

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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The Dawning of the Morning (New Year of 1980)



As the dawning of the morning
Seals the darkness of the past,
So the hopes of brighter glories
Will break forth for me at last;
Leaving sorrows all behind me,
Reaching forth to joys divine,
Will be days much richer, fuller,
Than the ones I left behind.

In this dawning of a New Year
Greater goals lie at our door;
Opportunity for service
Is still greater than before.
While the past has laid its millions
In a dismal Christless grave,
Still the harvest field is calling
For more workers pure and brave.

As the dawning of the morning
Soon dispels the gloom of night,
May the dawning of this New Year
Lead more souls into the light.
Deepen now thy consecration;
Rally to the Spirit's call;
Face with courage new endeavors;
Yield to Christ, surrender all.

Church of God, as in the morning,
May our vision brighter be.
Mighty force in every nation,
Greet the world in unity;
Bring the wandering ones to Jesus
While the fleeting moments fly;
Sheaves we'll gather in the morning
Where the soul will never die.

—Bro. Donald Sharp

If thou wouldst have thy soul to be the temple of God, see that it is kept clean of all evil, quiet from all passions, void of all earthly affection, and peaceful amidst temptation.

—C. E. Orr

The Kingdom of God

Our Lord Jesus Christ spoke volumes of truth in the few words spoken in answer to the question which was demanded of Him in Luke 17:20,21. "And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you." This question was asked by those Jews because they had a false notion that when the Messiah came, it would be for one reason—to set up a literal, worldly kingdom, which would subdue the nations and restore the kingdom of Israel. Then, because the Messiah did not meet their expectations, He became a stumbling block to them. I Cor. 1:23. They did not believe the gospel of the kingdom or the plan of salvation for the saving of the souls of all people and nations who would believe the gospel. Because of unbelief in Jehovah's Christianity, they laid great stress upon the observance of the rites and ceremonies of the Mosaic law.

We will now find the answer to the Pharisees' question in Dan. 2:44, 45. "And in the days of these kings [or kingdoms] shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, . . . The great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, the interpretation thereof sure." The four great world empires were the Babylonian, the Medo-Persian, the Grecian, and the Roman. The kingdom of God was that stone cut out of the mountain without hands, which consumed and destroyed.

Read Luke 2:1,3,4. The Roman empire, ruled by Augustus Caesar, the king, sent out the decree that all the world should be taxed. And Joseph went also to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. While there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. Verse 7: "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in

swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Back to the truth that the kingdom of God cometh not with observation. There was no outward royal show of revelling and banqueting at Jesus' birth. Their guests were angels from the God of heaven who exclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. "The kingdom of God is not meat or drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Praise our God! Our Lord's birth marked the coming of the King of kings, the Lord of lords, and the salvation of all mankind who will believe. There should be no worldly revelling and banqueting of any nature committed at this season.

Our mind turns to Matt. 23:37, as our Lord beheld the fall of Jerusalem. His cries were, "Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem!" After more than 1900 years, that first voice of good tidings of great joy is still heard. Luke 19:9,10, "And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." John 3:3, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Verse 5: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Verse 6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Verses 15, 17: "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. . . . For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." He came to save from the bondage of sin, evil habits, and deception, as many are deceived by false religion and false prophets. This is why our Saviour paid the great price for our souls, that we may be delivered from all sin and bondage. Luke 1:73,74, "The oath which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies [the devil is the chief enemy] might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life."

This is the spiritual nature of the kingdom of God, as we read in Rom. 14:17, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32. —Sis. Hazel A. Clark

ONE LIFE

One life for God is all I have,
One life for Him so dear,
One life for doing all I can
With every passing year.
One life to live as best I can,
One life to do my part,
One life to give my very all,
With all my soul and heart.

—Edward M. Brandt

OBEDIENCE

How important it is to be willing and obedient to all of God's Word! It's the only way to have complete and lasting victory in our souls.

Isaiah 1:19, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land." Dear ones, we surely need to and should want to eat of all the good things God has for us, but we can only do this by being obedient and willing to do all He commands us to do. We hear people say they love the Lord and want to completely live for Him, but maybe God requires a little more measuring or shows them where they need to move up and the enemy causes them to rebel or start excusing themselves. Sometimes I've heard people say on a job that they couldn't do such a thing, but we cannot have victory and enjoy all God has for us until we are willing and obedient to all of His Word.

Dear ones, the victory is ours. It was purchased at Calvary; victory to overcome, victory in affliction, trial, or test, and victory to keep us in all God's ways if we are of a willing and contrite spirit. We cannot rebel at any of this precious Word and have victory, no matter how much we say we love God.

In Joshua, the 6th chapter, God told Joshua to have the people march around the city of Jericho seven days, and when the trumpet sounded all the people were to shout, for the city was theirs, and the walls would fall. God had already told Joshua that He had given him the city, but they had something to do. They had to be willing to obey and do just as God said. God could have caused the walls to fall without all this, or even the first time they marched around, but I believe He wanted them to be willing to obey. So each day they compassed around the city and returned to their camp, but on the seventh day when the trumpet sounded and the people shouted, the walls fell. Isn't that precious? And we can still shout today and know the city is ours and the walls will fall, if we obey God's Word.

Naaman was desiring to be healed of his leprosy, but when he was told by Elisha to dip in Jordan seven times, he rebelled at that. He had too much pride and couldn't humble himself. His servants told him that if some great thing had been asked of him, he would have been quick and willing to do it, but because he was told to wash in the muddy Jordan, it hurt his pride. Yes, when he humbled and obeyed, he was healed of his leprosy.

Oh, how we need to keep an humble and willing heart before God at all times! When severe tests or trials come, we can go straight to the throne of grace and not have to delay our victory. We can have victory in our souls regardless of how we are tried or tested. God has the same grace for us as He had for all these others, and if we keep a willing, obedient, and humble heart before Him, we can eat all the good things of the land, and the walls that Satan builds cannot stand when God's children shout. The victory is ours, and the walls will fall! —Sis. Zella Dollins

The Sincere Prayers of Faith



I thank God for the Bible. There is not another book in print in the English language that is in any way equal to it on any line. It is a good book of answered prayer. It tells us of many people of many nationalities who prayed unto God and received answers to their prayers. The Bible tells us that men ought always to pray and not to faint, and I believe in prayer. There are two things that are required of every individual that prays, and that is he or she must believe there is a God and that He is a rewarder of them that seek Him. (Heb. 11:6).

The Bible tells us that the wicked shall be turned into hell, which is a lake of fire. These are very serious and solemn thoughts. There is a heaven and there is a hell. As sure as the sun shines, the Bible tells us that men ought always to pray. . . . I know there is a God and that He does hear and answer prayer when it is in line with His will and order. . . . It is useless to pray against the will and order of God. One must be able to say, "Thy will be done. Lord, have thy way with me and in me." One must believe that God Himself is able and willing to grant his desires, and that his desires must be in harmony with God's plans. One must have an humble heart and a submissive mind. We must believe that He is able to grant our request. . . . Sometimes the Lord wants us to wait with patience. "Wait on the Lord; be of good courage," and He will give thee thy heart's desire. Sometimes we may have to repeat our desire several times and wait on the Lord. God's way is best. If you don't get your desire, go back and pray again. Remember the widow and the unjust judge. Go back and pray again. She got her desire. (Luke 18:1-8).

