

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

Church of God Servant



Volume 57, No. 8

57th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

November, 1979

"Where Are The Nine?"



Ten lepers once for help implored
To Jesus Christ, the blessed Lord.
He passed that way—they raised a shout:
"O Son of David, help us out!"

Their crusty loathsome flesh bespoke
That their entreaty was no joke;
And in their anguish and despair
They called on Christ in earnest prayer.

His answer came: "Yourselves go show
Unto the priest; then you will know,
And he shall then pronounce you clean
And lift you from the quarantine."

They turned to go and as they went
The healing of the Lord was sent.
Rejoicing went they on their way
Except for one who turned to say:

"Oh, thanks to Thee, O gracious One:
Doubtless Thou art God's Holy Son!"
And, falling down upon his face
He glorified the God of grace.

And Jesus looked and answered then:
"Where are the nine? Were there not ten?"
Then said He, "Rise and go thy way,
Thy faith hath made thee whole today!"

"Where are the nine?" O question great!
Where are the thankful low estate
Who sense their need to come and bow
And offer thanks to Jesus now?

God wants us all to thankful be
For favors granted full and free.
To thankless souls there is no gain
Nor benefit to ease their pain.

"Where are the nine?" How many more
Are never found Christ to adore?
Thank God for His unspeakable Gift,
Let gratitude your spirits lift!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Come, O Come, to Him Now!



The blessings of our Lord be with everyone who reads this. To the saved, let me say, "press on to higher things in the Lord," and to the unsaved, let me beg of you to open the precious holy Bible and begin to read and pray with an honest, open heart to God for the light of truth to shine into your hearts!

As I lie awake in the night hours, my thoughts are on what is the most profitable way to use the time the Lord gives me. My burden increases to reach out to the lost, and beg them to get saved and get ready for heaven. Life here isn't for long, and is only a dressing room for eternity. Everyone can put on the robe of righteousness through Christ Jesus and be ready if he will.

Many Scriptures teach us how to approach God for the marvelous free gift of salvation. In 1 John 1:9, we read, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." After we have repented, confessed and forsaken our sins, if we do not by faith claim the gift of salvation, we in actions and behavior leave God as One who has lied, which is not possible for God to do. We must count God true and claim forgiveness through faith in Jesus' blood that was shed on the cross for the sins of all the world. Yes, praise God! I know it works! It worked for me and it will work for you!

Precious eternity-bound souls, ask the sweet Spirit of God to forgive you and give you a new heart. Read Ezek. 36:26, 27. Prov. 23:26 says, "My son, give me thine heart and let thine eyes observe my ways." In order to get saved, one must first become awakened to the fact that he is lost, then be alarmed because of this sad state inasmuch that he will hate that life that is causing him to be so attached to earthly things. A reforming of self will not save the soul. It is by grace through faith that we receive the gift of God, and is not of our own works. There is no way one can save his own soul by his own power. This is the reason Jesus came and gave His life for us. Somehow, the time seems strangely near that we will not be permitted to tell you of the Saviour. Let me beg you now before it is eternally too late to come. O come to Him now! Why wait? Why

take a chance? Just one look into hell would be enough to make you know you do not want to go there, yet only one wilful sin will keep you out of heaven. Heaven is a holy place where no sorrow will ever be. Don't you want to go there? "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Wonderful promise! Precious gift! Who could reject it? Get your affections off the things of this perishing world and put them on things of eternal value.

The political world has become so corrupt that there seems to be no good out there. Let us look for the highway of holiness where the unclean shall not pass over. Get involved with things of heavenly worth and not with the strife of the world. We have only one short life span here. We are just passing through. Opportunity is ours today! Let us thank God for it and make the most of what He offers to all who are willing and obedient. Obedience to me is a beautiful word, and I praise God that He put a willingness in my heart to seek after it. Will you, too, obey the call and be saved?

Please do not be satisfied with a faulty profession. God has a genuine salvation for every soul. I never could understand why people settle for half-hearted service or for a so-called affiliation, when the only thing that will take us to heaven is a born-again experience with God. A profession will not get us to heaven. Hear the truth. God's Word is truth. Read it prayerfully, obey it carefully, and get into it joyfully. Inside of God's will for us are untold treasures. Glorious things await the faithful and true. We have no right to question God, but are duty bound to obey Him. He is all-wise and makes no mistakes. Just believe it and have eternal life.

—Sis. Gladys Cashio

Awake Before Too Late!

We know that when Jesus is to come back the next time, there will be no special sign of His coming, but only a general worsening of moral and spiritual conditions. Matthew 24:35-39. But with so many terrible storms, floods, and other things happening throughout the world, I am led to believe that God is trying to get something to the people, but seemingly these terrible tragedies have had but little effect in getting people to turn to God in earnest, or to change their way of living.

Whether we believe it or not, the nominal church world is in a big mess, a mess that could have been avoided and could still be rectified, if they one and all would turn wholeheartedly back to God, take all of His Word, humbly and prayerfully seek God's will and not our own. Our country and our government are in as big a mess as the nominal church world, and whether we agree or not, they are on the verge of falling. Multitudes are striking for higher pay, yet there must be an end to this some place. Seemingly every thing that man is doing, from the working man to the politician, is working for the destruction of our way of life.

There is but little or no respect for law and order in our country. This disrespect has been brought

about because parents have not taught their children to respect them, the rights of others, nor the laws of the land. Thousands of teachers are fearful and afraid of those they are trying to teach. In my day they would have been chastised, and they still need it. I am not talking of mistreating children, but I am talking about correcting them and letting them know that other people have rights.

What is back of all that is happening today? The Word of God says all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The carnal nature that mankind inherited from Adam, a nature that many do not recognize today, leads man away from God and not to Him. Multitudes have come to the place now where they do not even believe in God. Therefore, the things they used to respect and regard as holy are no longer regarded nor esteemed. In this world of inflation, there is one thing that is cheap today, and that is human life. For there are those who are superstitious, that would rather take a human life than kill a cat, and you know this is true.

People are not living today to make the world a better place in which to live, but to get all they can from it and out of it. They are all out for fun and what they enjoy as pleasure. They care but very little for the next generation, for they smoke, drink, use drugs, and even become sexually diseased, regardless of what it does to the unborn in crippling them mentally, physically, and above all, spiritually.

I know there are good people left in the country and many good things, but there are so many bad and sinful things that overshadow the good. Please think with me. We cannot change the world, but through Jesus Christ and His saving and keeping grace, we can change ourselves. God is trying to awaken you. Will you not awaken?—Carl P. Burton

What Do You Have to Give?

A man who had been born lame sat by the gate called "Beautiful," begging for alms. When Peter and John went up to the temple in Jerusalem at the hour of prayer, the man wanted them to give him some alms. Peter stopped and said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Acts 3:6. Peter took him by the hand and immediately he was healed. Leaping and praising God, he went with them into the temple. Those who saw him walking gave God the glory.

Notice what Peter said, "Such as I have give I thee." Peter had something to give. It was not something that he had created, or that came from his own mind or strength, but it was something that God had given to him. The man was looking for earthly things, but Peter had something better than that to give. It was something that far outweighed anything earthly. It was something that fitted the occasion, and was a blessing not only to the man but also to others. How wonderful to think of this marvelous experience of healing that this poor lame man re-

ceived! Nothing else so great could have been given to him.

What do we have on hand to give to those who ask? What do we have on hand to give when we are in a close place or problems arise? What do we have on hand to give when we are falsely accused, rejected, or misunderstood? What do we have on hand to give to those with hearts hungry for the gospel, to the lonely hearts, the sick, the distressed, those in trouble, or those in great need of encouragement for faith to stand true to God's Word? Oh, there are so many in need! What do we have to give?

People are tired of someone's giving them their own earthly advice, or false teaching on God's Word. People are wanting something real and solid, and all the things that come from God can truly be helpful.

First, we must be "partakers of the fruit" of justification and sanctification in order to have something from God to give. When our sins have been forgiven, we are then to do as the Apostle Paul has instructed us. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, [all committed sins forgiven] acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. When we do this, the Holy Spirit purges us from the sin principle, or the inherited sin which we did not commit that was passed down from Adam. We are then filled by the Spirit or sanctified, and made "meet for the Master's use." We have given God ourselves, our talents, time, possessions, abilities, and our all, without reserve. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Cor. 6:19,20. We belong to God and not to ourselves. God can use us just as it pleases Him, and give us the gifts of the Spirit to use.

