.	

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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P.O. Box 518 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

Office Phone 282-1479 Home Phone 282-2262

Believing that our prayer is granted at the time we pray, and that therefore we already have what we prayed for, before we see it, is the "confidence" referred to in I John 5:14,15: "We know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." —F. F. B.

EDITORIALS

"Good Will Toward Men!"

THE SEASON'S WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS in the precious name of the Holy Child Jesus, at whose birth the angel of the Lord and a multitude of the heavenly host appeared to the shepherds who were keeping watch over their flocks that night, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Christ's birth and mission to this world was a fulfillment of those prophecies which run like a golden thread through the Old Testament over a period of thousands of years—ever since Adam and Eve were driven from the garden of Eden. For four hundred years prior to Jesus' coming, God had not spoken to man by a prophet and the world was in gross spiritual darkness. The darkest period was just before the glorious dawn of the gospel day with the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One. "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Matt. 4:16. Jesus "was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world." John 1:9. Jesus Himself said, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12. Again He said, "While ye have the light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light." John 12:36.

Salvation from sin through Jesus Christ is now offered to every creature in this gracious gospel day. Whosoever will may come and take the water of life freely.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and accepted by the devout Israelites of His day, but has He been born in your heart? Do you have room for the Christ of the Bible in your life? If you do not have room for Him at His first advent, He will not have room for you at His second and final coming. "Seek the Lord while he may be found, and call upon him while he is near." His Spirit will not always strive or deal with man.

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As this last issue of the year of 1978 goes to press, we offer many thanks to our readers for the considerable number of yearly gift subscriptions that you have sent. We welcome all you can send at any time at the price of \$1.00 for three yearly subscriptions. We pray and trust that the Bible truth in the coming issues will prove a real spiritual blessing to every recipient. There is transforming power in believing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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By the 10th of December, bound volumes of the eleven issues of the Faith and Victory paper for 1978 will be available at \$1.00 each, plus 50c for postage and handling. Ready also at that time will be the 1978 Beautiful Way books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 50c for postage and handling. Send your order TODAY!

Beautiful 1979 Wall Calendar with Scripture . . .

This 1979 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price \$1.00 each, plus 50c for postage and handling, which is a total of \$1.50, postpaid to your address.

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Scripture Text Christmas Cards — 12 cards in box. Price per box, \$1.50, plus 50c for postage and handling. Order your supply NOW!

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Price Increased on Bible Lessons and B. W. . . .

As a result of the rapid advance in production costs and postage, it has become necessary for us to increase the subscription price on the quarterly **Bible Lessons**. This is the first raise in ten years, or the first since it began publication in 1969. Beginning with the first quarter of 1979, the new subscription price will be 50c per quarter of year, or \$2.00 per year, issued quarterly. However, all present paid yearly subscriptions will be finished out to their expiration dates. Please keep in mind this new price when renewing your subscription.

For the same reason above stated, the subscription price on **The Beautiful Way** paper for primary and junior children must be increased. This is the first raise in price in thirteen years. Beginning with the first quarter of 1979, the subscription price will be 35c per quarter, or \$1.40 per year, issued quarterly. As usual, the subscription includes the **Primary** and **Junior** papers. They cannot be ordered separately by subscription on account of the postal regulations. When renewing your **Beautiful Way** papers by the quarter or year, please use these new prices. Thank you!

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We have a new tract printed this year for you to put in with your **Season's Greetings**. This 12-page tract is entitled, "**Susy Diller's Christmas Feast**." The price is 10 copies for 45c, or 100 copies for \$3.50, postpaid. Order today!

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Bro. Curtis Williams of Morehead, Ky., held a four nights' meeting here at the Guthrie chapel from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1st. The Word was preached with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the hearers were richly blessed.

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Bro. Ray Key of Springfield, Ohio, a longtime minister of the Church of God, finished his course and went to be with the Lord on Nov. 12, 1978, at the age of 80 years.

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On Saturday, Nov. 4, Wife and this writer were on the National campground at Neosho, Mo., and were sorry to note that there was very little outside response to the notice of that work day.

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Bro. George Hammond came from Wisconsin and helped the week of Nov. 5th to 11th on the maintenance and repair of the buildings used in connection

with the gospel publishing work. His concern and labor for the Lord were certainly appreciated. He is still much interested in missionary work, especially in the foreign fields of Mexico and the Philippines.

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Sister Sandra Whitson, Sister Eldonna Rhoades, Wife and this writer enjoyed the all-day services on Sunday, Oct. 29, at Wichita, Kansas, which was the first Sunday of their annual autumn meeting. The chapel was seated to capacity, and the singing and preaching were very inspiring and uplifting.

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Plan to attend the Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here at Guthrie, Okla., from Dec. 22nd to 31st, 1978, during the Christmas holidays. This will be the largest mid-winter gathering of God's people in the central area of the United States. A more complete notice appears on another page of this issue.

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Oklahoma Church of God Guest Home . . .

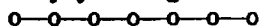
On November 9th, possession was received of the recently purchased house and land one-half mile from the Guthrie city limits to be used as the Church of God Boarding Home for the elderly saints from anywhere in the world. The prior owners, Brother and Sister Robert Benson, have moved to a home which they purchased in the area of Harrison, Arkansas.

Up to this date (Nov. 17th), the trustees and others have been doing some cleaning, remodeling, and maintenance work on the house. Furniture for the four bedrooms, living room, and dining room is needed NOW, as well as a refrigerator, washer and electric dryer, linens, and supplies for the kitchen. Contributions of any of these items or money to purchase them will be much appreciated. Also, there is still a need for a Christian couple (husband and wife) to volunteer their services for a nominal allowance and living quarters to manage the Home. If you are interested in working for the Lord in this capacity, please send your application to Bro. Bob Sallee who will relay it to the trustees. This will be a boarding home where meals will be served at a common table, but it is not a nursing home where bed patients would be provided nursing care. However, in case a resident should become ill, he could arrange for relatives and saints to come in and care for him on a temporary basis. The target date for starting the operation of the Home is Dec. 1, 1978. The saints who desire to reside in the Home should send their request at once for further information and prices to the secretary-treasurer, Bro. Bob Sallee, 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044. Let us be "workers together" to provide an ideal Christian home for our able-bodied elderly saints.

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Lord willing, Wife and this writer plan to attend the Assembly meeting on the General Southern campground at Hammond, La., during Thanksgiving week, Nov. 19 to 26. We expect to see relatives and friends, and to enjoy the presence and anointing of the Lord on the services as well as the fellowship of the saints.

assembled on the old campground which was established about seventy years ago.



We express our thanks and appreciation to all those who have prayed for and co-operated with us, financially and otherwise, in printing and mailing out the "white-winged" silent gospel messengers around the world. Let us continue to be "workers together" with the Lord in this soul-saving rescue operation, for we "shall reap if we faint not." —L. D. Pruitt

Excellent Gift Suggestions

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 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.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 191 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.75.