—Ulysses Phillips

The Weapons of Our Warfare



"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." II Cor. 10:4. We who are saved are the soldiers of Christ. "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." II Tim. 2:3. We have an enemy—the devil—that is doing all he can to defeat us. How he hates to see Christ's soldiers marching onward toward heaven! The Lord told Simon Peter that Satan desired to have him, that he might sift him as wheat. The devil hates the truth and all that is right. He is waging war against the children of God. "The devil as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." I Pet. 5:8. The enemy of our souls will wage war against us as long as we are in this world, but we have weapons with which we can defeat him. The weapons that we possess are not carnal, but our weapons are the armour of God. Eph. 6:11, "Put on the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Paul goes on to say, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to stand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate

of righteousness: and having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Our battles are won by living a righteous life and by our strong faith in God. God will defend His children. He will deliver us from our enemies. He will work out all our problems if we will put our faith and trust in Him. Psalms 18:2, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

The soldiers of Christ love their enemies and do good to those who persecute them. Our weapons are love and faith. Kind words and love will melt the coldest heart, and faith in God will defeat giants. I Sam. 17:45, "Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword and with a spear and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel." The giant came before David with carnal weapons, but the Lord was David's defense. By faith in God, David gained the victory over his enemy. The Lord will defend His children no matter what comes against them. The enemy of our souls will shoot fiery darts at us. We will be persecuted, misunderstood, and there will be battles of affliction and strange and fiery trials, but we can be more than conquerors through Christ. The songs says, "When the shield of faith he sees, then he always quickly flees." Let us fight the good fight of faith.

—Nancy Wagoner

Churches Today: Cold or Bold

Many churches profess God but do not possess God. In Matt. 7:21-23, we read that obedience is what counts, not "wonderful works." While they may profess Jesus, they commit sin. They need to confess Jesus. I John 4:15. To confess Jesus means "to declare openly and speak out freely." To profess Jesus and not confess Jesus is hypocrisy. Double-minded people are this way. They have a profession without true possession. This type of person stands out; he's easily recognized. He'll say things like: "We must be holy" and in the next breath state that "I sin every day." These people need to read James 4:7-8, 1:8. They have attended "Sin-You-Must" College. They should enroll in "Overcomers" University. One prerequisite is found in I John 3:6-10. Overcomer graduates live on the promises of I John 4:4; 5:5, Rev. 2:7, 17, 26; 3:5, 12; 12:11; and 21:7.

In the last days many Christians will become cold. "And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." Matt. 24:11, 12. "But the righteous are bold as a lion." Prov. 28:1. The Bible gives us examples of the boldness we need to exemplify. Acts 4:13, 29, 31; 9:27, 29; 13:46; 19:8; 28:31; 2 Cor. 7:4, 11:21; Eph. 3:12; 6:19, 20; Phil 1:14; Heb. 13:6; I John 4:17. Need I say more?

Christians will be bold or become cold. God cannot stand lukewarmness. The saint overcomes Satan by his testimony. Remember, we are living Epistles.

—Jack Morrison

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

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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.

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So peaceful and quiet was that holy night
Until the angels caroled their song of delight,
"Peace on earth, good will toward men,"
A song to sing 'till time shall end.

—Effie Miller

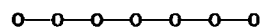
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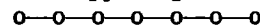
HAPPY NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS, and may this New Year of 1980 hold for you many blessings for soul and body in the service of the Lord!

In reviewing the battles fought and the victories won during the past year and the past decade, we can truly say with the prophet, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and with gratitude to God set up another "Ebenezer" stone with that inscription. All praise and honour unto our Lord and Saviour!

Time moves on with a solemn footstep, and now the New Year of 1980 has dawned, ending the decade of the 1970's. Soon time will end in eternity. What the future holds in this world while time is extended we do not know, but we do know Him who holds the future and holds our hand. Even as God has directed and guided in this gospel literature ministry over the past 56 years, we have faith and confidence that He will continue His gracious dealings for the spread of the pure gospel literature, the salvation of honest souls, and the advancement of His cause and kingdom. May God ever bless and reward those who have so faithfully co-operated with this ministry with your prayers and financial support. You will surely share in that eternal reward when the sheaves are laid at Jesus' feet.



As you may already know, this January issue was late getting on the press and in the mail to you. This delay was due to the fact that our co-workers were very busy printing, folding, and gathering another edition of our large 512-page hymnal, "Evening Light Songs," and just finished it on the day our annual Guthrie winter meeting began, on Dec. 21st. Since it was time for the crew to be off work to attend those services, there was no time to get out this issue until after the close of that meeting on Dec. 30th. Sorry for the inconvenience to you, and we hope it doesn't happen again.



Oklahoma Assembly Meeting Very Profitable . . .

The 73rd annual Okla. State Assembly meeting, held here at Guthrie from Dec. 21 to 30, 1979, closed on a high note of victory from the beginning to the end. The weather was good, and the large attendance was from many states—all the way from eastern Canada to California. It was good to see the saints and ministers coming and working together in love, harmony, and unity where the Holy Spirit was the Executive Officer in every service. The Word was preached with power and authority for the edification of the Church and the conviction of the unsaved. On Christmas day many souls found the joy and peace of salvation, followed by many others during the week. Numbers of believers sought for and received the cleansing of the Adamic nature and the infilling of the Holy Spirit by the second definite work of grace in their heart. The anti-cleansing

heresy is nowhere considered or entertained in the camp of the saints.

On the last Sunday a number of believers followed Jesus' example in water baptism, fulfilling that divine ordinance of the Lord's House.

At the State business meeting on Saturday, December 29, a decision was made to sell the Guest Home property here at Guthrie due to the lack of interest of the Church at large in this type of home. It will be put on the market very soon. The property is located on five acres, a half mile from the city limits on a blacktop road. The house is about seven years old, all brick, double garage attached, four bedrooms, good well with electric pump, 2400 sq. feet floor space, plus a basement 30 by 60 feet. If any reader is interested in purchasing this property, please contact the sec.-treasurer, Bro. Bob Sallee at 916 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044. His phone number is (405) 282-1376.

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Beautiful 1980 Wall Calendar with Scriptures . . .

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.

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Bound volumes of the eleven issues of the Faith and Victory paper for 1979 are now available at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Also ready are the 1979 Beautiful Way books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Send your order TODAY!

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At this office there are in stock about 400 different titles of English gospel tracts and a number in Spanish to be sent free in limited quantities for careful and prayerful distribution. Where prices are quoted, they are at cost or below. Write for a free 4-ounce sample to read and pass on, or enclose in your letters. One gospel tract may result in the salvation of many souls.

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Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for the year of 1980 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information, please send in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1980, so we can publish the entire list in the coming March issue.

The date of the next National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, is July 18th to 27th, 1980. Watch for other coming campmeeting dates in the March issue.

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If the flight plan and schedule were followed, Sister Dorothy Keiser of Shawnee, Oklahoma, should have arrived in Kerala, South India, on Dec. 31st to participate in the general campmeeting which was scheduled to begin in the first week of January, 1980. Bro. John Varghese, who attended the campmeetings

in the States two summers, is the pastor of that mission station.

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Bro. George A. Hammond of Wisconsin was in Guthrie and attended two days of the recent Assembly meeting. He is encouraged in the service of the Lord and still burdened for the mission work in the Philippine Islands where the calls for help are very urgent.

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Word was received that Bro. Arthur Brown departed this life at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla., on Nov. 29, 1979, at the age of 84 years. His earthly tabernacle was shipped to North Carolina for burial beside his deceased wife. Bro. Brown was a longtime reader of the literature from this office.

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Any movement which apostatized or departed from the Bible truths revealed to the pioneer ministers of this "evening light" Church of God reformation has no reason or right to exist separate from other denominations, as they have, in fact, already become a part of "Babylon" — just a church among the churches.

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An evangelistic outreach to the town of Seward, Okla., eight miles southwest of Guthrie, was made by the Guthrie congregation on Dec. 1 to 9, 1979. The nightly services were held in a school house with Bros. Lewis Williams, Eddie Wilson, and Tom Melot doing the preaching. A number of souls from that community came out to hear the anointed gospel messages, and we trust that the seed sown will yet bear fruit.

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Those congregations and individuals who are condoning the use of the ungodly television in the homes of the professed saints are on a sandy foundation and will not survive the Judgment shock.

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As we enter this new year and new decade, we see the nations of the world in serious trouble in many ways — spiritually, morally, politically, and economically. Unless the Lord intervenes, the nations may soon become involved in another world war which would employ fantastic weapons of destruction. The terrific loss of life would be far beyond our imagination. Let us pray for our rulers, and that God will overrule the powers of darkness that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness.