In the parable of the man's giving talents to the different servants who did not have any claim upon his goods, Jesus said that he gave to "every man according to his several ability." As they used them they multiplied. One man hid his talent and was severely reprimanded. (Matt. 25:15.) Once we have given our abilities to God, then He will give us gifts of the Spirit to use. If we use those gifts and abilities as God directs us, then they will multiply. It's not us, but God's working through us.

Once a lad gave to Jesus what he had on hand. He had five loaves and two small fishes. He was willing to sacrifice his lunch. He did not think it was too small or that it was not good enough. Jesus took the loaves and fish, "blessed, brake and gave" them to feed about five thousand, with some left over. (John 6:9.) If the lad had kept his lunch, it would not have been a blessing to others.

Souls are calling for help. They are needing spiritual food, an example to follow, love and understanding. What do you have on hand? Are you keeping it? Give it to the Master and then He will give it out through you to be a great blessing to

others. You can start a streamlet, or an inspiration.

Moses had a call from God to lead the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage. Moses said to God, "They will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice." The Lord said, "What is that in thine hand?" And he said, "A rod." God told him to cast it down upon the ground. What if Moses had refused, thinking that it would be foolish to do, and of what good would a rod be in bringing "600,000 on foot that were men, beside children," and a mixed multitude out of Egypt? But he did not question God, nor refuse to obey Him or give Him what he had. He cast the rod down and it turned into a snake. Later he picked it up by the tail, according to God's command, and it became a rod again. That rod was used by Moses according to God's command to cause the water in Egypt to turn into blood. Later, God told Moses to stretch out his rod over the rivers and streams. Frogs came out and covered the land. He smote the dust with the rod and lice went through the land of Egypt. He held his rod toward heaven, and thunder and hail mingled with fire, such as was never before seen in Egypt, covered the land. Then he held his rod over the Red Sea and it parted so the Israelites could flee to safety from Pharaoh's army. What Moses gave to God He used in a mighty way. So, regardless of what you have, if you will give it to God, He will use it. (Ex. 3:10, 4:1-4, 8:5,16; 9:23, 12:37,38; 14:16.)

We notice that Moses felt that he could not speak to Pharaoh, so God supplied him with a helper. Aaron went along with him and spoke for him. Isn't it wonderful that God will supply helpers to amply meet what we need if we will only use what we have on hand? Maybe what we have on hand is being a helper to someone else. Are we doing that? God has a work for all of us in His vineyard. We need to give all to God and let Him work through us. A helper may work in many ways. One way could be to supply the money to send forth ministers, workers, or gospel literature. A helper could be a prayer-warrior, or one who speaks words of encouragement to those facing battles because of their labors for God.

We read of David who faced the giant. King Saul wanted him to put on his armour, but he could not do God's service in someone else's armour. He took five smooth stones and his sling, and went forth in the name of God. The giant was slain and victory came to Israel. (1 Sam. 17:39-50). David had given his abilities to God, and God used them, and He added victories. David later became king.

We cannot take someone else's place, but we each have a place to fill. When there is a need or a call, we should say, "Such as I have give I unto thee." God will work, souls will be blessed, and gifts will be given to you to use.

We need fruits of the Spirit on hand to give. They are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, forgiveness, and understanding. When a need arises, we can give them out. "Such as I have give I unto thee."

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

"FAITH AND VICTORY"

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

1. Title of publication: FAITH AND VICTORY.
2. Date of filing: September 29, 1979.
3. Frequency of issue: Monthly except August.
4. Location of known office of publication: 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Logan, Okla. 73044.
5. Location of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: Same as last named address.
6. Names and addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor:
Publisher: Lawrence D. Pruitt, 1106 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla. Editor: Same as foregoing. Managing Editor: Same.
7. Owner: Faith Pub. House, Inc., 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. (This is a non-stock non-profit religious and charitable corporation.)
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders: None.
9. The purpose, function and nonprofit status: Have not changed during preceding 12 months.

10. Extent and Nature of Circulation:	Average No. Copies each issue During preceding 12 Months	Actual No. of Copies of single Issue Published Nearest to filing Date
A. Total No. Copies Printed	11,330	11,200
B. Paid Circulation— Mail Subscriptions	8,659	8,439
C. Total Paid Circulation	8,659	8,439
D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier, or other means	1,744	2,262
E. Total Distribution	10,403	10,701
F. Office use, Left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	927	499
G. TOTAL	11,330	11,200

11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. —L. D. Pruitt, Publisher

EDITORIALS

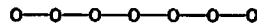


With the Psalmist David we say, "Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints. Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King." Psalms 149:1, 2. David was a man of praise and thanksgiving to God, and he testifies: "While I live will I praise the Lord: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being." Psalm 146:2. The entire 150th Psalm is devoted to an exhortation to praise God, and David ends his book with this appeal: "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Praise to God is comely and very fitting for the children of God—those who have been liberated from the powers of sin and Satan. They realize that they were sold under sin and had no hope of freedom until Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, came and paid the ransom price for their redemption by the sacrifice of Himself on Calvary's cross. They recognize that they belong to God by the right of creation and the right of redemption which makes them feel forever grateful to their Lord and Saviour for the manifold grace of God.

The Apostle James says: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17. When we taste and see that God is good and realize that everything, spiritually and temporally, that we possess comes to us as a gift from the Father of lights, it should cause us to render praise, honor, and thanksgiving to Him continually.

The Apostle Paul exhorts to thanksgiving with these words, "By him [Jesus] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Hebrews 13:15. What the poet wrote is so true: "Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow."



We are very thankful for the GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS that we have received since the October issue was put in the mail. Many more names to whom we could send the paper would certainly be appreciated, and the Lord will reward you many fold.

Continue Sending Yearly Gift Subscriptions . . .

Write or PRINT PLAINLY the names and addresses of your relatives, friends, and neighbors on a SEPARATE SHEET of paper from your letter, and send in the list and remittance at these rates:—Single copy for one year, 35c; and additional yearly subscriptions are priced at three addresses for \$1.00. Please send in all the subscriptions that you can, and do it NOW, so we can start sending this gospel paper of vital Bible truth. Let us continue to be "workers together" in God's great cause to rescue the perishing. The reward will be eternal joy in the presence of our Lord and Saviour when the "golden

sheaves" are brought in. Thank you, and may the Lord bless and prosper your efforts in this gospel literature ministry.

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

Word was received that Sister Queenie Williamson, aged 85, departed this life to be with the Lord on Oct. 5, 1979. A few years ago she suffered a stroke and for some time she had been confined to a nursing home near Baton Rouge, La. May the Lord comfort all the bereaved relatives. Dear Sister Queenie was one of the daughters of Brother Frank Williamson, a pioneer minister of the Church of God in the South.

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

My sister Marie Miles just returned Monday, Oct. 22, from a week's visit with relatives in California. She reported an enjoyable visit and a welcome relief from the office work.

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

Sister Sandra Whitson, a co-worker in this literature ministry, left last Saturday, Oct. 20, for a visit with her mother, Sister Pearlene Whitson, and other relatives in Alabama. She will likely return to the office the first part of November.

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

Sister Edith Wall and Bro. Kevin Cornelius of Guthrie accompanied this writer and his wife Maybelle to the autumn meeting at Okmulgee, Okla., on Sunday, Oct. 21. We enjoyed the good services and the fellowship of a large group of saints assembled in Okmulgee where Bro. Woodrow Warren is the pastor. Many saints were there from out-of-state.

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

Brethren in Auto Accident Are Recovering . . .

In answer to the many prayers of the saints abroad, Bro. Egbert Allen of Norwood, Mo., and Bro. Roman Deforth of Guthrie, Okla., are recovering from their painful injuries which they sustained in an auto accident on Oct. 1st on their way home from the campmeeting held at Shell Lake, Wis., on the last week-end of September. They have appreciated the prayers and sacrificial concern of the saints, and thank the Lord for preserving their lives. Continue to pray for their complete recovery, and that another car will be provided for Bro. Egbert Allen.