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.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00.

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

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 512 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$4.00 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. 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.

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.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

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

Echoes From Heaven—a new song book of 195 songs in shaped notes. In a heavy paper cover, this song book is priced at \$1.75 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, 75c each, or three for \$2.00.

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, \$1.50.

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.

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75c each, or three for \$2.00.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Second Coming of Christ by Willie C. Murphey. Expected off the press in December, this 24-page booklet records the four radio messages broadcast and published in *The Mission Trail* in 1977 by the author. This is a vital subject in these last days when Christ's coming is so near. Order several copies and pass them out. The price is 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

The Key to Peace by A. Marie Miles. Just off the press is this 32-page booklet, in which the plan of salvation is made plain for young people and adults. The price is 35c each, or three copies for \$1.00.

Scripture Text Christmas Cards — 12 cards in box. Price per box, \$1.50, plus 50c for postage and handling. Order your supply TODAY!

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No. 1 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Fourteen songs by the Phillips family on 33 RPM record. This No. 1 record may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash St., Wichita, Kansas 67214. The price is \$5.00 each, plus 70c for postage and handling.

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 reduced to \$5.00 each, plus 70c for postage and handling.

Stereo Song Record by the Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers. The twelve songs, just recently recorded, are sung by seven California gospel singers and composed by one of the singers, Bro. Philip Matthews of Fresno, California, who is also sponsoring the production of this record. Price, \$6.00 each, plus 75c for postage and the handling.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

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Mail Orders To—

FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

In Memorial

Inez W. Smoot was born on Jan. 10, 1909, and departed this life to be with the Lord on October 26, 1978, at Bethany, Oklahoma.

Early in life Inez yielded herself to the Lord and trusted Him for soul and body until He called her Home.

Survivors include two sisters, four brothers, and many other relatives.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Mart Samons, assisted by Bro. Archie Souder and singers from the Crutch Church of God. Interment was in the Kolb Cemetery, Oklahoma City.

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Sarah F. Brown was born April 17, 1900, and passed away October 24, 1978, at the age of 78 years, at Enid, Oklahoma. Sister Brown accepted this truth about 1937, after the Lord miraculously healed her body of tuberculosis. She loved the Lord to the end.

—Fern Stubblefield

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DAYTON, OHIO, MEETING REPORT

The saints here at Dayton, Ohio, surely thank God for the good ten-day revival meeting which closed on Oct. 29. Dear Bro. Sam Abbott from California, came for part of the meeting. Also dear Bro. Tom Melot of Guthrie, Okla., came and was here the last nine days of the meeting. God surely did anoint the Word as it went forth with power and boldness. New people came and the attendance was very good throughout the meeting. Some of the dear saints drove many miles to attend, and we thank God for the sweet fellowship that prevailed and the soul burden that so many had. Toward the end of the meeting two precious souls were saved. The joy that was in the camp of the saints could not be contained. There was weeping, leaping and rejoicing, as deliverance was wrought through the blood of the Lamb and the power of the Holy Ghost. Conviction rested heavily upon other precious souls who didn't yield to the call of the Spirit. The last Sunday afternoon five followed the Lord in baptism in a nearby river. We give thanks, praise and honor to God, and thank all the dear saints who prayed for the meeting, and all who attended.

—Bro. Earl Sharp

WICHITA, KANSAS, MEETING REPORT

The saints at Wichita, Kansas, rejoice because of the faithfulness of God in our autumn meeting which closed on Nov. 5th. He sent the Word in the meeting that was needed to help us become more perfected. There was much preached on the subjects of **Self** (our enemy that must be slain); **humility** (that we must have to get close to God and receive His grace); **faith** (without which it is impossible to please God); and **forgiveness** (unless we forgive our fellow man, God will not forgive us). Many sought for help along these and other lines at the altar of prayer and the Lord did bless. Some sought for salvation and we trust they will remain true to God. The Lord also wrought healings in the meeting and we give thanks for all His many blessings.

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

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OKMULGEE, OKLA., MEETING REPORT

The recent autumn meeting at Okmulgee, Okla., was a blessing from beginning to end. God was faithful to send ministers of His own choosing. The Word went forth with power. Souls were blessed by the Lord.

We thank the Lord and the saints for helping in the battle against sin. His Word will not return to Him void.

We appreciate all the Lord has done for us in Okmulgee, and still desire the prayers of the saints everywhere for the work here. Bro. Woodrow Warren is the pastor.

—By E. J. Johnson

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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on the campground in Pacoima, Calif., December 22 through Dec. 31, 1978.

We request your earnest prayers. We are looking to the Lord for special blessings in this meeting. If you are burdened of the Lord for this meeting, we hope to see you here. The chapel address is: 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif., phone (213) 899-9021.

For more information or assistance, contact Bro. Robert Sherman, phone (213) 896-7593, or Bro. James Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, Calif., phone (213) 896-5331.

—Wynema Clay

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OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 72nd annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., on Dec. 22nd to 31st, 1978, inclusive, during the Christmas holidays. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U.S.A.

Since the Christian school will be in session on Friday, Dec. 22, in the dining hall, the first service of the meeting will be on Friday night, Dec. 22.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th Street and West Warner Avenue. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by free-will offerings.

We are praying and expecting the Lord to send in Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word with heaven's

anointing. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come praying with a burden for the unsaved and for all who need help in soul and body. These are perilous times, and we need to be about our Father's business, doing what we can for lost souls.

Please send all contributions for the coming State Assembly meeting directly to the State Treasurer, Sister Frances Deforth, Route 2, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

—L. D. Pruitt

SERMON TAPES AVAILABLE

Bro. Clifford Smith has informed us that Sister Ruby Hutchinson and Kenny have recorded over fifty messages preached by Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon. These messages are on cassette tapes of good sound quality, and they have made these tapes available to anyone on a loan basis. A list of the messages are ready to pass out. If anyone wants a list of the messages or wants to borrow the cassette tapes, please address your request directly to Bro. Clifford Smith, 600 Fairview St., Salem, Oregon 97302.

Prayer Requests

Texas—"I received the handkerchief that you anointed and prayed over for my grandson's face. God healed his face and we are all so very happy. His face had been a solid bump for three years and he has suffered with those big bumps. His face is cleared up and he said he couldn't get over how good he felt. . . . We do thank God for healing him. My daughter-in-law has a very bad back condition; she desires prayer. (She has a rare form of arthritis called ankylosing spondylitis). She and my son have two small children. She also has asthma. . . . My husband has been sick since I wrote to you, so please pray for him."

—Louise Strickland

Ohio—Remember Bro. Bill Abbott in prayer. His legs are giving him a lot of trouble but his trust is in the Lord. Also his daughter-in-law, Lois, is having a lot of throat trouble.

Okla.—Remember Sis. Evelyn McCoy as she has almost constant pain from that place on her neck and her heart bothers her. The Lord is good to give her relief from time to time but we know healing belongs to her.