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This writer desires to be faithful at his post of duty in the gospel publishing work as long as the Lord gives strength and ability to carry on. Though in the furnace of affliction, he is still standing firm on God's promise of healing. Please continue to agree in prayer for his deliverance until faith is lost in sight. Faith is the victory. —Lawrence Pruitt

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TELEGRAM

Jan. 2—"Dorothy Keiser arrived safely."—J. Varghese

In Memorial

Richard C. Madden III, son of Velvetta Sue and Richard C. Madden Jr., was born on Oct. 18, 1974, in Tulsa, Okla., and left this life on Dec. 15, 1979, at the age of five years through an accident involving his father's diesel truck and trailer.

He is survived by his parents; a sister, Julia Velvetta, two years old; a brother, Rodney Edgar, one year old; and many other relatives.

Though he was only five years old, his little life had roots entwined in all of our hearts. His leaving us so suddenly surely left some deep wounds, but our dear Heavenly Father has assured us that He loves us and that little "Ricky" is with Him, which starts the healing process for sorrow. Ricky has several aunts and uncles and little cousins who miss him very much, as well as grandparents.

—Oleta Madden

Note of Appreciation

Our hearts are still very sorrowful because of the loss of our dear little five-year-old grandson, Ricky. On behalf of our son Richard Jr. and his wife Velvetta (the parents of the little boy) and our other children, as well as ourselves, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for all the kind words of sympathy, cards, and money that were sent to help us in this hour of need. God has been a steadfast Rock to hold onto, by Richard and Velvetta, through this sorrow. They truly thank all for the prayers that were offered for them. They want to see their little son someday in Heaven.—Oleta and Richard Madden

Rt. 13 Box 303, Tulsa, Ok. 74107

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REVIVAL AT PRATTSVILLE, ARK.

A revival meeting is scheduled to start at the Church of God chapel in Prattsville, Arkansas, on Jan. 13, 1980, with Bro. Eddie Wilson as the evangelist. Everyone is invited to come and be in these services.

For further information, call Brother Clarence Benning at 501-699-4390, or Brother E. A. Loftis at 501-699-4368.

—Clarence Benning

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BLUEJACKET, OKLA., MEETING REPORT

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: Oh, how we thank God for our Saviour Jesus Christ! It seems as we get older we need Him even more than before. As I look back over my life, I can see that there was never a time that I didn't need Him. I surely appreciate His seeking me out and saving my soul when I was young. "Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come. It was grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will take me Home." Praise the Lord!

I have wanted to write and tell the saints how much we did appreciate Bro. Leslie Busbee's coming and holding a meeting here at Bluejacket. All of us got a blessing. The Lord surely used him to give us

the Word that we needed. It was a blessing for all of us. The young people enjoyed the meeting so much. How we thank the Lord for the young people! It does us good to see them raise their hands in singing and to hear their testimonies of victory. I believe they mean business with God. The Lord is so good to the saints here at Bluejacket, and we want to be a light to the world.

We surely enjoyed the meeting at Okmulgee, Okla., with the dear saints there. The Lord surely blessed in sending forth the Word. It's precious to be in the family of God. Pray for all of us.

—Sis. Margaret Eck

Prayer Requests

Calif.—"I have sinus so bad, do pray for me."

—Susie Stinson

Va.—"Please remember me in prayer for my nerves and arthritis."

—Della Naff

Md.—"I have arthritis in my legs and can't walk very well."

—Mrs. Dorothy Hicks

Ind.—"My wife is having trouble with her eyes. Will you pray for Olive Mobley?"

Okla.—"My mother, Della Harrison, had a stroke and needs the prayers of the dear saints."

—Sis. Nolan Wells

Ohio—Remember Sis. Diane Abbott Cox. She has some serious complications in her body and needs healing.

La.—Bro. G. A. Nichols needs healing of a sore place that does not naturally heal. His trust is firmly in the Lord.

Mo.—Bro. Jim Hightower has been sick several months and has been expecting healing from the Lord. He has a family and needs his health. Do remember him earnestly in prayer.

Ky.—Bro. Curtis Williams has suffered what is believed to be a heart attack. He is very weak and should have complete rest until God sees fit to heal him. His trust is firmly in the Lord. His ministry has been effective and the devil would like to stop it, so pray that the enemy will be defeated.

N. Carolina—Bro. James McLester is badly afflicted and needs earnest prayer.

La.—Bro. Dallas and Sis. Mamie Flynn are in need of much prayer. Both are aged and Bro. Dallas is sorely afflicted.

The devil would like to put up a barrage of doubts and fears when we come to the Lord in prayer for healing for ourselves or for someone else. Recently I had a battle on this line. My grandchildren went to Missouri to visit his parents. They left Oklahoma in the late afternoon and ran out of gasoline around 2:30 a. m., and no station would open up to help them nor would the police come after a call was made. The oldest child had fever when they left, as he had a cold and had been exposed to the measles. Getting chilled, as they waited for their folks to come and help them, he became a very, very sick boy. After a phone call to them, I felt alarmed about the child, as our great-grandchildren are as dear to us as our

own children. I earnestly took him to the Lord in prayer, but fears and doubts flooded in to hinder faith. The devil tried to make me think he would take pneumonia and die. One evening around midnight, after my granddaughter had called her mother for prayer and she called me, I had a battle. I prayed, and many things came to me to hinder. It came to me how that several years ago Bro. and Sis. Leslie Busbee's little boy was sick and after I visited him one day, it seemed the Lord showed me that He was going to take the child. I spoke to Bro. and Sis. Stover about it, and Bro. Stover said that he had been feeling the same way. I said that I felt we ought to go out and pray with them about their consecration, etc. In a day or so the child died. This came to me, and the enemy tried to put it on me that my great-grandson would die, but I felt that it was not from God. I kept praying. I went to sleep and dreamed that I had a baby with me and that it died. A woman came in when I was weeping, and she said that it was dead. I laid it down and began to clean house, praying and weeping. Pretty soon I looked over and it had raised its head. I began to rejoice and thank God. I awoke at that time and thanked God for the dream that encouraged my faith. I prayed and knew in my heart that the Lord had heard prayer, that the answer would come, and that our baby would be all right. I asked my daughter-in-law if she had called about him, but added that I knew that the Lord had touched him, and that was not the reason I had asked. Oh, how we do thank God for healing him and sparing him to us! But, dear ones, the devil will fight everything that we desire from the Lord. He doesn't want God to be glorified and lifted up. He will block our prayers with fears and doubts, but we must press through them. Unless the Lord shows us differently, we do have a right to pray with faith and expect the answer.

—Sis. Marie Miles

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Dec. 14)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, each dear one at the Printshop, and the dear saints scattered everywhere: We send our warm Christmas and New Year greetings to all of you in America in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your letters dated Nov. 19 and Dec. 3, 1979, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude and heartfelt thanks.

I believe everyone will be interested to know how God has led us in the past. He has been good to us, led us graciously, and has blessed our humble endeavors in India, especially in Kerala, since you have been praying for and co-operating with us in the work. Let me say that we appreciate your prayers and gifts very much. More than twenty of our co-workers are going on happily, executing their duties with one heart and mind despite the obstacles and set-backs that daily confront them.

God helped us to start several new missions in 1979, and we have resolved to work for the Lord in

India in 1980 with double spirit and effort. Your prayers and concern are expected in the future also.

Now we are getting ready for our 14th annual general campmeeting [January, 1980] on our Bethel ground, and we are very glad to note that Sister Dorothy Keiser of the U.S. got her visa and ticket to come over to India. [She is scheduled to arrive in India on Dec. 31, 1979.] We welcome her to India. May God give her a safe trip. She will be the fourth missionary to India from the Church in America. First, Bro. C. C. Carver in 1965; second Bro. George Hammond in 1974, and third, Bro. Richard Madden in 1978. All of them were real blessings to India. May God bless them all.

Please continue to pray for the spiritual blessings and needs of our campmeeting. India is far away from you, but distance has no power over prayer.

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Nov. 29)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, who loved us and purchased our salvation on Mount Calvary. Glory and honour unto Him forever and ever. Amen. Love is a creative force that can bring good out of an evil thing, even redemptive power out of a cross. Love never faileth.