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

Bro. Wayne Murphey, a co-worker here at the Lord's Printshop, along with his wife Mary and son Jason, recently went to Gale, Illinois, where Brother Wayne held a few nights' meeting. His response to the Lord's call to extend the gospel by the press and the pulpit is surely appreciated and commended. May God's presence and anointing ever rest upon his labors in the gospel work.

The urgent need is for many more saints, young and old, to dedicate their lives more fully to the service of God in spreading the good news of salvation through Christ to the multitudes worldwide who are perishing on the broad way of sin. Let us ever remember Jesus' prayer request: "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye there-

fore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2.

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

Word was just received that Sis. Beatrice Spaur, aged 88, of Jefferson, Oregon, departed this life on Saturday, Oct. 20, 1979. Her long life in the service of the Lord touched many lives. Now she is at rest from her labours and her works do follow on.

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

Books Just Recently Off The Press . . .

Church of God Doctrines by C. C. Carver. First published in 1948, this reprint edition contains 180 pages in a heavy paper cover. Out of print for many years, this excellent doctrinal book is now available at this office at the price of \$2.00, plus 65c for postage and handling.

To God Be The Glory by Sister Naomi Jennings of Fresno, Calif. A record of her life story in brief and experiences with the Lord, this book contains 48 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60c each, or two copies for \$1.00, plus 60c for postage and handling.

Pioneer Evangelists of the Church of God in the Pacific Northwest by John L. Green. This is a very interesting and inspiring book. Out of print for many years, this reprint edition consists of 164 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is \$2.00 each, plus 65c for postage and handling.

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

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

It was on October 24, 1929—50 years ago—that the stock market crashed, followed by the Great Depression which this writer well remembers.

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

Beautiful 1980 Wall Calendar with Scripture . . .

This 1980 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price, \$1.25 each, plus 60c for postage and handling, which is a total of \$1.85, postpaid to your address.

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

Scripture Text Christmas Cards — 12 cards in box. Sunshine Line—price per box, \$1.65, plus 65c for postage and handling. Order your supply NOW!

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

This writer was one of the 133 members of the graduating senior class of Guthrie high school in the year of 1929—50 years ago. This October a class reunion was held here at Guthrie with about sixty classmates, plus their husbands or wives, getting together from the nation all the way from Washington, D. C., to California. Most of these members I had not seen since we left the high school a half century ago, and it really was a time of getting acquainted again. Of course, our going from the teen-age to the retirement age brought a drastic change in appearance, as you may well visualize. At least 35 members on the class roster were already deceased, and a number were not physically able to come to this reunion. The occasion brought back many old memories of classmates and school days, and how fast time is carrying us on to our eternal Home.

—Lawrence Pruitt

In Memorial

Sister Zora Compton White Pinkerton, of Hammond, La., born February 5, 1889 in Greenwood, Tx., passed from this life July 22, 1979, at the age of 90 years, while living at the Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, Ok.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Wise White, and also by her second husband, Bro. E. B. Pinkerton, and one daughter, Lillian White Landry.

She is survived by two sons, Ogdon and Watson White; four daughters, Mrs. John (Gladys) Harper, Mrs. Lucille Lewis, Miss Zelda White, and Mrs. Gene (Opal) Bauerle; one brother, John Compton; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Harry McKneely and Son Funeral Home in Hammond, La., with interment in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery.

Services were conducted by Bro. Bob Forbes, with saints of the local congregations singing.

—Bro. Bob Forbes

ASSEMBLY MEETING AT HAMMOND, LA.

The annual assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held as usual on the Church of God campgrounds in Hammond, La., just off 109 White Street, beginning on Sunday, Nov. 18, 1979, and continuing through Sunday, November 25.

We would like to invite the saints of all nations and races to come and be with us in this meeting, enjoy the fellowship of the Spirit, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness, in Spirit and in truth.

We are praying that God will send Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing to preach the truth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The meeting will be supported as usual on a free-will offering basis with meals being served in the dining hall on the campground. Lodging will be provided for all who come. All will be cared for! We have some blankets, pillows, and linens available, but it might be well for those who can to bring additional blankets, etc., as we may have some cold weather at that time.

Come praying that God will pour out a blessing that will flood our souls with the grace and glory of God, that God will save precious souls, and manifest His power in the healing of bodies that are afflicted.

We are expecting God to work in a mighty, wonderful way.

—Bro. Bob Forbes

Rt. 2, Box 67, Amite, La. 70422

AUTUMN MEETING IN LOS ANGELES

The annual fall meeting in Los Angeles, Calif., will convene on Sunday, Nov. 25th, and continue nightly through Sunday, Dec. 2nd, 1979. There will be 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. services on Sunday, Nov. 25th, and Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 1st and 2nd. All the night services will begin at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

For further information, please contact: Bro. T. R. Summers, 711 W. 85th St., phone (213) 752-1135; Bro. Alvin Lucas, 918 W. 62nd Pla., phone (213) 759-3962; or Sister L. M. Chandler, phone (805) 323-4405.

—Submitted by Sis. Leon Phillips

REPORT FROM NATIONAL MISSIONARY FUND

Kansas (Oct. 16)—Dear saints: To God be the glory for all He has done! We are surely happy to report that the indebtedness on the van for Bro. Curtis Williams, evangelist, is all paid. May each one of you be blessed for your sacrifice of love. We then as workers together with Christ shall also reign with Him, laying up in store where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt.

The evangelistic tent meetings have been blessed of the Lord, and we are thankful for the financial support in these efforts. A great harvest field is still before us. Let us be agreed together in prayer that the Lord will qualify workers for the next season—those that will sacrifice that many lost souls may hear the gospel through the preached Word.

We thank the Lord for the truth and for His people who love the truth. One Sister often prays, "Lord, help us to be saints, for we are called to be saints." To be called of God is the highest calling there is. We can live it only by the grace given us by Jesus Christ, our blessed Redeemer.

Pray for us, as we have some urgent unspoken requests. The Lord gave me the Scripture that if we pray in secret, He would reward us openly. We claim that promise, for His promises are true. He has proved them to us over and over again.

May God ever bless our dear brothers and sisters in the Lord.

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly
[Secretary-treasurer of Church of God National Missionary Fund, 407 Eldridge Street, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337.]

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Patzcuaro, Mexico (Sept. 26)—Dear Sister Marie: With Christian love we greet you this early morning, another day that the Lord has made, another day that we are privileged to live for God and enjoy the presence of the Lord as we go about our duties. I am so glad I have found the Lord and the peace and help He gives us every day. . . .

We are all well and all nine of the children are in school. Tomasa and I are endeavoring to keep food and clothes ready for them, and are busy with the many duties of the work of the Lord here. It really keeps me busy trying to keep up with it all. I have had a time with my aches and pains, and a headache every day for about two weeks. I feel better today than any day lately, and I am so grateful to the Lord for His mercy.

We have received the offering that you and the saints have sent us, and we are grateful. The Lord only knows the gratitude we feel in our hearts to the

Lord and for each one who has so kindly shared with us. The pick-up only lacks six payments now. We indeed will be happy when it is paid for. The truck has surely been a good one.

Paulino and I felt led of the Lord to give the white pick-up to Bro. Mayarino Escobar to use at the mission station at Ojos Negros. The saints from Bakersfield, Pomona, and Pacoima helped get it in good running shape. We think it is in the best condition possible for an older pick-up. It had an over-haul, front end all fixed up with a number of other things. The Escobars seemed so happy and grateful for it, and when we went over there about three weeks ago for meeting, they told us that it was doing just wonderfully with no problems at all. It should give several miles of good driving still. The Lord has blessed us for giving it to him. I am glad that Paulino was willing and wanted to share with them.

We are to put a new roof on the chapel this weekend. We had a hard rain storm in August and it showed us that it was in very bad shape. We have the roofing and every thing all ready to do it.

We are looking for Bro. Mayarino and some of the saints here from Ojos Negros this weekend for services. We need special meetings very much, it seems, and we are praying that the Lord will send us someone to be with us like you have there at times. Please help us pray about this.