Mich.—"Thank God that I am healed of pleurisy but I found out that I have sugar diabetes. . . . I am expecting God to heal me. . . . It is lonesome here . . . my wife, Ether, died Sept. 16th and my oldest sister died Nov. 5th. My children do not live close to me. . . . I certainly appreciate and thank all who remember me in prayer."

—Floyd Hines

Mo.—We got word Nov. 12th that the eleven-year-old daughter of Bro. and Sis. Melvin Doolittle of Springfield, Mo. (Rt. 2, Box 234, Strafford, Mo. 65757), got her hair caught in the sprocket of a three-wheeler and it almost completely scalped her. Someone picked her up and took her to the hospital. It took doctors four hours to sew the scalp back on her head, and they are not sure that it will

grow back. She surely needs prayer, and the parents, also. They did not have any insurance, and of course the bill will be high. It was such a sad thing to happen. There are many sad things that happen in the world, but we are glad we can take them to God in prayer.

—M. Miles

Nov. 20th—The latest report on Melisa Doolittle is that she is doing very well. One day her fever went up and the doctor said that if it went up the next day they would have to open the bandage and start grafting on skin, but the Lord took care of that, and her temperature is stable. The doctors now feel they will not disturb the bandage until the 14th day from the accident, instead of the previously stated ten days. She can now walk some.

Saints, keep praying for a miracle. God can do more than the doctors, in whose hands she is at this time. We feel it's a miracle that she is alive, being scalped like she was. Those who saw her said it was horrible.

Bro. Melvin and Sis. Elaine Doolittle wish to thank the saints and others who have opened up their hearts and helped them financially, and also for their prayers, cards, phone calls and all of the love shown to them in this tragedy. Continue to pray for Melisa.

—Sis. Marie Miles

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

I feel impressed to ask all the saints that feel a burden to fast and pray on Wednesday, Dec. 13th. I have an urgent need concerning my children. I have confidence that when the saints pray, God will work. Praise His holy name! Oh, how I feel my unworthiness! I love all of you dear saints.

I am your servant,

—Bro. Tom Melot

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Oct. 17)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus. Thank you for your letter dated October 3rd, which came to hand on Oct. 16th. Thanks to the Lord for its enclosures.

All is well and bright with the Lord's work in Nigeria. Sectarian teachers and all with the spirit of sectism and division, who mounted war of deception, have been put to flight through Jehovah's might revealed in His Word of irresistible truth which we believe, teach, and spread. Their fall was flat at Utagba-Ogbe, Kwale, like the walls of Jericho.

The Lord's fishers of men, the Church of God, will on a most intensive scale and under divine inspiration, gather multitudes into the Church whose Builder and Maker is the Lord Jesus. Even if it will mean drawing near to martyrdom in persecution and trials, the supreme task of nation-wide evangelism will occupy our mind and be viewed as top priority in the divine scheme of things to call souls to the feast prepared for all.

A ministers' meeting is scheduled to be held in Tombia, River State, in mid-November, chiefly for instruction of the chosen vessels more perfectly in the Church of God doctrine. Frequently men covet an office for which they are not prepared, simply because

they skipped over their apprenticeship. As James served and learned, he became a workman who had no need to be ashamed.

Yours in Christ,

—Titus U. E. Enu

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Oct. 18)—My dear Bro. Pruitt, the faithful workers in the Print Shop, and the saints everywhere: We send our loving greetings to all of you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you very much for your letter dated October 4, 1978, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. May God bless all the saints who opened their hands to contribute for our work in India.

The new chapel at Vilengara was opened for services on Sept. 30th, and it was a really happy day for the saints there and for all who participated in that opening service. A number of ministers and believers attended that all-day meeting. . . . About 100 children, mostly Hindus, attend the Sunday school in this new chapel, so it is a precious gift to the people of that locality.

In the first week of October, I made a trip to the northern part of Kerala State to visit the saints in Trichur, Challissery, Peringodu, and Kodassery. On Sunday night, Oct. 8, we observed the New Testament ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's supper with the saints in the chapel at Kodassery. Peringodu is a small village where a few saints assemble for services in a very small room of a home there. They badly need a common place or chapel in which to assemble. We pray God to supply the means to buy a small plot and to build a chapel for the saints there. May God open some unknown ways. Please agree with us in prayer.

Our campmeetings start from December onward for four months, and our General Campmeeting at Karikkom starts on Jan. 10, 1979, for five days on a new ground this year. We wish for some of the ministers from the church in America to come and participate in our campmeetings here. Please pray for the means to conduct these meetings, as they are very expensive.

We earnestly continue to pray for your healing. May God deliver you completely from the affliction and shower on you the sufficient grace to survive that trial.

My wife sends her love and greetings to your wife, Sis. Marie, and all the sisters there.

With love and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

—John Varghese

GOSPEL MISSION TO W. GERMANY

Recently Bro. C. C. Carver and this office received encouraging response from gospel literature received by some brethren in West Germany. Two or three families are now meeting together in services. Bro. Carver has a burden to visit them, preach the Word, and encourage them in the old-time truth of the Church of God. He needed an interpreter to go with him, so the Lord provided Bro. Alfons Oppel, a German minister of Ontario, Canada, to go. Lord willing, they will leave by plane on Dec. 10, 1978, and of course, the air fares

will cost several hundred dollars in addition to the cost of travel and living expense in that country. Let us pray earnestly for and co-operate with these brethren in this worthy effort. Perhaps some of our readers of German descent have prayed for years that the whole truth would be preached in Germany. If you can't go yourself, you can help send these brethren. You may send your freewill offering for that purpose to the Missionary Fund at this office, specifying what it is for. The Lord will bless and reward you. Pray that a permanent work for God will be established in Germany, and that they will have a safe round trip.

—L. D. Pruitt

From the Mail Box . . .

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie and workers: I am truly thankful to God for this great salvation. I am learning to appreciate it more and more each day, and as His Word tells us to "let the redeemed of the Lord say so," I surely mean to serve the Lord better and love Him more.

I was blessed to attend the Wichita, Kansas, meeting from Thursday through the last Sunday. I witnessed the Spirit's leading among the ministry and God's leading in delivering His Word. My soul was truly blessed. Several were saved and many sought God for help. One message on "Self" was glorious. I copied down nineteen things that self does that truly makes me beat self under more each day. There was a precious message on "Faith." Oh, how it helped me to continue to trust God more for everything!

Continue to pray for us here in Tulsa, and may God bless each of you in the great work and sacrifice you are making for His great name's sake. —Theresa Gaines

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Va.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. Trust the Lord is blessing you all in your souls and bodies. May the Lord undertake for each one who needs a healing touch. I am glad He knows all about our sufferings and doesn't let more come on us than we can bear.

