

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 57, No. 11

57th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

February, 1980

Mount Zion



King David fought the Jebusite
And captured Zion's hill,
Proclaiming it his dwelling site
According to God's will. II Sam. 5:7

Upon another happy day
The ark was brought to rest
On Zion's hill, and there to lay
In holy worship blest.

As David to the Lord inclined
His favor to obtain,
The name of Zion is defined
As Jesus' golden reign.

Thereafter on the Holy Page
We hear of Zion's fame:
A Holy City's heritage
Of praise to Jesus' name.

"The heathen rage, their ranks are drawn
Against God's righteous will;
Yet have I set my King upon
Fair Zion's holy hill." Psalm 2

"In Zion now is truly laid
A precious Corner Stone;
A sure foundation He is made
Transgression to atone." Isa. 28:16

Not to the burning mount we've come
Where Moses quaked with fear,
But to the New Jerusalem:
Mount Zion, oh, so dear! Heb. 12:18-22

Though sin has marred the human race,
Destroying as a lion,
The great Redeemer in His grace
Has come at last to Zion! Isa. 59:20

Read for yourself of her estate
In God's divine salvation!
Rejoice and enter through the gate
Of Zion's holy station!

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Inspired Holy Scriptures

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."
2 Tim. 3:16.

I have a profound, unfeigned, divinely-given faith in the Bible. I have, through grace, by it been converted, enlightened, quickened, healed and saved. I have received the knowledge of God by it, to adore His perfections, strength, joy, and comfort to my soul.

Many have been indebted to others as the means of their being brought to God. I, too, am indebted to a beloved minister of God—Bro. C. C. Carver. I was sorely afflicted of God because I made Him a promise to serve Him if he would get me out of the Army. Seven years passed and I couldn't find any place where I thought they were serving the God of heaven in truth. I had lost confidence in those who called themselves Christians, as I didn't see anything in their lives different from my own. But that work, which is ever God's, was wrought in me through the means of Bro. Carver and the written Word. He who knows what the value of Jesus is, will know what it means to be saved from his old sins.

The sacred Scriptures have been dear to my heart, and valuable many times to comfort in times of trial. I have never found it to fail me. The Word of the Lord abideth forever. It reaches down to our lowly estate, because it comes down from God's throne. As Jesus came from God and went back to God, so does this divine Book which reveals Him, come from and elevate Him. If it is received, it has brought a soul to God, and He has revealed Himself through it. The light it contains needs not the light of the sun. I am glad I was taught to walk by its teachings from my youth. When I read the Bible, I read it as the absolute authority of God's Word for my soul. It will teach you how to pray. There is no higher privilege than to have direct communication with God Himself. He has been my joy, my comfort, my food, and my strength for over twenty-seven years. I have proved Him in my life and found Him to be true. His Word will never fail.

God let me go through the hardest trial of my life, when it seemed that the future was nothing but darkness, and I despaired of life. But He came down

on the scene and lifted my burden and took all hurt away. Now it seems that it was all a bad dream. I am satisfied that God has directed my way for my own good and for His glory. I have no doubt but that God is in authority over our souls, and He knows what is best for us. If we are submissive to Him, then He will bless us and prosper our way through this life.

The world resists the reading of this Word, because it is sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. It brings condemnation to the soul and gives no peace to do the things that the world likes to do. Thus, they resist the Holy Spirit—the only One that is able to help them and deliver. They are hostile to it, and this is exactly what shows the wickedness of man's will in rejecting it.

God's Word speaks of grace and love also. God said, "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? . . . And not that he should return from his ways, and live?" Ezek. 18:23. "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Heb. 10:38. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in His love." John 15:10.

The Word will tell you the truth concerning yourself, and it will tell you the truth of a God of Love, while unfolding the wisdom of His counsels.