In Christian love, —Edith (Cole) Lara

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Sept. 17)—My dear Bro. Pruitt, dear ones in the Printshop, Guthrie congregation, and dear saints everywhere: Greetings of Christian love to all of you in the incomparable Name of Jesus Christ, who is the "Arm of the Lord" and the "King of saints." (Isa. 51:9 and Rev. 15:3).

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Sept. 2, 1979, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude and appreciation. May God bless each donor abundantly in soul and body. We receive whatever you send as an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God. (Phil. 4:18).

Yes, I visited the saints and the new stations in north Kerala which were Kodassery, Kodali, Chayppamkuzhy, Vellikulangara, etc. God helped us to buy some land in Chayppamkuzhy on which to build a chapel for the believers there. I request the fervent prayers of the saints in America for the many temporal needs of these new centers of worship. A chapel is also under construction in Nadukkunnu. I have several projects in mind which God showed me for the expansion of the church in India, but the lack of funds is the hindrance to a forward move. Yet, if these projects are on the list of God's plan, I am sure He will work them out somehow. So I yield to Him for His will and wish.

We still continue to pray for the need of a van. May God fill the fund for it soon, is our prayer.

During our national holidays in the first week of September, we conducted several open-air street meetings in several places. The rain was a hindrance to those meetings. Our monthly meeting at Vilangara on Sept. 8th was a real blessed meeting.

Our general campmeeting is scheduled to be conducted in the first week of January, 1980. I wish that some of you would be able to participate in this meeting. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" "Here am I, send me," was the answer of Isaiah.

My wife sends her regards to your dear wife and sisters there.

With love and prayers, I am yours in God's service,
—John Varghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State (Sept. 22)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the most precious name of the Lord Jesus, the Giver of the lamp of divine knowledge and revelation to man. Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your letter dated Sept. 3, 1979, contents of which have been noted and acted upon. The gospel van is being gradually restored. Thanks a lot for showing sympathy. Of a truth, Satan is out to destroy the van, knowing it is our only means of mobility to reach the souls. What we need most is enduement with power from on high and strength to our physical bodies, of which we are glad to announce that we are recipients. We have in faith outgrown depression and discouragement. These are properties of Satan, the devil, which are of no use in Zion and can never enter into Zion.

We are using the keys Christ put in our hands to open the door. Peter was the first to use the keys, but not the only one to do so (Matt. 18:18). The mission of a key is to turn a lock and open the door to whosoever wills to enter. We are proclaiming Christ, who is the Door, to invite the lost souls to enter and be saved. This key is a badge of power or authority (Isa. 22:22; Rev. 3:7), and such authoritative power is at the disposal of every born-again child of God (Matt. 28:18-20).

The world at large looks upon the nominal churches as weak forces indeed, unable to do much against the rising tide of iniquity, and the multiplying problems of our time. May God so revitalize His Church that once again she will be as terrible as an army with banners!

Praise God for testimonies of diving healing coming from far and near. We should humbly witness to what God has done for us; we should never boast. One should see to it that any extension of life be used only to God's glory, not for selfish ends. How many people has the Lord kindly raised from deathly sickness, who have failed to live for His glory thereafter! No matter how great the forces of evil, God's purposes will never be defeated. God is still upon His throne to answer prayer. Christ is the answer for every human need. When you see your wrong, repent of it and be healed. There is no

racialism in true Christianity. Have faith in the prayers of your fellow holy brethren.

Yours devotedly, —Titus U. E. Enu

[Editor's note: Let me share with you part of a personal letter from Bro. Enu which gives a glimpse of his great concern for the evangelization of Africa.]

Bro. Pruitt, how can we get the means to evangelize Africa? We are in tears. Our only van is a quack and weak. We need a strong Land Rover and preaching equipment. Come to the aid of the world. Come over here to buy them for us. Pray with us for the Lord's provision of this urgently needed equipment. Cease not in prayer until we have them. I shall send you their estimate. You have not the money, but the Lord has it. All we need is your sincere prayer for them. The Lord is aware that we need them, yet pray unto Him and let Him see your earnestness in the request. Thank you for co-operating.

Your co-labourer, —Titus U. E. Enu

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Ones: Greetings of Christian love to all in the name of Jesus who saved us from a devil's hell and keeps us by His power from day to day.

The last word received from the Escobars was that Bro. Mayarino was feeling some better. He was surely thanking the Lord. Both were busy in the work; some new people were attending services, and though some had had some severe afflictions, they had been the means of drawing the sisters closer to the Lord.

I hardly have words with which to express my thanks for the lovely response to the article concerning Rosa Maria, the crippled girl and her sisters. I'm sure they would join me heartily in thanking one and all. May the Lord richly bless you is our prayer. Checks which were given to me are being deposited to my account and a check is sent to them to prevent sending two-party checks. Cash is handled in the same manner. Please continue to pray for them.

Although I can spend only a week a month in preparation of Spanish literature on the machines, over 100 articles and tracts are now ready for printing. It seems the need for tracts in South America is as great, at present, as it is in Mexico. Today, I received a plea for 5,700 tracts to be sent to Guatemala, Central America, to one address. The Lord's Print Shop is cooperating with the Spanish work and has just completed the reprinting of about 22,000 tracts in Spanish. May the Lord bless each one who has contributed to the furtherance of the printing and distribution of the Spanish literature.

Yours for souls in Mexico,

—The Mayarino Escobars, Ap. Postal No. 284, Ensenada, B. Cfa., Mexico, and Sis. Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

LETTER FROM NIGERIAN PASTOR

River State, Nigeria (Sept. 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings of love to you and all in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Sept. 2nd, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. May God bless each one who contributed to the fund for us. By the grace of God we are still marching on, keeping victory over Satan, the flesh, and the world.

Our second annual revival meeting of this year was held Aug. 27 to Sept 2. This meeting was blessed of the Lord in a very precious manner. He gave good liberty in proclaiming His Word, and the saints of Port Harcourt and Tombia were greatly edified and encouraged. A number of souls were at the altar for salvation. The prayer of faith was offered in behalf of those needing healing. We praise God for all the good that was accomplished. We are now looking and praying for another revival meeting to be held in December, 1979. Continue your prayers for us.

Christ said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." This means that we are responsible to preach and teach all the New Testament doctrine of Christ. Please send many more gospel tracts and booklets to us for this purpose. Be assured that we are in the front of the battle. We are praying for you and others.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor

Prayer Requests

Ind.—"Please pray for my husband. He has an asthma condition so bad. I know the Lord can heal. The Lord has healed me many times. If He had not healed me I would not be here today. Please pray for my unsaved children." —Mrs. Mary Rogers

Ind.—"Do pray for a man who is trying to break the alcoholic habit. None of his relatives are saved." —Sis. Myrtle Berryman

Okla.—Sis. Julia Llewellyn has trouble with pains in her head and needs prayer.

Mexico—Bro. Mayarino Escobar is some better, but still needs healing. He can't retain his food very long. He is trusting the Lord, but has some serious affliction.

N. Car.—Sis. Kathy Dowden has a "large fatty tumor" and other afflictions. She is trusting the Lord for healing.

Pa.—Remember Sis. Eva Cox. She is not well and her husband needs prayer. He has had strokes and is in a pitiful condition. She is so burdened for him.

Remember a dear Sister on Nov. 15th, as her husband is suing her for a divorce, asking for the children and their home. She has had an affliction, but she says its almost two years since she has had any trouble and she feels the Lord has healed her.

She feels that her husband will try to bring this point up about her affliction. So pray earnestly for her and this problem.

Word has just been received that with the help which has been sent, Bro. Irineo Rama, native missionary in Mexico, has purchased a station wagon in order to continue getting over the bad roads. He still owes about \$1,816 on it, and has only two months in which to pay it off. He is a worthy brother, and I'm sure the Lord will bless any who will respond to this vital need. He is preaching at about six places per week, but cannot continue without a good vehicle. He sold the tiny V. W. to help pay on this car.