Mother passed away on October 25, 1978. She was 92 years of age last December. The Lord gave her to us a long time and He knows how thankful I am to Him for it. I can say she was a good mother to us and she is missed. The Lord is blessing us, and I thank Him. Surely we couldn't live without Him. —Sis. Avis Tinsley

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Ind.—Dear Brother Pruitt: Jesus Christ gave His life that you and I and all who will repent with godly sorrow and are willing to pay the price for eternal life might live. Praise God for ever!

He came down and laid the foundation for His church, and on the day of Pentecost the Holy Ghost set it in order and action. It will still be in action when He comes back. Praise the Lord! I surely love my Lord Jesus. I John 2:15-17 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

I hope you are much better, Bro. Pruitt, and that all the saints at the Print Shop are well and happy in the service of our King Jesus. I pray for all of you and all saints everywhere. There are many people today who won't stand for the truth. They have a "form of godliness" but "deny the power thereof."

Your Bro. in the One Body, —Nathan Mobley

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie and Bro. Pruitt: Greetings of Christian love, and may God richly bless you each one in the Print Shop, heal your bodies, lead, guide, and help you for His honor and glory. . . .

The Lord has blessed us every day. How I do thank and praise Him! I feel so very humble and weak, but I know I can be strong in His power and His might.

The Lord gave me a place to work for Him, and I know I am never alone because He is with me. I am thankful for His presence with us and how He blesses our hearts as we meet together in the little Rest Home in Centerview. We have sweet fellowship in the Lord's worship service. When they thank me for coming, I tell them to just thank the Lord, for it is His service. I'm only an instrument in His hands. The old hymns are precious to each one and God blesses and gives us Scriptures for our lesson each Sunday morning at ten o'clock. Pray for us that the Lord will bless each heart and give light and strength, and supply each one's spiritual needs. . . . The Lord has a work for each one of us, and truly we need to be busy for Him.

It makes us feel sad and burdened to see people who profess to be Christians and are so busy out in the world with worldly organizations and work of all kinds. May God open their eyes before it is too late and help each one of us to keep our minds stayed on Him who is our salvation, and the Author and Finisher of our faith. Praise the Lord forever!

Much Christian love, —Lena Bowman

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Mo.—Dear ones: I trust the dear Lord is blessing each one there in getting the truth out through the printed page. We enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper, also the Sunday school lessons and tracts.

We had a wonderful day in the Lord Sunday (Nov. 5) here at Senath. The chapel was pretty well filled for our all-day meeting. Some didn't get to stay for the afternoon service. The messages were really good, and some were at the altar. Bro. Curtis Williams preached in the morning service and Bro. Mart Samons in the afternoon. Bro. Fox was here from Kentucky and Bro. Donald Sharp and several from Myrtle, Mo. came. . . .

May God bless all of you.

Pray for us. —Sis. Cassie Wilson

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Okla.—Dear Sis. Miles: The November *Faith and Victory* has truly been very precious to me, as they all are. I love God's truth and Jesus, His Son. We give thanks to our heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us into the truth of God and His Word. Jesus says in St. John 8:31,32, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

May the Lord bless abundantly in the work of the Lord there. —Sis. Eva Penner

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Mo.—Dear praying saints: How I thank the Lord for the fellowship of the saints! The Lord's family is a wonderful family in which to belong, and I appreciate each member in it. It is such a comfort to know that God's children care about each other's welfare and are ready to pray for any member in their time of need. Surely I needed the saints' prayers recently.

Early, on Sunday, October 15, 1978, the Lord gave to my husband and me a precious little son, and we feel that it is only through God's mercy that the baby and I are here today. The Lord blessed me with good health earlier, but complications arose toward the last. The doctor was very insistent with her medication, because she feared I would go into convulsions and maybe die during childbirth. There is not a medicine she could have given me that would have done what the Lord did for me! Praise be to God! I knew prayer was being offered for me, and I was, and am still, satisfied that He heard and answered prayer.

I was permitted to leave the hospital only after signing a release that if I went into convulsions and died, my doctor would be free from all responsibility, as she did not want me to go home yet since complications were still present. She didn't realize the Lord had His hand upon me.

On Wednesday evening, the 18th, the day after I left the hospital, the Lord undertook for me in a marvelous way. Sometime that evening while I was praying, in my heart I felt a relaxed, comfortable feeling that the Lord had cleared up my trouble. Just as our little boy lies so peacefully in my arms, I felt as if I were lying that same way in the Lord's arms; it felt so very nice. From then on, I began to gain strength. All praise be to God! He and He alone healed me totally. My blessed Saviour deserves all the praise!

We do want to thank all of the saints everywhere that were praying for me. It comforted my heart to know that agreement of prayer was being made for me. We appreciate the saints so very much.

Our desire is to be all the Lord would have us to be. We want the Holy Spirit of God to ever dwell within us. Also, we always want to have an established Christian home where the Lord leads in all decisions. Pray for us that we will be godly examples as parents before this child the Lord has entrusted in our care.

Once again, we thank all the saints for their prayers on our behalf. The Lord surely has heard His people.

Christian love, —Dwane and Connie Sorrell

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Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie and all: We thank the dear Lord for all of you dear ones and your good prayers for us. May God bless you each and every one for the wonderful work you all are doing to help win precious souls for His kingdom.

How we thank our dear Lord for all the many blessings He bestows upon us day by day! He has kept us from harm and terrible sickness, and watched over us so very faithfully. What a wonderful God we serve!

. . . I was very thankful that He spared me of any trouble from the nail which I stepped on. It was a real miracle. I had thick boots on and it went through the

boot and punched a little hole in the sole of my foot. It didn't bleed, but it did hurt. The nail was very rusty and long. The Lord knew I had to keep going to get my job done, so He really helped. We both were very tired out. It took a lot out of my poor, sick father. He hasn't felt good since. I felt sick after it was done, but I'm so very happy it is done. Thank the Lord! When I show this hillside that we cleaned off to some of my friends, they say, "How could you and your father have done it? It's so very steep and dangerous." I tell them that the good Lord helped us or we couldn't have done it. I thank you for praying for us. That really helped us.

I surely enjoy all the good books, *The Beautiful Way* papers and the *Faith and Victory* paper. We love to read all the good things from these for our souls.

—Sis. Olive Gettersson

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Okla.—We thank the Lord for victory in our souls and a determination to be faithful until the end. God has been true to us through many fiery trials. We love the Lord, His work, and His people, and mean to be true until He calls us from labor to reward.

We are happy to report another successful autumn meeting at the Green Pastures chapel, 57th and Denver, in Spencer, Okla. It was well attended. The Word went forth with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Souls were saved and several sought the Lord for a deeper work in God. Then some were healed, for which we give God all the glory.

We thank all the ministers and saints that had a part in this spiritual battle. May God richly bless you, is our prayer.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. and Sis. Herman Kelly

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Ark.—Christian love to all. Praise the Lord! I am still saved and holding on to Jesus through faith in His Word.