There is no book that can feed your soul like the Bible. Reading this book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from reading this Book. If you find the Bible dry and uninteresting, then the reason may be that you don't know the Author. I read of a young lady who tried to read a book of poems. She found them very dry and uninteresting, so threw it aside. Later on in life she met a young man with whom she fell in love. She found that it was he who had written the book of poems. Once again she picked up the book and began reading it. To her amazement she found it the most interesting poems she had ever read. What made the difference? She had now met the Author. So it is with God's Word. If you know the Author, His Word will become dear to you. If you don't understand everything at first, keep reading and before long God will open up your understanding. If you were eating a piece of fish and came upon a bone, you wouldn't throw the fish away. You would expect to find a bone once in a while, so you would pick it out and lay it aside and go on eating. Do the same with God's Word. Therefore, "As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." (1 Pet. 2:2) —Earl B. Bliss

O beloved, be not weary in the way. Toil on; heed not the wind and the wave. God is with you. With all the energy of your soul cleave to Him. As the vine clings to the towering oak, so cling to your God. Live for Him, show forth His praise, exalt His name, honor His Word, serve Him faithfully, and from your life will flow the joyful message, "He walked with God." —C. E. Orr

Forbearance

Perhaps some have never studied the meaning of this word. Since we are told to "forbear one another in love" we ought to understand its true meaning.

Forbearance is something more than forgiveness. The Apostle in his letter to the Colossians says, "Forbearing one another and forgiving one another." We here see that there must be a difference between forgiveness and forbearance. Someone has wronged us. We forgive but yet see the wrong done to us. Forbearance makes excuses, it puts the best construction upon the evil actions of anyone toward us. It says, "He did not intend that as it appears." "He did not mean to cause me any pain, and his action was done unthoughtedly. I will love him and act toward him as though he had done me no wrong, for I am sure he loves me and what was done was done unintentionally." Forbearance forgives, excuses, and forgets. Forbearance causes us to make allowance for the weaknesses and failings of others. While we may see their failings, yet we feel and act toward them as though we saw them not. The failings and shortcomings of others and the little vexations they may give will not cause us to love them less if we have the true spirit of forbearance. Sometimes we hear someone say, speaking perhaps of a member of the family, "He is such a trial to me!" More of the spirit of forbearance would overbalance the trial. "Forbear one another in love."

—C. E. Orr

Unity of the Spirit

It was about time for another *Faith and Victory* paper to be put out, so I began to pray for the Lord to give me something to write for the paper. After coming to the office I opened my mail, which included a letter from Sis. Effie Miller. At the bottom of her letter she wrote a quotation which read as follows: "The snowflake is the most fragile thing in nature; but look what they can do when they stick together."

After reading this quotation, a phrase from the Scripture I had read in my morning devotions came to my mind—" . . . being knit together in love." The Apostle Paul was writing to the saints at Laodicea. His great concern and care for them was that "their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love." Col. 2:2. As I read it, my heart felt a great burden for God's people everywhere. Oh, how important it is that they strive and endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Eph. 4:3. This can only come to pass when all are working for it. Each one must be endued "with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." (verse 2) The Apostle Paul knew that these virtues were necessary before we could "keep the unity of the Spirit." Those who are filled with all meekness, all lowliness, all longsuffering, all love, and with all forbearance in love will not be picking and fault-finding. They will not be going around with a chip on their shoulder, so to speak. They will not be taking every thing that is said to be personally against them. They will not be making statements

that are unfounded just to cut someone down or to bring hurt. They will forgive and forget. They will have long-suffering and forbearance in love. They will hold their confidence in another and not be quick to throw it away. This is striving and endeavoring to keep the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Each one must strengthen the threads that knit God's people together. If they draw close to each other, there can be weight and power to do things for God. A number of strings put together can pick up heavy weights. The weight of snow has been known to cause roofs to cave in. How great is the love of God that flows from heart to heart, which knits them together and gives power! That love will cover many words that are spoken and actions that might not express the true feelings of the person. Sometimes we do not know how to handle our words, and they just don't come out like we really mean for them to. Love will cover these things, as we will know that all of God's children mean to say and do the right thing. This will help keep the "unity of the Spirit." This will cause the threads to be knit together and the snowflakes to lay close to each other. There is power in saints staying close together and being in perfect fellowship. Souls will be touched and saved by the gospel. There will be much freedom of the Spirit in our midst, and the Holy Spirit can move upon the hearts of His people causing them to obey His bidding. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalms 133:1.