Thank you for your letter dated Nov. 5, 1979, with its contents. We acknowledge with much appreciation the unexcelled co-operation of the saints with us every step of the way and express our gratitude in sending help when it is most needed through His chosen ones in the U.S.A. All who are of liberal sympathy will reap the fruit of their liberality in due season.

We rejoice to record the winning of a major victory. David, and not Goliath, won the day in Nigeria over an enemy who poses a threat to the entire known world. The skilled deceiver of our time was put to flight in Jehovah's might through the use of a weapon not within the invention of the red dragon. "Who are thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shall become a plain" (Zech. 4:7). In spiritual warfare, as well as when we really pray, words like *hopeless*, *impossible* and *defeat* should be eliminated from our thinking. All of Zion are to remain awake to defeat the wicked one by the application of the power of God to still the storm. Trust God for what is humanly impossible. A fact of which we must not lose sight is that no human agent can act of himself. Power to defeat an enemy and to heal the sick can only be delegated by God. Thank God, that through His unfailing power the massive infiltration plan of the "dragon" has been nipped in the bud.

There is increasing eagerness of the chosen vessels of God in Nigeria to assemble at the national level for mobile evangelism, but we painfully have to wait for the tide to come back. "I trusted in thee, O Lord, . . . My times are in thy hand . . ." (Psa. 31:14,15). We believe that nothing can happen in our

lives that God cannot handle. This gives us confidence and faith as we think of tomorrow. Our hands are on the plough and there is no looking back.

Your co-labourer, —Titus U. E. Enu

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Patzcuaro, Mexico—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . We have been having some battles along, but we are so grateful for divine grace that helps us in the hottest fight. We do want to be faithful to the Lord. I am so glad for His Word and His dealings with my soul.

Some of the saints from Pacoima, Bakersfield, and Pomona came to visit us in October. We had good fellowship and good services. They gave us money that the saints there and from other places had given us to get a new refrigerator. We are very grateful to the Lord and to each one who had a part in giving it. It is so nice and is really a good one. We have had several unexpected expenses during the year and it seemed there was no way to get another one soon. So we were very surprised and so grateful. We have asked the Lord to bless and reward each one who has so kindly helped us get it. We also appreciate the help on the pick-up, too. We, indeed, are debtors to the Lord and His people, and we don't want to fail the Lord in being faithful in what He has called us to do.

Bro. Mayarino Escobar and family of Ojos Negros came the first part of November and were here three days. It was a real blessing and encouragement for all of us. . . .

We want to tell you that we love and appreciate you and the work you all are doing for the Lord.
—Edith Cole Lara

INTERIOR MEXICO MISSION LETTER

Michoacan, Mexico (Nov. 28)—Dear brethren: We answer your precious letter which we received this month, and trust that you are all well. Thank the Lord, we are all fine.

Our trust is that all there are encouraged in the Lord. We know that this world is full of trials, but we have a place promised to the saints.

Dear ones, we give repeated thanks for the offering which we received of . . . May the Lord give you much more in return.

I desired to buy this car for the service of God, for each day it seems we need to go more to save souls for Christ because time is so short.

Your Brother, —Irineo Rama and family

REPORT FROM OJOS NEGROS, MEXICO, AND SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Ones: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. The last letter from Bro. Mayarino Escobar in Ojos Negros was most encouraging. He is much better in his body. They had all been encouraged by the services with those in Patzcuaro and the ones who came down from the States.

They are getting electricity in their village which will really prove a blessing, especially during camp-meetings. They already have running water in the house.

A young man, Bro. Charles Stanford, who has a burden for the Spanish printing work, will be helping in translations and putting messages on tape. This is a big help. I'm sure the Lord will bless him for every effort.

I would like to say, in answer to some, that the reason I didn't publish Rosa Maria Ruiz' address was because I had had several letters returned, so I am sending all in care of the Escobars, and they see that she gets them. I received a letter yesterday, thanking everyone who has contributed, having just received another letter with enclosure.

Yours for souls in Mexico,
The Mayarino Escobars, Ap. Postal No. 284
Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, and
Sis. Opal Kelly, 919 W. Mansur, Guthrie
Okla. 73044.

From the Mail Box . . .

Ala.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I trust that all is well with you and the co-workers at the Print Shop. I am saved to the glory of God, and I am still standing for the old-time truth. I just don't feel like going very far from home any more. I keep up all right. Please keep the paper coming. I like to read it.

—Henry P. Effinger

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

Ind.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. I am glad that in the midst of all the world's chaotic conditions, there is One whom we can look to and depend upon. It is my desire to live for Him in this world and one day hear the words, "Well done . . ." I desire to point others to our Saviour. There is much spiritual darkness and many cheap imitations of pure religion. I want the people to see Jesus.

Just a few days ago I was talking to a neighbor who claims to be a preacher. I mentioned something about the Lord requiring more than the "just believe" theory; that we had to do some making things right. He told me the Lord didn't require that of him. The Word says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. In fact, the same verse is repeated, so the Lord wants us to pay attention to the warning. Isn't it sad that so many are not willing to pay the price to go the Bible way? Pray for me that I will always be willing to hear and do what the Lord requires of me.

Today I talked on the phone to Ione Strebig. She has so many physical problems, and now her eyes are failing, evidently rapidly. I do desire our heavenly Father to heal her. Please be agreed in prayer that the Lord will undertake for her. . . .

My oldest brother, Bob, passed away this last Monday, Dec. 17. He had a brain tumor and was sick

for over a year. I do hope he got right with his Maker before he died. . . .

I am still holding on for my healing from the Lord. I want to be able to testify to . . . others of God's healing power in this present day. . . .

—Betty Baker

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: . . . Please find enclosed six dollars for different tracts that I am impressed to give to individuals during the holidays. Pray that all who read them will be edified in their souls.

I solicit the saints' prayers for many unspoken requests, as I am trusting in the Lord for everything. He is my Healer, my Burden-bearer, and a Refuge in every time of need. My petitions and requests are going to the throne of God in behalf of afflictions on Brother Pruitt and others there and in different states.

—Sis. Minnie Ola Jones

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Md.—. . . I just want to write and tell you how happy I am with the *Faith and Victory* paper. I received the paper about two years ago for the first time as a Christmas gift from a dear mother after my mother passed away. The mother told me to read the paper for comfort, and it helps me a lot.

Would you please put me on your prayer list? I have arthritis in my legs and I can't walk very well.

I am sending names on another sheet of paper for next year as Christmas gift subscriptions.

—Mrs. Dorothy Hicks

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . God is full of His many precious blessings to us and is a helper in time of need. We can call upon Him day and night. He knows and He cares. . . . I have been having different thoughts about how the saints of God are a blessing to this time world. When Jesus comes, what then? Time will be no more. Jesus saith, "Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Pray for me and others. —Sis. Eva Penner

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mich.—Dear ones in Christ: . . . Another year is here to labor for our Master and to be able to witness for Him. Who knows what this year will bring forth? It just doesn't look good, but our trust is in the Lord, come what will. We are His. We will labor until the Master comes and calls us Home, for we are only a breath away. May God bless you all in the Master's service, is our prayer for you daily. . . .

I have a prayer request. I have a blood clot in my leg just above my ankle, and I know God is able to heal this. . . . I will appreciate your prayers for my healing. Thank you.

—Mrs. Merrill Burd

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Pa.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . Jesus is ever near and will always hear and answer according to His will. Praise His Name!

At this joyous season, I am so glad I know that One who was sent as a Babe to the manger. He did His work here, and died for me on Calvary to take away my sins, then rose again victorious over death.

He is sitting at the right hand of God, interceding for me and for all who will come to Him in earnest prayer.

At the ending of this old year, I can look back and count my blessings and know that He ever lives and reigns over this whole world. Even though most people forget Him and don't want to hear about Him, the remnant of saints who are standing true can rejoice because He is coming again to receive us unto Himself. Praise His Name!

—Eva Cox

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sister Marie: Many thanks for the encouraging tracts and letter. The tract "Not a Word" meant much to me. May God richly bless the work there.