I have been having some very serious trials, but they do not move me. I had a fall on the street and seriously bruised and sprained my right ankle. I was put to bed and had to have someone with me day and night for a week. Today I am not well, but can move about some. I thank God it was no worse. I am asking for your prayers. I am 83 years of age and a widow. I live by myself.

Your Sister in Christ, —Cherry Alba

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Calif.—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, who is the gateway to heaven, to the elect of God everywhere. I thank and praise the Lord for salvation, for His goodness to me and for His gracious dealing with me. I thank and praise Him for healing me of an affliction. I suffered with it for several years. I also thank Him for healing me of a severe attack of indigestion. I thank God for keeping my granddaughter from choking on a piece of candy. Oh, the tenacity of faith; the adherence of faith and its attributes that are precious and vital to the trusting soul! He is the same "yesterday, today, and for ever." Praise His Holy name! Hold on in faith believing and let patience have its perfect work. I look back and count it all joy. He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. He will never leave nor forsake those who have put their trust in Him. All praises be to Him for ever and ever!

—Melba Viser

W. Va.—Dear saints: We are glad at this time to report victory in our soul and that we are still pressing on for that final reward that is laid up for us in heaven if we do not falter along the way. We thank the Lord for the mercy and grace that He has extended to us and for coming to our rescue in times of sickness and trouble. Blessed be the name of our Lord!

We thank the Lord for the afflictions that have come our way because they have caused us to lean heavily on Him and not man. They have caused us to draw closer to the Lord and have helped strengthen and establish us in the things of God. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psa. 34:19. We have found this to be true. The enemy has been coming hard against us at times, but with God's grace, humility, and a determination to press on, the victory is ours. "If God be for us, who can be against us." Romans 8:31. We must be alert at all times, for the enemy of our soul is not a respecter of persons. Sometimes he seeks out the ones closest to us, to use against us, to try and get us to give up or to just let down a little. But thanks be unto God, for "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." We must not, and cannot, let anybody or anything hinder us from serving the Lord. We must press on as though our very life depends on it—and it does! (See Rom. 8:35-39). Phil. 2:12 teaches us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," not your neighbor's or friend's.

In this day and age there is a compromising spirit going about trying to dilute the Word or to cause us to be a little slack in serving the Lord, but those who don't serve the Lord with their whole heart, will be lukewarm like the church in Revelation, and God will spew them out of His mouth. The more love we have for God, the closer to Him we will want to be, giving up more of the world and its gaiety, becoming more sober, sincere, and having more of a burden for other souls. Our only desire is to be in the will of God in all things and to serve Him in righteousness. We are seeking the "old paths" and the "strait and narrow way," desiring to walk closer to the Lord, and to be contented in doing whatever He should call on us to do.

Christian love, —Duane and Lula Sizemore

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Kans.—Dear saints: Greetings in the holy and precious name of Jesus. We are happy to report victory in our souls. We have been endeavoring to remain in the holy remnant for a good many years. . . .

The Lord has been so very precious to us. The more we are tried, the closer we cling unto Him who died to cleanse us from sin and give us peace in our souls. We made a covenant with the Lord to go all the way and to be faithful to Him until He called us Home to glory. Thanks be to God! His grace has brought us through thus far, and our faith looks up to God to carry us through according to His promise.

We see many groping in sin and most of them professing Christ. It surely behooves us to keep our garments white, free from sin and its defilements.

We would like to testify of the goodness of the Lord to us. Two years ago we bought an old piece of property. We had been praying about it for some time, desiring the mind of the Lord concerning it. This has been a real challenge, and many times we wouldn't know how

to overcome some of the things we encountered. Then as we looked to the Lord to help us, it seemed to fall in place. We will have many precious memories of God's loving care throughout the trials, but the Lord knew we needed them. Another thing is the strength God gave us from time to time. It was almost surprising how we could work all day long, up high on a step ladder, and see the protection God afforded us.

During this time I had something form on my right wrist and it seemed to bother me. I could see it looked irritated, so we asked the Lord to remove it. . . . A short time later I noticed it looked dry and had a scab on it, so I just pulled it off. Today I don't even have a sign of a scar. Thank the Lord, He is good to His trusting children!

Some time back I had misplaced an item, and for several days I had looked for it. I had Ralph, my husband, look too, and asked him if he remembered where I could have used it last. One morning while working in my kitchen, I again looked for it, and I told the Lord He knew where it was and implored Him to help me find it. Somehow I walked right to the area, and it seemed like the Lord took hold of my arm and placed it where it had been hidden all the time. I just thanked the Lord for His goodness unto unworthy me. Surely in all our ways we need to acknowledge Him. We can sing with the poet, "I have found it, Lord, in Thee, an everlasting store of comfort, joy and bliss to me. How could I wish for more?"

We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support of the missionary fund. I'm sure you have read some of the reports of meetings held and others were blessed by your sacrifice of love. Let us continue to be faithful and keep our garments white.

We desire an interest in your prayers that God will help us in the place that He has called us to serve, that we will be directed by His Spirit.

—Sis. Inez and Bro. Ralph Beisly

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. L. D. Pruitt and co-workers: I am glad to be in the number of God's faithful few. He has said He has forgiven all my past wrong doings, and has put them away as far as the east is from the west. He will remember them no more forever. He also said, "Go and sin no more." I have no desire to go back into the world of sin. He has been very good to me and kept me for nearly 92 years. I am ready when the Lord calls me to come up higher to that beautiful home He has prepared for me through a never-ending eternity.

Much love and prayers, —Bro. Andrew Senti

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt: We are so very thankful to be saved and to know Jesus as our Saviour. He has done so very much for us.

We want to thank the Lord for blessing us with a 6 pound, 13½ oz. baby boy on Oct. 21, 1978. We named him Kenneth Jason. He had complications when he was born and the doctors didn't think he would be normal. His heartbeat before delivery had dropped from 145 to 30. The doctors and nurses were pretty excited. . . . We had some of the family there at the hospital who knew the Lord and how to pray. When Jason was born he wasn't breathing and his color was green. The doctor grabbed him right

away and started working with him. He got four test tubes of a tar-like substance out of his lungs. Our baby was next to death, but the Lord had mercy. Praise the Lord! When we left the hospital, a nurse walked us to the door with Jason. She looked at us and said, "You have a miracle baby. I know because I was there when he was born. I know what he went through." We let her know that the Lord was the One who brought him through. Jason is three weeks and two days old now, and the Lord has blessed so very much. You would never know by looking at him that he had such a rough start. We thank the Lord for having mercy, and our desire is to live for Him.

Christian love, —Kenny, Mary, and Jason Abbott

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REPORT ON PATH OF LIFE SCHOOL

We are happy to report that the Path of Life School established this year in the campground facilities at the Church of God, 624 W. Warner, Guthrie, Oklahoma, is proving to be a blessing and success. We just recently completed our first quarter for the school year. We have fourteen students. The supervisors are Sisters Charlotte Huskey and Sylvia Busbee. They are devotedly attending to their duties and are happy in doing so. But we are looking to the Lord to burden and send a more qualified supervisor who can carry the load and responsibility as the school presents. These two sisters are mothers, and are taking from their home responsibilities and time to manage and run the school. If there are any who feel burdened for this kind of work and would be interested in assuming this position, we would be glad to hear from you. This is a Christian work—a vital work for the Lord.