"Oh, praise the Lord for love divine, that binds us all together;

A thousand chords our hearts entwine forever and forever.

Oh, brethren, how this perfect love unites us all in Jesus!

One heart, and soul, and mind we prove the union heaven gave us."

Are you striving to keep the "unity of the Spirit"? Remember it takes lowliness and meekness with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love.

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

Love in Action

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Matt. 22:37-39.

Dear ones, if we are keeping these two commandments in our hearts and lives, we will not have anybody or anything standing between God and us. He has put perfect love in our hearts. We like to keep them through love, not only as a command. When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we do not want to harm him in any way or take advantage of him. We will pray for him because we love him and want to see him saved and make heaven his home. Perfect love casts out fear. Love in our hearts toward God, toward our neighbours, toward the church, and to our fellowman will cause us not to slander, hurt or destroy. God's love in our hearts

makes us want to be helpful, cheerful, and happy that we may help lead others to see the love and beauty of God. If we love God and His church as we should, there are some things that might be lawful for us to do, but would not be expedient. If they would not be upbuilding to the church, the love of God restrains us from doing the things that would not be pleasing to God. Instead of trying to see how close one can get to the world and stay saved, the perfect love of God in one's heart makes one want to stay away from the world, and stay as close to God as possible in order to please Him in everything, even in denying one's self in many instances. God's love will cause us to so live that we will not bring a reproach upon the church nor in any way harm the church, so that the world looking on might not see any blemish or ugly thing in the pure Church of God.

God's love makes the true ministers of God cry out against the evils of the world, such as adultery, lying, stealing, murder, hate, envy, jealousy, division, love of the world, and all the things the devil has to offer. Christians realize they will not be popular with the world and that some will even hate them. They hated Jesus. The ministers love the souls of people more than they want friendship with the world. "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Dear ones, did you ever see a husband who truly loved his wife want any evil to come upon her, beat her or harm her in any way? No, he loves her as Christ loves the church. Did you ever see a wife who truly loved her husband that would not do him good, pleasing him in any way she could, submitting herself unto him as unto the Lord?

In Eph. 6:1, 2 we read, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise." Children, if you have love and respect in your hearts to your parents, this command isn't hard, is it? It just flows from your heart to want to obey them. The Bible tells us "Now abideth faith, hope, charity; these three, but the greatest of these is charity," which is perfect love toward God and man. God had such great love for man "that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." "God is love."

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

CHRISTIAN LOVE—THE TIE THAT BINDS

In 1 Cor. 12:24, 25, we are told that "God hath tempered the body together . . . that there should be no schism [division] in the body." The thing that prevents division, then, is that tempering that God does in the hearts. It is not, therefore, in the power of man to produce Christian unity nor to produce the tie that holds Christians together. This tie can bind only Christian hearts. From this love, itself divinely implanted, comes that spiritual fellowship which is so sweet to those who dwell together in unity.

—C. W. Naylor

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year\$.35

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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.

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

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

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God has a hand in making for man

All that we need and hold dear,

All that we have we owe to Him,

And in all we feel Him near.

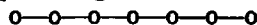
—Edward M. Brandt

EDITORIALS

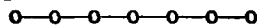


JESUS SAID, "And this gospel must FIRST be published among all nations." (Mark 13:10). Jesus made the foregoing declaration to His disciples as He sat upon the mount of Olives near the temple at Jerusalem. The then-known civilized world was small compared to what it is today when there are more than one hundred nations around the world. Jesus said it was a "must" that this gospel be "published among all nations," and this command presents a much greater challenge today than when Jesus spoke those words. However, the means of travel and communication are much faster today. Time is of essence, because time is running out, and what we intend to do in reaching the nations with the gospel light must be done quickly.