Saints, let us hold our faith steady in the Lord. The devil will shoot all kinds of darts at us, and his main one is the dart of doubt. But hold up the "shield of faith" and ward off every dart of the enemy. God is still healing today and does honor faith where ever He sees and finds it. Be encouraged, although the battle has been long and hard. He will come in His own time and He will heal. Look above and away from the seriousness of the problem or affliction, and keep your eyes on Jesus. Remember how Peter walked on the water as he obeyed Jesus, but began to sink by taking his eyes off Jesus. He looked at the boisterous waves and lost His faith. Doubts began to crowd into his mind, but he cried unto the Lord. Jesus rebuked him for his lack of faith, but Jesus did help him. Peter did not sink beneath the waves. Jesus brought him through. You need not sink beneath the waves of afflictions and problems, but you can have an answer to your prayers through faith. —Sis. Marie Miles

From the Mail Box . . .

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings of Christian love in the Name of Jesus Christ, the One who loved us and gave Himself for us. Yes, thank the Lord, for His shed blood that was poured out for us. Surely, we have a great Saviour and can look to Him for all things. He not only died for us, but also He ascended to the right hand of God where He is making intercession for us. He also sent the Holy Spirit to be our abiding Comforter and to teach us how to bear our petitions before the throne of God. Surely, there is help for us by looking unto Jesus and letting the Holy Spirit make intercession for us according to the will of God. For "he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." And because of this, "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:27,28. Surely, the Lord knows how to work all for our good in spiritual, physical, and temporal ways. We are still praying for you that God will smite the affliction on your body and heal you to His glory.

We were thankful to have Bro. and Sis. O. B. Wilson with us here at Neosho for several services, from which we all received much good and spiritual help. We were also pleased to have the other saints

that came to share the meeting with us. I am certain that we can grow as we keep in memory the things we heard.

We will be praying for you, and we desire your prayers.

Your saved Brother, —T. V. McMillian

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings in Jesus' precious Name. I'm thankful today for full salvation and to still be pressing on up this holy highway. Truly, "it is brighter all the way." I trust this finds all going well there at the Printshop.

The Lord gave us a real good singing, all-day meeting, and revival here at Myrtle. The Lord blessed in every service, and it seemed there was more interest shown from outsiders than we have seen in years. Some even came from Thayer and Pocahtontas. . . . I am sending a check for these six subscriptions to the *Faith and Victory* paper.

May the Lord bless you and the work there.

Christian love and prayers, —Harlan Sorrell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

N. Mex.—Dear Sis. Marie and co-workers: . . . I hope every one there is well and happy in God's service. . . .

I do want to thank all the dear saints for their prayers for my granddaughter, Nancy. She is doing real well now. I do especially thank and praise the good Lord.

I trust Bro. Lawrence is doing well. . . . God bless all of you in the good service you are doing. . . .

—Sis. Ruth Doolittle

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: . . . I thank God this morning for victory and for the privilege of being a member of God's great Church. Satan never can destroy this Church. I'm so glad I don't have to join up with an organization or put my name on a roll. Maybe that place would divide or fall, and I'd have to find something else. God's Church will stand until He comes to take it to be with Him.

I thank God for all He does for me and for daily strength. Pray for me. We must all pray much for one another. I pray for God's people everywhere and for all the prayer requests. I'm glad we have a God who still answers. . . . —Zella Dollins

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

I know not how that Bethlehem's Babe
Could in the Godhead be;

I only know the manger Child
Has brought God's life to me.

I know not how that Calvary's cross
A world from sin could free.

I only know its matchless love
Has brought God's love to me.

I know not how that Joseph's tomb
Could solve death's mystery:

I only know a living Christ
Brought immortality.

—Sel. by Effie Miller

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . Thank the Lord for salvation this morning. Salvation is truly the sweetest thing. I am thankful that God called after me. I am sure I missed many sins and troubles by serving the Lord. Salvation is one thing that doesn't grow old, but better each day. The blessings are so many.

I had an experience a month or two ago that was surely wonderful. It had rained one morning and I let the window down by my bed. It got pretty warm that day. The wind was in the north and I thought it would be too warm in my bedroom on the south side of the house. I went into the north bedroom and lay in front of the north window. It was about right without cover, but I couldn't sleep there. The mattress was too firm, so after 30 or 40 minutes I went to my room, forgetting that my window was down. I lay down at the foot of the bed, and after a few minutes it was too cool. It felt like a real fresh, cool breeze was blowing over me, so I went to the head of the bed. In a few minutes it was still too cool, so I covered up with the sheet. I slept all night and didn't know the window was down until the next day. At once I thought of how God had sent that cool breeze over me. I knew it should have been hot in the south bedroom as it was not too cool in the north room. I knew God had visited me. It was wonderful! I don't know how to tell what I felt. Praise His name for the many blessings to me! I don't like to go too long without a blessing from God. Pray for me that I will always be true.

—Sis. Goldie Knapp

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

Oklahoma.—This beautiful fall morning finds me still pressing on in this strait and narrow way. I do love the Lord because He first loved me. God's Word says there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Prov. 18:24. Yes, I can truly say He has proved this to me this year as I have gone through the tests of life. Only those who have passed through the giving up of a dear companion can know what I am speaking about, as we were very close and were together almost hourly. God has comforted my heart and supplied my needs, both spiritual and temporal. The saints and my loved ones have been so dear to me. I do appreciate all the visits to my home, phone calls, letters of encouragement, and deep sympathy. May the Lord bless everyone as their need may be. It takes only a short time to write a few words in a letter, and, oh, how much they mean to that one in need! God only knows.

My health is not the best, and I am in need of earnest prayer. My deep and greatest desire is to work for Jesus. There's too much to do for us to sit and idle our time away. I am not able now to go, but I keep busy for Jesus. There's plenty to do right at home.

When I begin to write a letter, I ask God to direct it to the good of precious souls. Read Titus 2:3-5. There needs to be much warning given to our youth, especially of dangers ahead. 1 Tim. 4:11, 12.

Teach them to love God, to love Father and Mother, and to love their home. Home is not just a stopping place, but a place to be together, love one another, work together, and to bear one another's burdens. May the dear Lord help us to consider these things. To me, home has been a wonderful place to be. I surely thank God that I have been blessed with a wonderful, happy home.

Pray for me that I may continue to be all God would have me to be, and live so my life will be an example—one fit for others to follow as I follow Christ.

—Sis. Evelyn McCoy

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

Calif.—Dear saints of God everywhere: I am truly thankful to be saved and satisfied in the Lord. He has been so good to me. It is my full intention to live for Him and serve Him for the rest of my life.

I was so very, very sick in June, July and August that, at times, I had to crawl on my knees to get around. I was not able to attend any of the meetings at all, but I just kept crawling, crying and praying for the Lord to help me and, glory to His name, He did. I truly thank all the saints for their prayers. I have gained my regular weight back, and I'm able to do most of my housework and grocery shopping. I am not well yet, so please continue to pray that the dear Lord will completely heal me if it is His will.

—Sis. Corene Foster

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

Florida.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and workers: We greet you in the lovely name of Jesus. Amen. It was a very pleasant experience meeting you at the tent meeting in Missouri. We do appreciate all the saints more than we can express. How we need to guard that we do not take for granted what the Lord has given us as a people! . . .

This year's revival meeting in Goulds, Fla., will be held December 23 through 30, 1979. We expect to have two services daily—12:30 and 7:30 p. m. All are welcome to these services which are to the glory of God. For more information, write Bro. H. H. Hargrave, 22345 S. W. 117 Place, Goulds, Fla., 33170, home phone 247-4102, and the chapel phone is 251-3873.

The following is a burden I have for the fine young people we have in the Church of God: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:8.

I am becoming keenly aware of the devil's attempts to destroy some of our fine young people. The particular device is an old one, yet effective, due to the different garbs in which he presents it. One definition of device is a contrivance, a scheme, a trick. 2 Cor. 2:11, says we are not ignorant of his devices.

That the Bible teaches the younger to submit to the elder is, beyond question, the will of God. In fact, all of you be subject one to another; let humility be your clothes. God has no use for the high mind, but He will give grace to the humble of mind. 1 Peter 5:5.

As young saints, we must not spend our time in discussing the faults and shortcomings of our elders. The result of such is a poisoned mind. Someone may ask, is there not a cause? But I urge you, let God take up your cause. Pray for the elder, and keep clear in your soul. To begin to be vocal, aggressive, and critical will surely lead to open disrespect and a shame on our part. Please consider what I write, and the Lord give us more understanding.