This type of schooling requires a course of training with Accelerated Christian Education. There will be a session of such training at Lewisville, Texas, around December 18th, of this year and then another training in July of next year, 1979. An application for approval may be obtained by mail from The Path of Life School, 624 W. Warner, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

We also are looking to God for a consecrated person to have charge of teaching children who are learning to read. This is a different procedure, and will require another separate classroom. We certainly do need to teach our young children, to train them right from the beginning. At this time our lowest grade level is fourth grade. Several children have been turned away because we did not have the facilities, nor the instructor.

There is a general demand for this type of schooling. It is universal. To become convinced one only has to read the newspaper and listen to daily newscasts. The Word of God tells us to train up a child in the way he should go. It is our Christian duty, dear people of God.

We want to express our thanks and appreciation for all who have supported the establishing and progress of the Christian School, and for the various ones who have contributed financial means to help make it possible. Continue to pray for us in this important work.

—Leslie C. Busbee
Pastor, Principal

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"Salvation is more than a passport to heaven; it is deliverance from the dominion of sin in this life. (Titus 2:11, 12)."

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that all holding a position of leadership in the Church of God—pastors, teachers, evangelists, trustees, deacons, and all other leaders—must be clean and free from television. We warn every one against its use, and advise that anyone who has professed to be out in the clear light of God's truth and has begun using the television or bringing it into the home over which he has control (I Tim. 3:4,5) has lowered the standard and has disqualified himself as a pattern for the saints.

—Approved by the ministers of the Church of God at the General Ministers' Meeting on Oct. 18, 1978, at Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Let God Talk to Us

"Mother, why do we pray?" asked four-year-old Rene'.

"When we pray we are talking to God," answered mother.

"When does God talk to us?" Rene' questioned.

"God talks to us when we read the Bible," Mother replied.

"Come on, Bobby, let's let God talk to us," Rene' said, after running to get her Bible and sitting down on the couch.

"No! Wanta play truck," little two-year-old Bobby said as he picked up his truck.

In the evening service, the Bob Sallee family sat by me in the same pew which is our usual place at the chapel. While the minister was preaching, I noticed Rene' turning the pages in her Bible, which she faithfully brought to services since her parents had given it to her a few months ago. Again, I noticed that she was turning her little head back and forth as if she were reading, and of course I knew she couldn't read. Later, I was intrigued to see that she was still acting like she was reading her Bible. I glanced at my watch. Since she was sitting beside me, it was no trouble to time her and yet listen to the message going forth. I was amazed that when she quit, she had done this for sixteen minutes. I questioned her mother about it, and she told me the above conversation that they had. Oh, how I would like to know what God told that child as she simply believed her mother and looked at the words in her Bible, letting God talk to her!

My thoughts have been on the eagerness of the child to let God talk to her, also on the faith and simplicity that she had. Then I thought about us who can read—what about our eagerness, faith, and our simplicity? Did not Jesus set a child in the midst of the people one time and point to it for a lesson. He said, "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3. Do we value the Word of God as we should? We can read, but do we sit 16 minutes and truly let God talk to us? Or do we hurriedly read and go away, forgetting even what we read?

God's Word is more important than the heavens and the earth. Jesus said that "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. How great are the heavens and the earth? Astronomers estimate that the Milky Way, the galaxy to which our

earth and solar system belong, contains over 30 billion suns, many of them immensely larger than our sun, which is a million and a half times larger than the earth. Also, it is said there is a hundred thousand galaxies like the Milky Way that are far apart and only a tiny speck in what is beyond the endless stretch of space. Oh, what a mighty God we are serving! What a great Creator! Our minds can't take it all in. Yet God has declared that all of this will pass away one of these days. The Apostle Peter explains a little how it will be by saying, "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. . . . the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat . . . Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness?" 2 Peter 3:10, 12b,11. Oh, may we be stirred to be ready in that great day and be established in the ways of God so we can go to that place prepared for the faithful and true! It's a place prepared for those who read His Word, believe it and live by it.

God's Word is more important than the earth that we live on and the heavens above it. We should put the right value upon God's Word and believe that it is extremely important. Not only should we read the Word, but also live by it and worship our Lord, Saviour, and God. We truly want to worship Him in spirit and in truth. Some people confuse emotions that they have when they hear a song, see a beautiful scene or picture, visit a cathedral, or hear the strains of a musical instrument with worshipping God. Yes, our emotions are touched when we worship, but they are touched by the Spirit of God and our worship comes from the depths of our being. That is worshipping God in spirit and in truth. Emotions in worship, not touched by God, are worship in error and not in truth. God only touches those who love His Word and have measured their lives by that Word. Then we can truly worship God in spirit and in truth. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24.

Heaven or hell is our destiny after death, or when the heavens and earth are on fire, so let us search God's Word, value it, and live by it daily so we will be ready to meet our God.

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

Humanism Versus Christianity

One day while I was taking a break from a college course I was taking, I wandered through the halls of the school. As I was passing one of the classrooms, I happened to see some writing on the blackboard. It said, "The duty of a revolutionary is to serve the people bravely and diligently." Underneath was the name of the author, Mao Tse Tung. I looked at the quotation and thought for a moment, "That quotation sounds good," but then I thought of a better one. So I wrote underneath a verse from the Bible, which Peter spoke to those who did not want him preaching about Jesus, "We ought to obey God rather than men." And is that not the truth? If you serve or obey men, they might not be worthy of obedience or service. If the people would pass a law that

everyone over the age of seventy would be put to death, should you recognize that law? God's Word says, "Thou shalt not kill." Obviously, we should obey God rather than men. Hopefully, the situation would never arise when serving the people would not be serving God. But if it did, our duty is clear: to God first, to man second.

Now the quotation by Chairman Mao can lead to certain dangerous conclusions. That is, putting human motives above God. Anytime we put our own desires ahead of God's desire, we have problems. For it is sin to desire what we have no right to have. It was Satan who deceived Eve into desiring to be as God, knowing good from evil.

This desire by certain members of our society to serve people, or humanity, rather than God, is called humanism. Humanism is quite prevalent in our institutions of higher learning. It is daily taught in the form of philosophy, history, and literature in our public and, to some extent, in our private schools. There are whole departments of our colleges devoted to teaching the humanities.

Now, you might ask, "What's so bad about teaching this type of courses in public schools?" My only answer is from the Bible. That is, "By their fruits ye shall know them." In other words, what are these courses producing in our young people? Are the educational establishments creating healthy, strong, moral young people? I believe the record will show that the disintegrating moral values, high divorce rates, and rising cases of crime, drug addiction, suicide, and venereal disease prove that something is terribly wrong. Our schools, especially in our large urban areas, are actually becoming breeding grounds for alcoholism, drugs, and all manner of illicit behavior. Why?