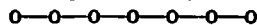
By the blessings of the Lord, we note that this February issue of **Faith and Victory** marks the completion of 57 years of the publication of this monthly journal for the spread of the good news of salvation through Christ to all nations. We gratefully acknowledge the sustaining and protecting hand of God over this gospel publishing work, and we appreciate the readers who have so faithfully prayed for and contributed to the support of this gospel literature ministry over the years. For a few years after its beginning in 1923, the issues of this **Faith and Victory** paper were printed on an old hand-fed Gordon platen press powered by a gasoline engine. From that meager beginning 57 years ago, the Lord has expanded the printing facilities and added more consecrated workers to help meet the ever increasing demand for more gospel literature. Yet the challenge is ever before us that "this gospel must FIRST be published among all nations." Who will unite with us in prayer, work, and giving in order to fulfill this great commission? Remember that the night will come very soon when no man can work for immortal souls who are perishing in this world of sin.



Just off the press is a reprint edition of the excellent book, "**Rays of Hope**" by D. O. Teasley in the German language. It consists of 180 pages in a nice heavy paper cover. The price is \$1.50 each, plus 65c for postage and handling. Please inform your German-speaking friends and neighbors of this book in their language.



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!



Note on National Campground Caretakers . . .

Bro. and Sister Dale Doolittle, caretakers of the National campground at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, are living near the campground in their

own new home. They can be reached by their new phone number, which is (417) 451-2542, that comes out of the Neosho phone exchange and not from Granby as does the number for the campground. Their mailing address is R. 7, Box 415A, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

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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. Get at this reduced price while they last—\$1.50 each, postpaid.

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Still Need More 1980 Campmeeting Dates . . .

Those who have not sent in their 1980 campmeeting dates, please send them by Feb. 15th so we can print all of them in the March issue. Thank you!

The Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, from May 23 to June 1, 1980. The date of the National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., is July 18 to 27, 1980. Watch for other dates in the March issue.

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Sister LaVonda Sharp, who has been faithfully working here at the office in the mailing and correspondence departments for the past fifteen months, feels that the Lord is directing her clearly to return to Myrtle, Mo., where her parents, Bro. and Sister Donald Sharp, are the pastors of that congregation. We have appreciated her consecrated labors for the Lord, and may He ever bless and reward her abundantly, and guide her future life in the service of the Lord. Perhaps sometime He will send her back to this literature ministry.

Since Sister LaVonda plans to leave at the end of January, the Lord's Print Shop is NOW urgently in need of a Christian woman who can operate a typewriter to work in the correspondence and mailing departments. Board and room are provided, and an allowance is given each week as the Lord supplies. If you have a concern to work for the Lord in this literature ministry, please contact Marie Miles at this office by letter or phone for further information.

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Abbotts Are at the Sunset Guest Home . . .

Bro. and Sister Sam E. Abbott, longtime ministers of the Church of God who are no longer able physically to be out in the work of the Lord, have moved to the Sunset Guest Home on the campground at Pacoima, Calif. Their new address is: 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. 91331.

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Bro. Curtis Williams and family drove from Kentucky to the Guthrie winter meeting in December. Soon after they arrived, Bro. Williams had a heart attack, and was not able to be in much of the meeting. Of course, much prayer was made for him, and the Lord blessed in various ways, but his strength was very slow in returning. The family had to drive on home without him in order to put the children back in school. Bro. Williams remained in Guthrie

with his daughter Brenda Wilkins and family. The saints held on in prayer for him. Though still very weak, Bro. Williams was taken in a private plane to his home near Morehead, Ky., on Jan. 15 by Brother Gene Porter of Guthrie. In answer to a phone call today (Jan. 22) Sister Williams informed us that Bro. Williams had another severe attack on Jan. 18. The Lord answered prayer and took away the pain, but he is still very weak and not able to sit up very long at a time. Please pray earnestly for his speedy recovery, as his family needs him and he is needed in the evangelistic work to which the Lord has called him. Their mailing address is R. 1, Box 656, Morehead, Ky. 40351.