As I look over the past, I can see where God has certainly blessed us with many, many good books and literature from the Print Shop. They help us with a "press on" in our souls. So many of the older saints and ministers have lived successful lives and left good records for us to be encouraged to do the same. Do pray for us here in Tulsa.

—Theresa Gaines

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ala.—I am thankful today for salvation, and that I am still able to be up and do my work. I am also thankful for God's protection and mercy extended to America, as well as to me. I am sure that every true Christian is feeling a burden as never before to pray for America to return to God and to have laws that uphold His righteousness. It seems we are headed for severe persecution unless Jesus comes soon.

—Leora Frink

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ill.—Dear saints: . . . I like the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is the old way. It is like the old *Gospel Trumpet* paper used to be. Brother C. L. Voight preached, and we came out of sectism into the one holy way. He went to be with Jesus several years ago.

I need your prayers for my head, eyes, back and hearing. God has healed me many times. I am going on 93 now. He has been so good to me. . . .

—Maude V. Decker

Urgent Call for Help!

Bro. James Reynolds of Corning, Calif., has purchased a Greyhound bus in good mechanical condition to remodel inside to use in evangelistic tent meetings. He has taken the seats out. Urgently needed now are saints who are carpenters (cabinet makers), electricians, plumbers, and upholsterers who may be interested in this venture. He is not looking for money, just help, and time is of essence as they want it ready to start the tent meetings in June. This is a good project for the salvation of souls. If you want to work for God, please contact Bro. James Reynolds, 1003 Sixth Ave., Corning, Calif. 96021, phone, (916) 824-3647.

You are winging your flight over the narrow stream of time. Know you not that in your flight God holds your hand, then why do you get so restless and flutter so? Why do such little things trouble you?

—C. E. Orr

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Ohio—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . Although it is cloudy and cold outside this morning, I am praising God for heavenly sunshine that is streaming down in my heart and soul.

I am very thankful to be numbered with the holy remnant—the faithful few that are pressing their way on the highway of holiness up to that heavenly city of immortal glory and eternal bliss—with my face set toward heaven like a flint, as the song says, “No turning back, no turning back.”

Thank God by His help and grace that He gives, we can keep moving forward in His service with songs of victory in our souls and praises to the eternal King.

I truly appreciate the desert training God is giving me. I am learning many precious lessons here that I could not get anywhere else. Although I haven’t been in meeting since the Monark camp-meeting, I haven’t let down in any way, but have had to pray more earnestly and read God’s Word more prayerfully. I can truly say God has been very near and dear to me as I’m striving to humble myself more and more under the mighty hand of God (1 Pet. 5:6) and to walk just as closely to Him from day to day as I possibly can. This I well know, that all things are working for my good and God’s glory. (Rom. 8:28)

At times I have felt that I was being cheated. I have been so isolated from the services of God, but as I have been tarrying with God in earnest prayer and many tears, reading His Word, seeking His will and way for my life, pouring out my heart and soul to Almighty God, in every time of weakness He has given super strength and made a way for me many times when it seemed there was no way. He has been a present help in every time of need.

Needless to say, there have been many trials and tests since the Monark meeting, but thanks be to God that giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. We are more than a conqueror, standing on His Word. We are so happy to know that God does give a song in the night season and all the day long. Song No. 86 was so precious to me in this time of affliction. Thank God for giving grace to shout victory through it all, even in the heated furnace. Glory to God forever!

I was afflicted with arthritis in August. It was in my back and knees. I was so very sore and it was painful to get in and out of the car, to get into bed, or to dress myself. . . . But I did not stop moving. The devil told me that I had rheumatoid arthritis, and that I was going to get to the point that I couldn’t walk or work for God anymore. Very quickly I told him he was a liar and the father of it, and that I knew I was healed then just as much as when I saw it manifested.

I called the dear saints in Akron who prayed much for me. The Lord so wonderfully answered prayer. Thank God! I am completely delivered today. Faith is the victory that conquers the world. Thank

the Lord! The more we exercise our faith, the more it grows. We trust God for the little things in life; then our faith grows and takes in bigger things for God’s glory.

I also had a growth on my head that had been growing for years. It was between the size of a quarter and a half dollar. It stuck out, but I put my hair up over and around it so that not very many people had knowledge of its being there. Every time my daughter saw it she would insist that I go see a doctor and have it lanced. I told her my trust was in God. I felt sure that someday He would open this place for me. To people who do not know how to trust God, this is foolishness, but I thank God that I am a fool for Christ’s sake.

On the last Saturday night of the Monark camp-meeting, I felt much impressed to be anointed and prayed for, which I did, and I definitely felt the work was done. On Saturday, Sept. 1, as I was mowing the yard, I noticed the top of this place felt sore, but I didn’t pay much attention to it. The next day my son ate dinner with me. When we finished, we went into the living room. As I sat down, I put my hand up to my head and it felt wet, so I went over to my son and asked, “Is this place open?” He said, “Yes, Mom, and it looks awful.” I shouted and praised God for answering earnest prayer. Oh, what a mighty God we do serve! My son came back three times and cleaned the place for me. Each time, the most sickening pus came out. He insisted I should go see a doctor and have it taken care of properly. I told him, “The Lord will take care of it for me,” and He did. Although the pus kept running for weeks, I did what I could to keep it clean and God did the rest. He completely healed it. Praise His Name forever more! He is the Great Physician!

Through it all, there was a complete calmness and blessed assurance that all was well with my soul.

May God continue to bless and encourage every saint to stand firm for Him at any cost. . . .

—Sis. Sadie Stamm

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear saints: . . . Greetings in the precious name of Jesus He is my Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer, and Keeper.

I thank all the saints everywhere for their prayers for me when I was so very sick. The Lord came to my rescue and touched my body. He is blessing me with more strength each day. . . . By faith I’m claiming complete healing.

Thank the Lord for the Sister that offered to come and be with me until I was able to be up. The saints are so dear.

I didn’t go to a doctor for a checkup or have him tell me what I could eat. The Lord taught me what to eat. Since I have been saved, I don’t have any doctor bills to pay. Thank the Lord!

I was blessed with a wonderful experience out of my sickness. I’m so glad I learned to trust Him. I mean to be worthy of all His blessings. I still covet your prayers.

—Sis. Laura Warren

Calif.—Dear saints: . . . Our baby, Jonathan, caught what seemed to be a cold in October. He had a high fever all night long. We prayed for him as he would awake off and on through the night. His fever broke some in the morning. He seemed to be improving during the day, but by the evening his fever was rising again and his breathing was abnormal. He would make a whooping or gasping sound. We continued to keep him before the Lord. It looked as if he was getting worse. I held him to keep his head elevated. He seemed to be suffering very much, . . . and seemed each breath would be his last. When he was born, we gave him to the Lord, and at this time we asked the Lord to bless and have His way.

We called for prayer, and the pastor and his wife came and prayed, and Jonathan slept better that night. On Sunday morning he was much better, although his breathing was still noisy. That night I was so tired that when Jonathan woke up, my husband got up with him. He was sitting in a chair holding the baby. His breathing was abnormal at that time, and as my husband watched Jonathan, his breathing stopped for a short time, started back up, then stopped for a few seconds more. We prayed some more, telling the Lord to bless and have His way. We were searching our hearts to make sure nothing was hindering the Lord. The Lord blessed and Jonathan slept the rest of the night and began to improve until the Lord completely healed him.

Some said it was the croup, some that it was asthma, some thought pneumonia. We don't know what he had, but we do know that God was the Master of it. Unto Him we give praise, glory, and honor for His many blessings. This has surely increased our faith. Whatever He sees fit to let come our way, we are determined by His grace to see His face in peace.—Bro. Lauren and Sis. Lela Hobbs

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I greet you and all saints everywhere in the all-loving name of Jesus. I hope all at the Print Shop are well and happy in our dear Lord Jesus, and that you are much improved in body, if not completely healed. Praise God!

As for us, we have had bad colds, but the dear Lord undertook for us and we are much better now. Thanks be to our dear loving Master, Jesus! . . . My trust is in Him. I don't intend to stop nor give up until He calls me Home. Praise God! . . .

I hope you have a wonderful new year in the Lord, and that many souls will be saved through the printed page.