Your true Brother, —H. H. Hargrave

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

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie and all of God's children: May God bless each one in soul and body. . . . I still love my dear Jesus. He means all and all to me. I am so thankful for His love and His precious blood that never has lost its power nor ever will.

I love to read the *Faith and Victory* paper and tracts. —Jewell Lane

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

Oregon—Dear Sis. Marie: I feel like writing my testimony and telling how the Lord healed me of a nervous condition last winter. I was very sick. I thank all the saints for their prayers. I can do all my work, also made a good-sized garden. The Lord blessed it and I had plenty to give to the saints and neighbors.

I love the Lord. He is everything to me. He is my Healer. He has healed me many times. I can't thank Him enough for what He has done for me.

May God bless all of you in His work.

—Sis. Helen White

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

Fla.—To God be the glory! I felt impressed of the Lord to give my testimony of the mighty healing power of our Lord Jesus Christ.

A week before my illness, during our April campmeeting, the Lord distinctly warned me that I would go through a severe trial. I went to the altar and asked the Lord to give me the strength to make it through the trial with victory.

Three days before my illness I had gone to the hospital to pray for my sister-in-law who had had an operation. After prayer, we went on our way, but she had her husband call me later to say that the doctors who had examined her were amazed at her improvement.

It all started Friday morning, April 27, 1979. A mild pain in my upper stomach awakened me. After prayer, the Lord gave some relief, though the pain continued off and on through the day. I called for prayer and each time prayer was offered the Lord would bless. About two o'clock, early Sunday morning, the pain was almost unbearable. I had my husband call the saints to come and anoint and pray for me. I had already settled it with the Lord that whether He took me home or let me stay, my heart said, "Amen!" The Lord undertook in such a way that I was able to come to service that night, but I was still in a lot of pain. (I live approximately thirty miles from the Goulds, Fla., congregation where I attend services.) On the way home

the pains increased, and though I managed to get in bed, they were so unbearable that I could not stay there. I would get on my knees to pray and all I could say was, "Lord, have mercy." I didn't want to awaken my husband as he had been laboring with me and he needed his rest. I discovered there was a big lump in my upper stomach. The pain became so severe that I felt I couldn't take it any longer. The enemy came with the suggestion that I needed an operation. But, saints, I had it fixed in my heart that I would trust the Lord or die. Then the thought came that I really did need an operation but the Lord could give it to me. About five o'clock, Monday morning, I awakened my husband and said, "Honey, wake up. I can't stand this pain anymore. I need an operation and I need it right now! Call the pastor to come with some of the saints. I believe that if the saints will pray, the Lord will give me the needed operation."

The saints arrived around seven o'clock a. m., and the pains were really unbearable. Some of the saints were impressed to stay home from work to be in a special agreement of prayer. The saints prayed around my bed. I was still in pain and vomiting. They kept praying, singing, and begging God for mercy. I asked to speak to the pastor, his wife, and my husband alone. The saints went out of the room but continued in prayer and singing songs of encouragement and faith in God. After this, they all came back into the room for another agreement of prayer. While we were before the Lord in tears and humble entreaty, the thought was impressed on my mind that I was crossing Jordan. The pains were so unbearable and I thought I was passing. I saw Jesus reach out His hand to me and as I reached out mine to Him, He brought the song to my heart, "You won't have to cross Jordan alone." As He said these words, a good feeling came over me (this is the best I can explain it) and I felt I had given up all things and was ready to meet the Lord. All of a sudden I said, "Saints, I feel good in my soul!" Then I realized that it was not only my soul but also my body, and I shouted out, "Saints, I feel good in my body!" I leaped out of bed and knew the Lord had performed the operation. I started shouting and praising the Lord, and all the saints started shouting, crying, rejoicing and praising God for His mighty healing power. Saints, He is just the same today as He was yesterday! Praise His Holy Name!

The Lord had already sent the answer even before the healing. One of the sisters was impressed to open her Bible and the Lord gave her the Scripture in 2 Chron. 7:15, "Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place." To God be the glory! The Lord is a faithful God. We pray that your faith be increased in our mighty God. You don't ever have to run off to the arms of flesh. God is ready, able, and willing to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." Eph. 3:20.

We ask your prayers that the Lord will continue to deal with us in mercy and that we will be as faithful to Him as He is to us.

Your Sister in Christ, —Lydia Bennett

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Greetings to all in the precious name of Jesus: I am still happy in the Lord with victory in my soul. The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows. Recently I had a wonderful experience and answer to prayer, so I feel that I should let the saints know about it. In the month of July, my right ear started a rhythmic pounding day and night. Needless to say, I found very little sleep or rest. Occasionally I would fall asleep toward morning due to exhaustion. I was determined to trust the Lord for deliverance and not to lean on the arm of flesh. My husband was in agreement with me in prayer and fasting. We also brought our burden to the saints here in Shawnee who gladly joined with us in prayer. One month went by and no change, two months went by and still no healing in view, but I clung to the unchanging promises of God. By this time my nerves were affected, and needless to say, old Satan was there to tempt and discourage. Finally, on a Friday morning in early October I awoke, quickly realizing that all of the pounding in my ear was gone. How we both rejoiced and thanked the Lord for His abundant mercy shown to us once more. That evening I went to the prayer meeting in the Old People's Home, fully intending to testify of what the Lord had done for me. The enemy whispered to me that it might be wisdom to wait and see if this healing was permanent or possibly only temporary since the ear problem would return again. I promptly testified, however, what the Lord had done for me. Scarcely had I arrived home when my former afflicted ear began to pound at a furious pace. I realized that this was from the devil, so I rebuked him audibly in Jesus' name and that I would not accept this at all since I was still claiming my healing. In a little while the pounding stopped and I enjoyed a good night's rest and have been well ever since. Praise God for His wonderful love! It certainly pays to trust the Lord in all things.

In Christian love, —Emma Dornhofer

—————o—————

GOD NEVER FAILS, HIS LOVE PREVAILS!

God will never fail you,
Gray though skies may be,
O, may we never doubt Thy Word,
Or cease to trust in Thee!

God will never fail you,
His love can never end,
Stay close beside me all my life,
My Almighty and my friend.

God will never fail you,
His love shall never cease,
It gives us precious comfort, Lord,
And sweet abiding peace.

—Edward M. Brandt

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: When and where was the prophecy of Malachi 3:1-4, fulfilled and which temple did Jesus come to—the Old Testament or the New Testament Temple?

Answer: It seems clear to me that the New Testament Temple, the Church, was not in existence during the life and ministry of Jesus on this earth. Jesus Himself said in Matt. 16:18, "... upon this rock I will build my church. . . ." Note, He said He would build it. It was not yet built. He was, during His life and ministry, confirming the truth upon which it was to stand and was gathering out material for building His New Testament Temple, the Church, but the Church was purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The blood was shed at Calvary at the completion of His earthly ministry.

It is said in John 1:11, that He came unto His own. That would have been the Jews which were the chosen people of God until the close of the Old Testament dispensation. His ministry was centered mostly in the Jews and when He sent His twelve Apostles forth He told them, "... Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matt. 10:5,6. Again Jesus said in Matt. 15:24, "... I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." It was after His death and resurrection that He said unto His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature but during His earthly ministry His disciples were restricted mainly to the people of Israel.

Jesus lived under the law while preaching grace, but the law was not fulfilled until Jesus made the supreme sacrifice and gave His life and shed His blood as the great sin offering for all mankind at Calvary. Consequently, the law was still in force and the Jewish religious system was still in vogue during the life and ministry of Jesus, and the Old Testament Temple was the center and focal point of the religious system. Jesus recognized this and was often in that temple teaching and carrying on His work. In Matt. 26:55, Jesus said, "... I sat daily with you teaching in the temple. . . ." Note that He said He was there daily. In John 2:13-17, we find Jesus purging the temple of the illegitimate business being carried on there and in verse 16 He said unto them, "... make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." It seems from this that the Old Testament Temple was still God's house during the life and ministry of Jesus and that Jesus had an all-consuming zeal for its sanctity.