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Card of Thanks to the Church . . .

Bro. Egbert Allen of Norwood, Mo., expresses his heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the saints for their prayers, phone calls, letters, cards, and gifts which he received while recuperating from the injuries suffered in the auto accident last September when returning from a campmeeting in Wisconsin. He is very grateful for these expressions of love. Bro. Allen's back is still giving him some trouble, so please pray for him, as well as his wife who is also under the hand of affliction.

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Golden Wedding Anniversary for Gospel Workers . .

Congratulations to Bro. Albert D. and Margaret (Johnson) Eck who will have reached their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 9, 1980. May the Lord grant them many more years together in the service of the Lord.

It was on a nice Sunday morning, Feb. 9, 1930—50 years ago—that this young couple of saints were united in holy matrimony with a simple ceremony performed by Bro. B. F. Davis at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, Okla. This writer, along with a number of others now in the Guthrie congregation, witnessed the reading of those vows, and can also verify that they have been kept up to date. Sister Margaret had a call from the Lord for the ministry of the Word, and they worked hand in hand wherever they lived to plant the gospel seed. Their main fields of labor have been in Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri. At present, Sister Margaret Eck has the oversight of the Church of God congregation at Four Corners, north of Vinita, Okla.

The children of this faithful couple are having a reception in observance of the golden wedding anniversary of their parents, Bro. and Sis. Albert Eck, on Sunday, Feb. 10, 1980, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Welch Civic Center in Welch, Okla. If possible, come and give them a word of appreciation. You may address your card or letter to their home: R. 1, Bluejacket, Okla. 74333.

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With the war clouds gathering over the world, the Third World War may be the approaching fulfillment of that tragic event revealed to this writer in a dream twelve years ago—in 1967. —L. D. Pruitt

In Memorial

Ethel (Long) White was born March 7, 1899, near Mulhall, Okla., and departed this life on Jan. 2, 1980, at Guthrie, Okla., at the age of 80 years, nine months and 26 days.

On July 9, 1922, Ethel was married to Ray White who preceded her in death.

Sister Ethel was a member of the Guthrie congregation of the Church of God for a number of years.

Survivors include: two sons, Raymond of Guthrie, Ok., and James of Wilcox, Ariz.; one grandson whom she reared, Michael Ray White, of Evening Shade, Mo.; one sister, Hazel Smith of Enid, Ok.; one brother, Murvin Long of Van Nuys, Calif.; seven grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Willie Murphey with interment in Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

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Mrs. Annie Bowen, daughter of Josh and Frances James, was born on Jan. 26, 1888, in Shreveport, La., and departed this life on Dec. 10, 1979, in the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, Okla.

Early in her adult life she was married to Efrom Brooks who preceded her in death.

In 1911, she moved to Boley, Okla. It was here she met and married Jewett Bowen in 1912 who also preceded her in death.

In 1917, she was saved in the Church of God where she remained faithful until the Lord took her to her heavenly Home. In her service to God, she was a song leader.

The survivors include: one son, Willie Brooks, of Ventura, Calif.; one sister, Mary May, of Boley, Okla.; one brother, Willie James of Kansas City, Kan.; a host of other relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren at the Church of God chapel in Boley, Okla.

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Mary M. May, daughter of Josh and Frances James, was born on Jan. 4, 1893, in Shreveport, La., and departed this life on Dec. 29, 1979.

She moved with her family in 1908 to Boley, Okla., where she met Robert L. May and married him on June 4, 1915. To this union three children were born: Robert L. May, Jr., Exzetta and Geraldine. Her husband preceded her in death.

In 1926, she and her family moved to Tulsa, Okla., where she was saved in the Church of God and was a faithful member. In 1954, she moved back to Boley and labored in the congregation there. She was a Sunday school teacher for many years, and was dutiful in the upbuilding of the Church.