Your Brother in the family of God,
—Nathan Mobley

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

Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . We are encouraged to press the battle on for the dear Lord. We see nothing to turn back to. The Lord has blessed and I have been feeling better in body. I am still looking to God for complete healing. I know He has all we need. I'm not tired of trusting Him. We do appreciate the prayers of the dear saints. We are praying for you dear ones there, and we trust that the Lord will

continue to bless and keep the good work going on until Jesus comes. . . . —Sis. Eula Adams

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

La.—It has been some time since I sent in a testimony to the *Faith and Victory*, and I feel that now is the time for me to tell of the great blessing the Lord has given me in the last few weeks.

I have had a sore on my ear for over a year, or maybe two years, and I have requested the saints to pray for me quite a few times. Also, I have been anointed in accordance with the Word. A few weeks ago I testified that the Lord had heard prayer for my afflicted ear, which all who noticed thought it to be cancer. There was an inflamed streak about an inch long. Also, a notch was eaten out, about like a match. Since being anointed and testifying that I believed the Lord had heard and answered prayer, the notch filled up, and soon the lower scab came off, leaving a clean looking, uninflamed ear. Again I testified to my healing, and said, "When that upper scab comes off, my ear will be well, healed by the Lord alone." Now it is off and the ear is clean and uninflamed. Praise the good Lord! I think of the serious troubled feelings I had. But I want you to know I never had any idea of going to man for healing. We serve a wonderful Saviour and God!

Some years back I heard a dear sister say, "The Lord does not heal cancer any more." I am thankful she was mistaken. I can name several who have been healed of it. You probably know several, too.

Saints, let us hold on to God's almighty hand. We are living in the last days and Satan is doing all he can to destroy every saint. Let us avoid all division, jealousy, and enmity, and let God's love keep us in these times of Satanic trouble and hardship. The camp of the saints will be delivered from all the assaults of the enemy. Praise our God!

Your saved Brother, standing for all truth,
—C. C. Carver

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

Calif.— . . . I want to thank the Lord for bringing me through a severe trial this past year. His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

In the beginning of 1979, I asked God to bless me and to prosper me (spiritually) this year. He did. Trials began to come. In our Fresno campmeeting I received a special blessing. God was preparing me for a battle. By mid September I was depressed night and day. I thought about what our pastor's wife said: "There is one trial in every Christian's life. It will make him or break him." I knew this was my special trial. One morning God gave me a witness that He would fight my battle if I kept still. I thought of Job, who looked to the left and to the right, and then said, "You [God] know the way I take." I also thought of Joseph, who went through the fiery test, and came out in Pharaoh's seat. He said to his brothers who sold him into Egypt, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good."

I thank God for that trial, and for the source from whence it came. It has taught me to lean on my God. God permits Satan to try us, but one thing

Satan does not know, that the trial helps us get closer to God. If he knew that, he no doubt would hesitate to bring some things our way.

I love the Lord more than ever. I am still singing the song God gave me in 1976 entitled, "I'm Recommending Jesus." I can recommend Him; He will not fail. Thank God!

If you are in deep trials, misunderstood, falsely accused, no matter what the problem, I can be a witness that God stands by you. When you get to your wits' end and cannot do a thing, that's when God can help you.

Bless His great Name! I wouldn't take anything for my journey. My trial is not over, but I have the victory. Thank the Lord!

Another decade has passed by;
It brought my Saviour, oh, so high!
He taught me to lean on His breast,
Where I will forever rest.

—Naomi Jennings

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

Calif.—Dear saints: . . . I am saved and kept by the power of God. I am impressed to report the goodness of God to me with His healing power. My ears have been in a very bad condition. When I was in the Okmulgee, Okla., meeting in October, I had a noise in my left ear. The ministers prayed for me on Friday, and a few days later it was gone. . . . Soon after arriving home I could not understand anything that was said. . . . I went to Sunday school and couldn't understand anything the teacher said. I wrote on a piece of paper to a Sister that I could not understand anything. Soon I could understand some of the teaching. I thanked the Lord for that! At the time between Sunday school and the general service I asked the minister to pray for me that I could hear the service. I was prayed for and was able to hear every Scripture called and read. I praise the Lord! On Monday and Tuesday of that week I got to where I could not hear at all, but today I can hear almost as good as I ever did. I am so glad and thankful for the Lord and His ministers! I always need your continued prayers.

—Sis. Katie Gaines

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: . . . This leaves us still encouraged in the Lord and pressing on for Him.

As you know, our little girl, Hope, was very sick with what we feel was pneumonia about the first of November. It looked like we would lose her at three different times, but the Lord came to our rescue and spared her to us a while longer. He completely healed her body and restored her in every way. We want to thank the saints from different parts of the country who held us up in prayer at that time.

Bro. Curtis Williams came to be with us and help us out, as he is very good to help nurse and pray for folks. Sis. Lavern Manuel and Bro. Bob Forbes were with us at different times and were so faithful to help in prayer.

We were turned in to the authorities by someone, but the Lord worked it out so that Hope was already healed before they came out, so they took no action at

all. The Lord knows how much we can stand and how to work out our problems for us.

Continue to pray for us, as we pray for your healing and look to God to undertake for you.

—Bro. and Sis. Doyle LaCroix

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

Canada—Dear Sis. Miles: Greetings of love in Jesus' name. I thank the Lord for saving my soul. I mean to press on until the crown is won.

We had some wonderful meetings here in Aylmer, Canada, with Bro. Tom Melot and some saints from Akron, Ohio. Also, some new souls from a short distance came to hear the truth. Pray for them that they will accept the Word.

I'm still encouraged that the Lord will heal me for His glory. I have severe pain when I'm being moved. Just a week before our meeting, a few of my teeth started to ache. This was on Saturday afternoon, and Bro. and Sis. Oppel were coming over that night for prayer meeting. I made mention of it, and we prayed for it. After they left, it became very severe and I went through the night like that. On Sunday morning I mentioned that we might call the Oppels not to come to Bible study. I then set a time, that by 8:45 we would call them. I didn't want to do that, as I was looking forward to studying the Bible. I was inspired to ask the Lord to help me. I prayed and told the Lord if He wanted us to get together, He would have to do something. By 8:10, the toothache had almost ceased. Praise God! He took it away even before 8:45. The Oppels came and we were blessed.

Then Friday night, the night before the meeting on Nov. 23, a severe pain came into the right upper part of my leg, such as I don't recall having in all of the eleven years I have had arthritis. I knew it was from the devil, trying to keep me away from the meeting. I rebuked him in Jesus' name and told the enemy I was going regardless. He fled, and almost instantly the pain left, and I haven't had such pains since. Praise the Lord! He is just the same today. Pray for me that I might stay true to my dear Saviour. . . .

—Betty Friesen

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

Okla.—. . . I appreciate salvation today. I'm happy to know of God's love so strong and so pure. I'm resting on my Father's arms. Oh, the gentleness and loving kindness of our Saviour! God gave heaven's best for the sins of the whole world. People seem to take life so lightly. Sooner or later a reckoning day is coming and time will have run out, and oh, the wailing and weeping which will be to no avail! Too many are following after the gods of this world—wealth, power and fame. But, dear saints, let us follow after those things which make for peace; those things that bring joy unspeakable and full of glory. The half has never yet been told! The earth is full of the glory of God! Glory to His name! That name is the only name whereby we must be saved.

I feel the Spirit glowing in my heart. I'm satisfied with God's gracious dealings in my life. I'm pleased to continue on in this high and holy way and be ready at His coming. By the grace of God I mean to be more like Christ every passing day. There is much happening in

our land and country. We must be watchful and prayerful at all times. The enemy is looking for a chance to overthrow us in any way he can, even if it is by causing us to get our eyes off Jesus and on each other in a way that would not be pleasing to God. He has told us to love each other with a pure heart fervently. Love is the supreme test of our faith. Let us watch and be sober, lest we enter into temptation by the cunning, deceitful tricks of the enemy. The victory is mine! Praise God. . . .