In our society there are those, who like the young person who wrote the quotation by Chairman Mao on the blackboard, sincerely desire to help humanity. However, by leaving God out of the picture, they have fallen prey to man-made programs or *isms* to fulfill their desire for a better world. For desire comes from the human heart, and as Jesus said in Matthew 15:19, "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Also, we read from the prophet Jeremiah who wrote in chapter 17, verse 9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Of course, every soul should desire the betterment of the human race, but only God can satisfy the yearning of the soul. For *isms*, be they humanism, or socialism, or communism, no matter how well intentioned, leave out God's divine purpose. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 10:3, "For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."

Many teachers in high schools and colleges are believers in humanism. They believe that we can educate people into being righteous. They fail to see that only God is righteous, and the only way that men and women can be righteous is by appropriating God's righteousness. You might ask, "How do we do that?" The answer is, accepting by faith God's dear Son, Jesus, who died so that every believer might be resurrected with Him in newness of life in this world and receive life eternal.

People who follow the doctrines of humanism do not believe man needs to be saved or born again; because

they believe man is basically good. They do not believe that the entire race passed into spiritual death when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden. Humanists believe that men who sin or do things wrong, just need their thinking straightened around. As soon as men get their thinking squared away, then all of our problems will be over. The only objection to these ideas is that they don't work. If all it took to stop crime, drug addiction, broken homes, alcoholism, corruption in government, greed, mistrust, envy, lying, and every other social ill in our society, were to change our thinking, then our problems would surely have been solved by now. After all, mankind has had 5,000 years of recorded history to get his thinking straight.

No, it will take more than just changing our thinking. It will take a transformation and a regeneration of man's heart and spirit. Men will have to get fed-up with the way their lives are going and completely turn away from their sinful ways. This is called *repentance*, which in the Greek language means to "turn away." Then you must with Godly sorrow ask Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and make you a new creature. Then His life and His character will begin manifesting itself in you. If you are in need of transformation, if your life is not going in the right direction, call upon Jesus Christ for deliverance from sin and Satan. Wherever you are, don't wait until you are in better condition, but seek Him now. God has made a way of salvation for every person who will call on Him in faith and believe His promises. Call upon Jesus now and be saved today. —Phillip B. Hausken

The Power of Stillness

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalms 46:10.

There is power in quietness. Is there any note of music in all the chorus as mighty as the emphatic pause? Is there anything more thrilling and awful than the hush that comes before the bursting of the tempest? than the strange quiet that seems to fall upon all nature before some preternatural phenomenon or convulsion? Is there anything that can so touch the heart as the power of stillness?

Our Saviour oftentimes comes to us in "a still, small voice." If we would understand His will, if we would receive more of His power, we must take time to be still before Him.

The greatest blessing that Christ purchased for us was sweet soul-rest. For the heart that will cease from itself there is "the peace of God which passeth all understanding"; a "quietness and confidence" which is the source of all strength, a deep peace which nothing can disturb, a sweet rest which the world can neither give nor take away. Yes, our Lord purchased this peace, quietness, and confidence for us. This shall be our portion if we but live in His presence, if we but cease from our own struggles and repose in His strong arms of love, and quietly wait to hear His gentle voice.

There is in the deepest center of the soul of the child of God a chamber of peace where God dwells, and it is our privilege so to enter in with our Lord and so to shut out every other sound, that we can hear His still, small voice. Many times our heavenly Father tries to talk to us, but we are not still enough to hear Him. Many times when the heart is burdened and weighed down with grief or care, the dear Lord in tenderness whispers, "Cast all

your care upon me," but the poor soul is not still enough to hear Him. When trials come until it seems the soul will surely sink beneath the load, the Word whispers, "Fear not; for I am with thee, yea, I will strengthen thee, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness"; but the troubled heart does not hear. It goes on burdened with a load of care, hardly able to stand, all because it did not listen to the voice of encouragement.

As the flowers that drank in the cool and crystal drops of dew during the silent shades of night, are refreshed in the morning, so "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength and shall mount up with wings as eagles"; but as the dew never falls on a stormy night, so the dew-drops of God's grace never come to the restless soul. When, however, in perfect submission to His will, we settle down in quietness and confidence before Him and turn a deaf ear to the voice of the enemy, then He makes His will known to us and revives our spirits.

We can not go through life strong and fresh and be constantly on express-trains, with ten minutes for lunch. We must have quiet hours, times of waiting upon the Lord that we may renew our strength and learn to mount up on wings as eagles; then we can run and not be weary, and walk and not faint.

Then, again, when we are still before God, we give Him a chance to work. "He that is entered into his rest, hath ceased from his own works, even as God did from his"; and when we cease from our own works, God works in us, "both to will and to do of his own good pleasure." At times, trying things come so against the soul that it is hard to hold still. We may be misunderstood and misjudged by those we love dearly; we may be persecuted; we may be tried on every hand; and we may feel that we must do something. That is just the time to hold still and let God work. How often we lose God's interposition by taking up our own cause and striking for our own defense. No other spectacle in all the Bible is so sublime as that of the silent Saviour, answering not a word to the men who were maligning Him and whom He could have laid prostrate at His feet by one look of divine power or by one word of fiery rebuke. But He let them say and do their worst, and He stood in the power of stillness. May God help us not to lose sight of our Example, and may we learn to quietly wait and hold still in time of distress.

May God give us more of this silent power, this mighty self-surrender, this conquered spirit, which will enable us to understand the voice of God and to draw from Him the needed grace and strength. As we learn to listen to the voice of God and to enjoy more of His holy presence, we can "be more than conquerors through him that loved us." Let us learn to be still before Him, and then He will have a chance to prove His power.

—F. Stewart

The apostle Paul to Timothy speaks of some who made shipwreck, and in the same epistle tells how men became drowned in destruction and perdition. The only place of absolute safety is in deep humility—"under the mighty hand of God." He knows just how to guide us past the dangerous places where others have made shipwreck. One of the most astounding facts is that the greatest danger of self-exaltation lies nearest the most glorious victories. The enemy knows this, and it is necessary that we know it, too.

—J. W. Byers

Love To God



"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength." Psalms 18:1. We as Christians pledge and profess our love to God. What is contained in love, is obviously not comprehended by all who profess to love. The Scriptures contain words whereby all may learn, to some extent at least, what is meant by love.

God has pledged His everlasting love to us (Jer. 31:3), which He proves to us over and over. He would have us prove our love to Him, therefore He says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words." John 14:23. The sweetness of love that binds our hearts to God moves us to a joyful keeping of all His words. It destroys all love for this world (I John 2:15), and enables us to hate evil. (Psalms 97:10).