It is said in Matt. 27:50-51, that Jesus yielded up the ghost (died), and behold the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. That veil had separated between the holy and most holy places in the temple for 1400 years, and God had dwelt between the cherubims on the mercy seat in that

secluded and secret place behind that veil all that time so that He might be among His people. But when Christ died on Calvary, the old law was completely fulfilled, its religious system abolished forever, and God moved out of that temple that day never to return to it.

Therefore, I feel it proper to say that Jesus came to that Old Testament Temple in His first advent to this world. He observed its sanctity and taught within its walls throughout His ministry. Then after the New Testament Temple was built and set in operation on the day of Pentecost, He moved into that holy temple there to abide throughout this gospel and Holy Spirit age of time.

In Eph. 2:20-22, we read, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." As already observed, Jesus said in Matt. 16:18, that He would build His church. This Scripture in Ephesians makes it clear that the church He built was the holy temple of the Lord in which He dwells through the Spirit. In John 14:18, Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." And in John 14:23, "Jesus answered and said, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." John 14:26, clearly states that the Comforter is the Holy Ghost and Eph. 2:22, confirms that God inhabits or indwells the Church, His holy temple, through the Spirit (Holy Ghost). Therefore, when the Holy Ghost was given and filled all the believers on the day of Pentecost, the Church was established, set in operation, and Jesus and His Father moved into it.

Acts 2:1-4, says, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost." The Church was built that day out of about 120 believers. It began to function in a powerful way and about 3000 souls were added to it that day. From that time forward the Lord added daily to the Church those who were being saved (Acts 2:47). God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Ghost moved into that holy temple that day to abide there forever.

In Matt. 3:11, John the Baptist said of Jesus that He would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire. But He did not baptize with the Holy Ghost until after His death, resurrection, and ascension to heaven, when He sent the Holy Ghost back to stay. Then verse 12 says, "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather the wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." According to Acts 2:2, this was a sudden thing as the disciples of the Lord waited

and tarried before Him waiting for the promise of the Father, and, to the best of my light and understanding, constitutes a fulfillment of Malachi 3:1-4.

I will insert here the full text of Malachi 3:11-12. "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. Then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years."

This clearly corresponds with what John the Baptist said of Jesus in Matt. 3:11-1, and the description of what happened on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-4. If it would seem to be a stumbling block to some that this is all mentioned in connection with the coming of John the Baptist to prepare the way of the Lord before Jesus and then immediately says, "The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple"; I would say that the building of the holy temple in the Lord (the Church) began in the life and ministry of Jesus—He was laying the foundation of it and gathering material for it. But it was fully built and established on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit came to stay and Jesus suddenly came to His temple and moved into it by the Holy Ghost that day.

What Is Scriptural Unity?

The union of Christians and non-Christians can never be Scriptural unity. The very fact that true unity begins in the heart and works outwardly to externals, proves that it must have a basis of spiritual experience in the heart. This can come only by the union of the individual soul with God. None but a Christian can have the true spirit of Christ, which is the spirit of unity. Therefore, no matter how good a person may be morally, and no matter how much of a profession of religion he has, if he has not this individual union with Christ, he lacks that which is vitally essential to Christian unity, that without which there can be no real unity.

It is evident, therefore, that no true Christian unity can come from the uniting of the present religious bodies as they now exist. Such would be a union of the saved and the unsaved, a mixture of saints and sinners.

—C. W. Naylor

It is really a privilege to pass through trials sometimes, because they bring us out into the deeper things of God and enable us to get better acquainted with Him, where we can better know His will, and have a deeper understanding of His Word, where otherwise perhaps these things would not have been known.—E. E. Byrum

Centennial Reformation Review

The Crisis in 1879-80 A.D.



True to prophetic fulfilment, the time was at hand for the restoration of the church to her normal state of unity and holiness. The scattered condition of God's people in the various sectarian denominations was not always to continue, for such could not be the ideal state of the church; it could not be her final state in which Christ could expect to receive her as His bride. For her there was a better day at hand. From Romish night to the light of justification by faith, possessed among Protestant sects generally since the sixteenth century reformation, had been a great step upward. Also the Wesleyan reformation, bringing in the light of perfect holiness as a Christian attainment subsequent to regeneration, marked an advance for the truth in its progress by stages unto the end of time. There needed to be yet another step, another reformation, which should bring the church to her fulness of glory, and visualize her unity and solidarity.

It would seem that the holiness movement that arose in the sixties and seventies should have accomplished this, but it served only as an approach to it. True holiness indeed destroys the elements of sectarianism, and forbids a continued state of division among Christians. But the holiness movement, as such, came to have holiness only nominally for its object. It undertook no antagonism to sectarian divisions, though it deplored them. It stood for nothing more than holiness as a subject to be taught and experienced, and satisfied itself as best it could to remain within the denominations. It drew back when the real issue came, and in consequence it has long been dissipated in the sects, having for forty years accomplished little or nothing toward bringing God's people into unity.

Christian unity can never be brought about within the sects nor in connection with any recognition of allegiance to them. It absolutely can be effected only out of and away from the sects, by obedience to God and a severance of sectarian ties. Since true Christian unity is incompatible with sects, and since coming out of sects is opposed by the sect spirit and invites persecution by the sects, the only course for the people of God to take who have received the light on the true church is to cut loose from human institutions and abide in Christ alone, even though it places them in a relation hostile to the so-called churches. For those first leaving the sects there was no body of saints already called out to which they could be added. What could it mean to them but a crisis? And what would it constitute in the progress of events but a reformation? But the Spirit of the Lord was thus leading. Since sects are hostile to the movement out of sects, the Spirit of the Lord becomes necessarily hostile to them; for He indeed leads His people out of sects. But the time had come. God's spiritual ones were looking and longing

for some development or other by which they would cease to be divided in sectarian bodies. No one had put it into their minds; their anticipation of it was prompted by the Spirit of God, which was in them. There needed some one to sound the trumpet of the Lord, some one to take the lead and make a positive declaration against the sin of division, some one through whom God could voice the call, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

God had in Brother Warner prepared just such an instrument. His was the spirit of a reformer. He shunned not to declare God's judgments. His ministry had a definite message, and represented the burden of God for the purity and unity of His church. Looking back upon Brother Warner's career it would seem, as the writer has already intimated, that his connection with the Church of God (Winebrennerian), which assumed to have no creed but the Bible and to be indeed the true church of God, had doubtless served to emphasize to him the true church ideal and to shape his course along right lines. His rejection by the Ohio Eldership for the preaching of holiness awakened him to see that that body was not what it claimed to be, but was, after all, only a humanly ruled institution, only one sect among the many. The light he already had on the church was sufficient to forbid his reuniting with them. Thus the so-called Church of God had contributed to him the right idea of the church, and the holiness movement had brought to his understanding the line on which God would bring out a pure church, namely, the line of holiness; and thus was the divine Hand leading him and fitting him for the work to which he was called.

We can only imagine what it meant to step out on God alone and preach the divine judgments against the apostate religions of the day, to decry the evils of denominationalism, and to undertake on that same line the publication of a paper. That his work was despised and that Satan undertook to crush it in its very beginning cannot be wondered at. Its humbleness and apparent insignificance looked uninviting to the worldly-minded; but the deep spirituality and divine manifestations that characterized it were a sufficient vindication to those who were capable of spiritually discerning the truth. There was something that said, "This work is of God." There was a sense of spiritual freedom, of love, and Christian fellowship that bore convincing testimony to those who would but listen to the dictation of the Spirit that this is indeed the truth.

Brother Warner was not alone. God had reserved His thousands who no longer were bowing the knee to Baal. From them he received encouragement and support, though for a few years it seemed his work had to go through the crucible of trial. Accordingly we trace his difficulties and sorrows, as well as his victories, until the cause becomes fully established in the earth.