—Erma Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

(Following is part of a letter written to Bro. and Sis. C. Bowers by my mother, Mary Pruitt, on March 18, 1952, a little over two years before she passed away.)

"Dear Bro. and Sis. Bowers: Dear ones, we received your request for an anointed handkerchief. . . . We were glad to hear from you and to know that you have your trust in the living God of heaven. We have anointed this handkerchief and asked the Lord to completely heal Bro. Bowers. Nothing is impossible for our God to do. . . . We have found the Lord to be a source of comfort and encouragement through all the trials and tests of life. He is also a present help in every time of trouble."

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . There are clouds in the sky, yet the sun is shining. We encounter many spiritual clouds in this life, also, yet if we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will come out in a peaceful, sunny vale.

I have read and reread this precious letter from your dear mother and . . . I want you dear children to have this letter, so I return it with love, knowing you will be blessed, as I have been, in reading it. It was written 27 years ago. This anointed handkerchief was sent to us. The dear Lord, our great Physician, is the same today. When Bro. Bowers had the heart attack, two doctors came. They said his nerves collapsed and his heart was trying to pump blood like a pump in a dry well. They said to me, "You have heard the saying, 'one in a million,' but this could be like one in a thousand. He has no chance to live." He would not go to the hospital and didn't take medicine. Our full trust was in God. When he got better, they said, "You will never be able to work again." One of the doctors has passed away. My husband does a lot of work every day and will soon be 80 years old. To God be the glory, honor and praise! There is no limit to God's healing power. When He does not heal, He wants to show to the world our faithfulness that we might glorify Him. . . .

—Sis. Doris Bowers

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Calif.—Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, and fellow-travelers, whomever you may be: I write this to say a few words in honor of Jesus Christ the Saviour whose lowly birth was in a stable, and yet He is Lord and King to all who love and serve Him. He broke the power of sin and death when He died upon the cross, and He opened the gates of eternal life when He arose triumphant from the grave. The Bible says He laid down His life to save His people from their sins.

I am so thankful to be a humble, little pilgrim walking in the holy way. The Christmas season is a good time to make a start on an onward march in things pertaining to a godly life. Honor the Saviour.

Be born again, if you are not already saved. My prayer is, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground."

—Ethel K. Miles

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Oklahoma Prison—Dear Bro. Lawrence and saints of God: My heart has been fearfully awakened to the schedule of Christ's return. In my studying and meditation about it, a fearful awareness—that time is short—came over my soul!

Dear ones, what we intend to do for God, I am convinced, must be done quickly! There is **no time** for idleness. Indeed, I feel that this world is on the **very brink** of eternity.

"Oh, what more can I do?" is my prayer as I write this letter. I have been warned that bodily harm might come my way if I do not cease from attacking the false preachers and false doctrines. It was a little hard to believe at first. Then I realized that Satan is a murderer. I was informed that one of these false chaplains has already tried to get one inmate to "make things uncomfortable" for another one. Since I've been here, several have been killed and others wounded. Yet very little has been done—since it's just one criminal killing another criminal.

"God hath not given us to the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and a sound mind." Praise God!

I desire your prayers that the Word of God will go forth with boldness and that a way for the Truth to be expounded will be opened. Thus far Satan has hindered, but victory is ours by faith!

Please pray for me that I will be an example of the Church of God, and lift up Christ in this dark place. I want to see my Saviour with this testimony, "I have done what I could."

Yours for the work's sake, —Bro. Elbert Johnson,
98893

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Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain 1 Peter 3:19.

Answer: This text says, "By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison." In order to get a proper understanding of this verse we must consider it in connection with the preceding verse (18) and the following verse (20) which cover the entire thought. The 18th, 19th, and 20th verses read: "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."

These three verses belong together to form the complete thought, and to separate any of them from the others will leave us adrift with no certain direction. The 19th verse is the difficult one, but it does not make any sense at all with relation to the

other Scriptures if it is singled out and separated from the 18th and 20th verses. Taken by itself it would seem to teach something which is entirely incompatible with the general overall teachings of the Scriptures in regard to Christ and to God's dealings with and attitude toward mankind.

The closing phrase of verse 18 says that Christ was quickened by the Spirit. Then the first two words of the 19th verse are "BY WHICH." Here is the key to understanding verse 19. "BY WHICH"—by what? By the same Spirit and divine operation that quickened Christ and made Him alive again after He had died for our sins; it was the same Spirit and Divine Operation that carried out the action described in verse 19.

Let us realize that the Holy Spirit didn't just become operative in this New Testament Dispensation. He was operative in a lesser degree in Old Testament times, but operative nevertheless. Peter says in 2 Pet. 1:21, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." This was true of all the prophets of Old Testament times. In Acts 1:16, Peter said: "Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, . . ." Here he declares that the Holy Ghost spake by the mouth of David. This was true of Noah also. Peter called him a "Preacher of righteousness" (2 Pet. 2:5), and the Holy Ghost spake through him as he preached righteousness to the people while the ark was a preparing.

Verse 20 identifies the time of this action—"When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing."

If the phrase, "The spirits in prison," is a sticker to you, just realize that the souls of men in sin are bound in prison. A prison is a place where a person's liberty and freedom are taken away from him and he cannot do as he would. Describing the condition of the sinner, Jesus said in John 8:34, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant [bond slave] of sin." Again He said in John 8:44, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. . . ." The devil is the master of the sinner and rules his life and his activities. Paul said in Romans 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" So we see that the person who has yielded himself to sin is the servant of sin and is not free to do righteousness. Again Paul said in describing his condition in his law experience when he could not be free from sin, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members." (Rom. 7:22-23) He was not free to do what he wanted to do because in his mind he wanted to do right and serve God; but he was captivated by sin and was a servant of the devil and could not do what he wanted to do. This made him a miserable, wretched person, and he cried out for deliverance in

verse 24 and found his deliverance through Jesus Christ in verse 25.

Jesus said in John 8:32, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Again He said in John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Heb. 7:25 says, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost [completely, entirely, through and through] that come unto God by Him, . . ." Matt. 1:21 says, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for he shall save His people from their sins."

The Psalmist said in Psalms 142:7, "Bring my soul out of prison." Note, he was talking about his soul being in prison. In such a state and condition his freedom and liberty were taken away. This is just the condition in which these ungodly sinners were in Noah's time when God determined to destroy them all. In Isaiah 42:7, which is contained in a prophecy concerning Christ and His work and ministry and the effects of salvation, we read: "To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." It was to people in this condition that the Spirit of God through Noah preached while the ark was a preparing. All souls in sin are in the prison house, and it is the work of Christ through His salvation and saving grace to liberate them and set them free from the bondage and slavery of sin by saving them from their sins, and this is just what He wanted to do and would have done for those people in Noah's time if they would have believed and obeyed the preaching of Noah.

Heb. 11:7 says that Noah condemned the world. How did he do it? He condemned the world by preaching righteousness to them in the power of the Spirit of God and then by believing and obeying it himself. The preaching of righteousness by the Holy Ghost had the same effect then that it does now—either condemns or saves—either a savour of life unto life or death unto death. It was a savour of life to Noah and his family (eight souls) because they believed and obeyed. It was a savour of death to all the others because they did not believe and obey.

They had their chance, and God waited on them for 120 years to repent and turn from their evil ways. Why would it then be thought, as some say, that Christ went somewhere where the spirits of those people were supposed to be imprisoned and preach to them and give them a second chance for salvation? He does not do that for people now, so why should He be partial to this people who had a chance for saving themselves the same as people do now and turned it down as people do now? It is not so.

Let your speech be always seasoned with grace. Talk not seasoned with grace is as insipid as food without salt. Our words should be so seasoned with grace that they would assist others into a more heavenly frame of spirit. It is in the closet that we take on a store of seasoning grace. More time is required to do the seasoning than to do the serving. —C. E. Orr

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Wade On Out



"Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over." Ezekiel 47:5.

A song entitled, "Wade On Out," says, "Pilgrim standing on the shore looking out across the tide, look away from the path you have trod. Wade on out into the deep 'til your soul is satisfied and you're lost in the great love of God. Oh, wade on out in the water, 'til the shoreline fades from your eyes, 'til you are lost in Him forever. Wade on out in the water deep and wide."