The love of God is of such a nature as to make it impossible to love Him and also love sin or this world. We cannot look upon the vanities of this world with any admiration without suppressing love to God. All that is vain, all that is superfluous, all that is worldly show, is passed by without an admiring glance from eyes of heavenly love.

Love for our Creator awakens in our hearts a strong desire for a correct and pure life before Him. It will lead us frequently to our closets, there to implore aid from Him, that the words of our mouth, and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable unto Him. (Psalms 19:14). Love produces such a reverence in our hearts to the Lord, and such a devout fear, as to cause us to earnestly seek His grace, and carefully guard our lives, lest we in some way displease Him. Love will not leave the altar of prayer until the blessed assurance of acceptance is given. The heart of love is ever seeking to know in what way it can best please the beloved. It is ever with delight seeking to set forward the merits of the object of its affections.

Love to God produces in our hearts a love for His words. "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." Psalms 119:140. Such a love is awakened for God's law as to make it the subject of our meditations by day and by night (Psalms 1:2), and it may betimes cause us to rise at midnight and give thanks unto God for His righteous judgments. It certainly will enable us to arise early in the morning to seek a knowledge of His law, and give praise unto His name for the hope we have in His Word. (Psalms 119:147). He who, after a night of full repose, will permit the golden moments of the morning to pass in stretchings and yawnings upon his bed, will scarcely find, when he does arise, energy enough in these days of carelessness, to get his prayer through to the throne of grace. Oh, the sweetness of love that moves us to arise early and give praise and thanks unto the object of our adoration and causes us to move softly before His awful presence, is comprehensible only to the experienced heart.

We read in *Christian Heroes and Martyrs*, of the days of Henry VIII, king of England, when Bibles were so scarce and so loved that one man gave a load of hay for a few chapters of Paul's epistles. When a single copy was secured in a neighborhood, the common laborers, who loved God and His Word, would meet together after a day of weary toil and listen to its reading. It was so loved and enjoyed by them that sometimes a whole night would be spent in reading, without thought of sleep. "O

how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." Psalms 119:97.

Love to God generates in our hearts to our fellow-men, and prompts us to do all we can to promote their happiness and alleviate their sufferings. "Whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3:17. Love makes sacrifice a delight to aid others. The sufferings of others and their needs, or the advancement of the cause of Christ and of perishing souls moves the heart of love to sacrifice and duty.

"The concert," "mystic circle," "display of fine arts," [or other fund-raising organizations] are not necessary to influence the Christian heart to give to the poor. Some aid the suffering, or send help to the missionary, by spending money freely in the entertainment, thinking their alms will come up as a memorial before God. They mistake the gratification of a sensual heart for the love of God. The heart that weeps with those that weep, the heart that is touched to tenderness and pity at the remembrance of the suffering and counts no sacrifice too great that may give relief, the heart that seeks God in tears for lost souls—such a heart has tasted of love. Love is the greatest thing on earth or in heaven. (I Cor. 13:13). It is the fulfilling of the law; it is the end of the commandment. (I Tim. 1:5). Love is as strong as death; many waters cannot quench it, neither can the floods drown it. (Sol. 8:6,7). What can separate us from the love of God in Christ? (Rom. 8:35-39). Nothing, absolutely nothing.

God's great love and kindness to me
Has won my heart unto Him.
I never grow weary of love—
Oh, sing it again and again!
Forever I'm dead to this world,
My affections are centered above;
The glory of God fills my soul—
O Jesus, I'm lost in thy love. —C. E. Orr

Keep Above Your Burdens

One night I dreamed a dream from which I learned a beautiful lesson. I dreamed that I was driving a horse which was pulling a heavy load. The road we traveled was a narrow one running along the side of a mountain. On the left of us was a deep precipice which I avoided by careful driving. We had not gone far until we came to a long, stone stairway extending down to level ground. Here the horse went safely down, while the load remained at the top of the stairway with me. I was puzzled now to know how to get it down, as it seemed to be an immense box higher than myself and very heavy. I knew if I got in front or below it that it would rush over me and crush me to death. By having it at my side I was unable to manage or control it, but when I got above it and took hold on the rope around it, to my surprise, the load diminished until it was not too great for my strength, and without further anxiety I was able to let it slide down easily. When I awoke I thought of my dream, but did not give it much thought, and did not understand its meaning.

The next night after retiring, I lay awake, and the burden on my mind and heart seemed greater than I could bear. My brain was so taxed from thinking and the future seemed so dark and discouraging that I began

to wonder what I should do. Just then my dream came before me, and, as I thought about it, these words flashed through my mind—"Keep above your burdens." I then remembered how the load in my dream diminished when I got above it on the stairway, until it was not too great for my strength and I was able to dispose of it easily. I began to wonder how I could keep above my burdens, and then my mind was directed to these comforting words in Psalms 55:22, "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." This I did at once and, being relieved from worry and anxiety, I was soon resting in peaceful slumber.

What a great and wonderful God we serve! Why should we ever become in the least discouraged? God reigneth above and over all things. When our surroundings begin to look dark and foreboding, let us rise above them by renewed faith in God, and our burdens will glide swiftly away below us. There is no burden so great but that God can dispose of it and lift us high above it. If we draw nigh to God and trust implicitly in Him, nothing can overcome us. He will always make a way of escape. I Cor. 10:13. He wishes us to be cheerful and happy all the way. When the sorrows, cares, and difficulties of this life begin to press upon us and threaten to mar our happiness, let us quickly tell Jesus, "for he careth for us."

In my room is a motto bearing a beautiful message. Thinking its words may comfort and encourage other hearts, I will quote it here:

"Child of my love, 'lean hard,'
And let me feel the pressure of thy care:
I know thy burden, child—I shaped it,
Poised it in mine hand, made no proportion
In its weight to thine unaided strength:
Before I ever laid it on, I said,
'I shall be ever near, and while she leans on me
This burden shall be mine, not hers:
So shall I keep my child within the circling arms
Of mine own love.' Here lay it down, nor fear
To impose it on a shoulder which upholds
The government of worlds—yet closer come,
Thou art not near enough; I would embrace thy care
So I might feel my child reposing on my breast.
Thou lovest me. I know it. Doubt not then,
But loving me, lean hard."

—P. Winters

Behind every cross there is a crown; beyond every shadow there is sunshine; below the rapids is the still water. If you were to see the cross in the distance, you might shrink and consequently never wear the crown; if you saw the deepening shadow, you might never enjoy the sunshine; if you hear the rapids roar, you might never sail your bark on the tranquil waters. Not until the cross is reached will God give grace to bear the cross. Put your hand in God's and trust Him every step of the way.

—C. E. Orr

As God looked upon the sin-cursed world and beheld the awful wickedness, the tender chords of love and mercy moved Him to sacrifice the brightest gem of glory for the sins of the world, and give His only begotten Son as a Redeemer for all who would believe on Him and turn from their sins. What a price! —E. E. Byrum

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