From what we learn of Brother Warner's earlier views and attitude, he never had a party spirit; he

never was a sectarian. Even from his early ministry the love and fellowship that exists among the people of God he recognized as the paramount bond of Christian union. After his conversion, when dealing with the question of what church he should join, he is found casting about to determine which one represented the real church of God. As the followers of Winebrenner had the right name, and seemed to him to be correct in doctrine, he was led into that denomination. With the insufficient light he then possessed he probably failed to see the man rule that prevailed, instead of the Holy Spirit rule that characterizes the divine, theocratic government in the true church of God. He discovered, of course, the clash of this man rule with the free, independent inclination of the Holy Spirit, by which he preferred to be led. But he bore with it patiently, believing that he was in the true church; and it took years to discover to him that the body to which he belonged was but a sect.

It was through the attainment of the Bible standard of holiness that he was gradually led into the truth respecting the church and sects. Early in 1878 he wrote: "The Lord showed me that holiness could never prosper upon sectarian soil encumbered by human creeds and party names, and he gave me a new commission to join holiness and all truth together and build up the apostolic church of the living God." He soon began to receive light on the Scriptures, which revealed to him that the church was to be restored to her primitive glory in the evening of the dispensation. The chapter on a Spiritual Shaking, from his book, clearly shows that when the chapter was written (1879) he understood that God was going to bring out a pure church. He published this in 1880, which became the date from which the present epoch of the church may be reckoned.

It should be remembered that during this time he was connected with the Northern Indiana Eldership; but as this was a body already separated from the old Eldership because of their purpose to keep on the Scriptural basis, he really believed that this body was the true church, for that was its claim. Thus he was really out of sectism in heart and was associated with a body claiming to be the church of God. During the last year (1880) of the Herald of Gospel Freedom, when it was fully under his editorial charge, its columns, while teaching holiness, breathed the principles of the one true church. One of its stated objects was "the union of all true believers in the Spirit of God and upon the inspired Word." Because of insufficient light on the governmental aspect of the true church, he was slow to discover that even the new Eldership was only a body ruled by men. As light came on the Holy Spirit government, he looked upon the man rule elements in the Eldership as inconsistencies that needed removal. It was human machinery that he thought needed to be dispensed with. We must concede, therefore, that in the meantime he was, to all intents and purposes, out of sects.

We speak of this period as the crisis because he took such a bold, uncompromising stand against sects and taught holiness and the principles of the church with such thoroughness that it seemed to awaken every satanic element that had been slumbering under the guise of false profession. People had either to accept the truth or go into darkness. To him it meant the break-up of old relations, the drawing of new lines of fellowship, exposure to persecution, and everything that might befall the career of a reformer. As the teaching of the resurrection and the repudiation of circumcision constituted the offence of the cross in Paul's day, so the preaching of the Bible standard of holiness and the renouncement of all sects became the offence of the cross at this time.

—A. L. Byers in *The Birth of a Reformation*

Open Letter of Warning By One Who Knows

McAlester, Okla., Prison—Dear Sis. Marie: Since receiving your letter, I have prayed and prayed to be directed of the Lord in what I write. There are many things about which I wish to warn the young people. I pray that God will anoint my efforts that souls may be enlightened and learn how to detect Satan's snares and pitfalls, and be able to escape, instead of winding up in prison as I have.

Dear ones, I know that even now seducing spirits are telling you that "you will never wind up in prison." Believe me, I can hardly believe it myself! But here I am, facing "life" in prison!

Until a short time ago, I had never hurt anyone in my entire life. I had always tried to be peaceable and friendly. I have never hit another person with my fist. So, how is it that I am in prison for MURDER? Please listen closely and hear what I say!

It happened "one" step at a time. It started with one beer! It started with one dance! It started by watching murder on TV and in the theaters.

BEWARE of seducing spirits! These spirits impress one's mind and give certain feelings in order to accomplish their desired end! The worldly love songs, the enticing movies, the suggestive dances, the appealing attire of sparkling rings, necklaces, and alluring clothes all tempt and appeal to the flesh. And don't forget, "easy" money. These spirits whisper, "Just a little won't hurt." Listen to me! Satan has only one purpose in mind—that is to bring you into his bondage and destroy you completely in the end! There is NO peace in these things! Their end is death! Death to the soul and death in eternity's world!

Dear ones, there is pleasure in sin for a season, but that season is so short, and the agony in the end is so great!

"Smoking and drinking is cool," many say, but all it will do is paralyze one's brain, dull reality, and disarm one's ability to make intelligent decisions. When I think of some of the things that I have

done while under the influence of alcohol and drugs, I shudder. Some things are so horrible that I cannot write about them. But I can tell you this: the spirits that promote the things I have mentioned take one deeper and deeper, and bind one tighter and tighter each step he takes!

The pleasure that Satan provides will have to be paid for in the end. He will begin to use you on the people you love most. The examples you set will be followed by innocent souls because YOU make it look so great! After Satan has caused you to become involved in deeper sin, he begins to force you to work for him. He will hold back the good feelings until you must drink or smoke more and more. Your chase for pleasure will begin to interfere with the time to work for "honest" money. As you commit worse sins, your conscience will make you feel badly, so you drink or smoke more, and on and on it goes. The fun seems to be gone! Then hate sets in—hate for the ones that have done you wrong. The only pleasure that seems to be available now is the thought of sweet revenge! You find yourself being hard to get along with, and sometimes you harass those you love.

Then Satan says, "Kill yourself! You're no good!" And he closes in to finish you off! It is only through God's mercy that I'm alive today. Many times I have contemplated suicide, but God's Word would come to mind and I would refrain.

I reached the place that I drank almost every day and was drunk almost every weekend. I also cheated several people out of their money and told many lies to sell cars. I took advantage of people that trusted me. Instead of one beer and dancing all night, it took a quart of "hard" liquor, and I didn't care about dancing any more. An evil spirit would take control of me and I would find myself thinking of killing someone that had offended me. At times I waited and watched for the opportunity. Then Satan set me up!

A man that used to work for me pulled a gun on me and threatened to kill me three different times. The fun times were over now! Satan wanted destruction and death! So, I bought a gun. Then one night about 6:30 p. m., I started drinking—whiskey and coke, half and half. By 10:00 p. m., I was so drunk I could hardly drive. I went to a club to listen to music and try to have some fun. A man I didn't even know began to harass me. He followed me outside and I pulled my gun. I tried to do what I had seen in a movie one time, but it didn't work. The next thing I knew, the man was on the ground, and I was holding a gun that had been fired SIX times. And I don't even remember pulling the trigger! I have never had any training with a pistol and have only fired one a few times in all my forty years, but every bullet hit the man!

What happened? Did Satan take control of me in my drunken stupor, or had my brain been programmed by watching murder on TV and in theaters? I may never know. But one thing is sure—the stranger is DEAD and I'm spending life in PRISON for MURDER!!

It all started from one beer and a little worldly entertainment. One step at a time!

I pray that each one that reads this will "take heed" and flee from seducing spirits that try to make one believe there is no harm in a little beer, a little worldly amusement, and a little worldly music. It leads to HELL! One step at a time! PLEASE, look to Jesus, and follow His every word. Jesus is the Word of God, and He will lead you to peace, joy, contentment, and happiness, not only in this world, but also in the world to come. Amen.

Yours in Christ, —Elbert Johnson, #98893

As The Twig Is Bent

A little girl with shining eyes,
Her little face aglow
Said: "Daddy, it is almost time
For Sunday school. Let's go.

"They teach us there of Jesus' love,
Of how He died for all
Upon the cruel cross to save
Those who on Him will call."

"Oh, no!" said Daddy, "not today
I've worked hard all this week
And I must have one day of rest,
I'm going to the creek.

"For there I can relax and rest
And fishing's fine they say.
So run along; don't bother me.
We'll go to church some day."

Months and years passed away,
But Daddy hears that plea no more:
"Let's go to Sunday school."
Those childhood days are o'er.

And now that Daddy's growing old,
When life is almost through,
He finds the time to go to church,
But what does daughter do?

She says, "Oh, Daddy, not today,
I stayed up most all night,
And I've just got to have some sleep.
Besides, I look a fright."

Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away his tears.
Again he hears the pleading voice
Distinctly through the years.

He sees a small girl's shining face
Upturned, with eyes aglow
As she says, "It's time for Sunday school,
Please, Daddy, won't you go?" —Sel

A man may discourse very beautifully about God, and pray in public with great fervor and enthusiasm, but if he is negligent of secret prayer his religion is toward men and not toward God.

—C. E. Orr