I am concerned for souls that are failing to launch out into the deep and reach the place where salvation becomes a rich and joyful experience. As long as we remain in ankle and knee-deep water (Ezekiel 47:3,4), the blessings of God remain stifled in our lives.

A true, "sold out" experience does not become a reality as long as our feet are on the ground. The ground represents self. When learning to swim we never gain confidence in our ability until we jump out into the deep where we can no longer touch the bottom. Likewise, we never learn to fully trust God until we cut all ties with the world and ourselves, and jump out into a fully consecrated life for God.

There are many of us who have been taught the true doctrines of the Church of God all of our lives. Our families are a part of the family of God. I am afraid, though, that the enemy has been able to keep many of us from moving out and taking our places in the body of Christ. We remain in shallow water, knowing what is right, but not willing to turn loose of the world and surrender fully to living the truth. Temporal prosperity in this life entices us away from making a complete commitment to a holy life.

There is a great danger in this state of being. The enemy of our souls stands at the edge of the water tossing thin strands of twine around us and tying us to the shore. These gradually become stronger, and eventually turn into thick ropes binding us to the world. The devil can then drag our souls back into the depths of sin, and we'll end up in a pit from which we can't get out.

Those tiny threads of pride, desire for more of this world's goods, catering just slightly to the lust of the flesh, and many other things can rapidly become strong cords that will bind our souls for hell.

The only safe refuge is to launch out into the deep, and swim farther and farther from the shore every day "until the shoreline fades from your eyes." Living a half-hearted, lukewarm life for God is miserable and also dangerous to our souls. The devil is not contented until he drags your life down into the depths of sin and holds you there until the eternal day of torment. Playing religion gradually becomes playing with the world, and without God we cannot hope to hold out against the devil and his enticements.

Begin today! Make a total consecration of yourself to God. We know this is the truth and the way to heaven, for Mom's and Dad's experiences will not carry us through in this dark and wicked world. Wade out into the deep until you can't touch the bottom, and never look back. The Lord will be standing on the other shore to beckon you Home.

—Toney Samons

Which Translation Is Right?



"Which translation of the Bible is right?" the younger generation often ask. They have a perfect right to ask such a question. Today we have many translations, and more are in the making. Some are paraphrasing the Bible and many footnotes are being added which tend to lead away from the true teaching of the Word of God.

Let us examine the King James version, which we feel is the one that is ordained of God. Other versions might be all right to use as a comparison, but the King James version of the Bible came at a time of a great reformation which was ordained of God, according to the Scriptures.

When Jesus came to this world, most of the people were wrapped up in paganism (the dragon). They worshipped idols. We read about this in the Old Testament. The chosen people of God were tempted again and again to worship idols like their neighbors did. But there were a few of them who were worshipping the true and living God when Jesus was born.

The book of Acts shows us the history of the Church after being set up by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in 33 A.D. God so worked that it is amazing to read about the great reformation that took place among the Gentiles when the gospel was taken to them by the Apostle Paul and others. It was said of Paul and others that "these have turned the world upside down." Acts 17:6. It was one of the most amazing victories that Christianity gained over Heathenism, that history ever recorded. But sad to say, the devil began to inject an apostasy into the reformation and many began to fall away. The Apostle Paul saw this and warned the brethren about it, and spoke of one who would set himself up as God and many would be deceived. 2 Thess. 2:3,4. This was accomplished about 270 A.D. when Catholicism, or Papal Rome, ruled the world. Many were killed who would not bow down to its rule. But thank God, He still had a Church, although they had to hide in caves to worship the Lord.

From 270 A.D. until 1530 A.D. the Papacy ruled, and according to Revelation, this power was symbolized as the beast. Jesus even warned that this would come to pass (Matt. 24:4,5,11,12). Also, Daniel prophesied that it would come to pass. According to the Scriptures, at the end of the 1260 years, there would be a time of reformation. This came to pass. Some began to break away from Romanism, or Catholicism. History students know this. Although the full light of the gospel, as the morning Church taught, did not

come in right away, there was a battle going on. "The Reformation of the Sixteenth Century broke the power of Rome's spiritual supremacy." Many sects sprang up in this "cloudy and dark day," according to Bible prophecy. (Ezek 34:12).

Now right at this time the King James version was authorized by King James I of England in 1611. "No one calls in question that King James I, more than three centuries ago, ordered it to be translated and printed. Neither do they believe that King James or any one else in his day wrote this book in order to deceive the people. Consequently, there must have been some versions or manuscripts older than this one. In fact, the title page of what is called the Authorized Version states that it is 'translated out of the original tongues: and with the former translation diligently compared and revised.'" (From *Where We Got Our Bible*.)

This King James translation has been tested and tried down through the ages, and it has worked. Many have lived godly lives through obeying its precepts and died a triumphant death.

We must add that when the Protestant reformation arose in 1530 A.D., they did not have all the light of the morning Church, but in 1880 A.D. more Bible truths were set forth by Bro. D. S. Warner and others. Today we have this precious truth, which we value, and it makes the soul free and happy in the Lord. The saints of God feel that the King James version is the one to be used and valued as God's Word. So many translations that are flooding the market today are nothing but the devil's purpose of confusing the minds of our younger generation. When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, he can understand the Word of God because it was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We must not put our own private interpretation upon the Scriptures. Many today are not accepting Bible truths because they say, "Oh, that is just your interpretation, and I see it differently." How careful we need to be or we will be lost in eternity's night without hope! We must be honest with our souls and with God. As we read the Word of God, we must have an open mind and heart to obey His Word and be led by His Spirit.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Tests of Salvation



Some ways to test our reactions and our salvation are these items: a flat tire, failure to get the car started while it is raining, not being able to find lost articles, having only five minutes in which to catch a bus, getting up late for work, running out of gas when in a hurry, working a balky mule, slowness of wife when getting ready to go out for an evening, cranky husband, lazy boys and girls, leaky faucets, no lights and out of fuses. These things are trying, yes, but Jesus can help and will, yet we must call upon Him.

The worst action is by the devil himself, but by all means get Jesus in your lives. "The Lord is my light and the strength of my life, then of whom shall

I be afraid? He hideth my soul from the troubles that roll, in the cleft of the rock He has made."

Along with trials and temptations shines a great heavenly light, greater than the noonday sun, which reaches from noon to noon, and penetrates into the inner being of man if applied during conviction of the seeker. To me the light of God is like polished glass.

No man can buy the gospel of peace. Though many have tried, they have utterly failed. Oh, what can humanity do without God? Oh, this wonderful salvation is worth more than all the world! How precious and lovely is the bright shining light from heaven! Praise God, we can know that we have this light in our souls. Jesus said, "Without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5b "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:4 Trials? Yes! Worth it? Yes! All power? Yes! Love? Yes! Hate? No! We are a city which is set on a hill and the light of it cannot be hid (the Church).

"I've seen the lightning flashing; I've heard the thunders roll." Old Satan has tried to break the Church down, but has utterly failed. Some have asked, "Where is Jesus? In the clouds? In the heavens? In the sky?" Yes, even in our hearts, and He sees and knows all things and has power to do everything. He speaks into the heart and you answer from your heart. We get Him into our hearts by seeking and asking. He says, "Come unto me . . . and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread." Psalm 37:25.

—Bro. A. E. Harmon

TODAY



I'll strive to serve the Lord today,
With all my heart to love His way.
We only serve Him as He wills
When His pure love our hearts doth fill.

I'll strive to speak for God today,
To cheer some soul along the way;
No bitter words to think or speak,
To hurt or hinder someone weak.

I'll strive to think of God today,
To keep His love in mind away.
Oh, God, stay my thoughts on You,
In meditation all day through.

I'll strive to work for God today,
With joy for strength, and love for pay.
I would not hold from Him my best;
A job well-done will bring soul rest.

And so, throughout each day I ask,
Please help me, God, to fill my task
With heart, and voice, and mind, and hand,
To serve the Master all I can.

—Patsy L. Cain

We may never be great, but we can be grateful.

—Effie Miller