Survivors include: one son, Robert L. May, Jr., Long Beach, Calif.; two daughters, Exzetta May, Long Beach, Calif., and Geraldine Tanner, Resedo, Calif.; two grandchildren, one great grandson, a host of other relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren at the Church of God chapel in Boley, Okla.

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Dessie Howard LeMelle was born in Tucson, Arizona, on December 13, 1887. She passed away January 12, 1980, at the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, Calif., at the age of 93 years and 30 days.

She was united in marriage to Mr. Tyler Le Melle, who preceded her in death. No children were born to this union.

She accepted the Lord many years ago, and loved being in the services of God to the end.

She leaves to mourn: a niece, Mrs. Vicky Grob of Colorado; a nephew, Armour Steel of Stockton, Calif., and a beloved nephew-in-law, H. K. Boone, of Los Angeles, and many saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Sis. Mary Lawson.

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Idell Mixon Doyle, the daughter of Daniel and Lula Mixon, was born on Aug. 19, 1920, at Boley, Okla., and departed this life on Jan. 8, 1980.

In 1948, Idell was married to Alfred Doyle. To this union was born one child—Everett.

In the summer of 1979, Sister Idell attended a service of the Church of God in Boley, Okla. She pressed her way to the altar of prayer, and through God's mercy He saved her soul. She began a new life in Christ Jesus, a life of prayer and praise to God.

She leaves to cherish her memory: one son, Everett Doyle; two granddaughters of Oklahoma City; a devoted mother, Lula Mixon of Boley, Okla.; two sisters, Augusta Crawford, of Okla. City, and Ethel Brown of Boley, Okla.; three brothers, Frank and Grady Mixon of Boley, Okla., and Hulin Mixon of Tulsa, Okla., and a host of other relatives, friends, and saints.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Woodrow Warren and Sister Katherine Williams.

Note of Appreciation

On behalf of the Mixon family, I express their thanks to every one for their deeds of love shown in various ways during the illness and passing of Idell Mixon Doyle. May God richly bless each one.

—Anna Mae Thompson

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Ulysses Henry Phillips, son of John and Hattie Phillips, was born at Rockcreek, Kansas, on Feb. 6, 1887, and went to be with the Lord from San Bernardino, Calif., on Jan. 11, 1980, at the age of 92 years, 11 months, and 5 days.

He moved with his parents to Dover, Okla., at the age of five, growing to manhood and remaining in that vicinity until 1965. At the age of 11, having been taught by a godly mother, he accepted the Lord as his Savior. In 1907, he heard the gospel preached in its purity by ministers of the Church of God which he gladly embraced.

On May 26, 1917, he was united in marriage to Ella V. Sharp. They made their home on the farm

near Dover, Okla., where they resided 48 years. To this union three children were born—one son and two daughters. Sister Ella Phillips preceded him in death on September 24, 1974, ending that blessed union of 57 years.

Bro. Phillips felt his call to the ministry at an early age and pastored the Church of God near Dover, Okla., for over 40 years. He not only ministered to those in need in his neighborhood, but also was used of the Lord in preaching the Word in local, state, and national meetings.

Bro. Phillips was also gifted of the Lord in writing tracts, songs, and poems. He passed out much gospel literature in and around his community.

In 1965, he and his wife Ella moved to San Bernardino, Calif., where he assisted in the work of the Lord until his death. He never retired from the ministry, preaching his last message on Dec. 29, 1979, at Pacoima, Calif.

Bro. Phillips was an example of godly living, portraying gentleness, patience, and thankfulness. His testimony of a sanctified life free from sin will no longer be heard, but it will not be forgotten.

Survivors include their three children: a son, Victor B. of Washington, D. C.; two daughters, Joy H. Williams of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Olive A. Davenport of San Bernardino, Calif.; three brothers, Benjamin and Fletcher, both of Wichita, Kansas, and Frank of Okla.; 11 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Calvin Hobbs, assisted by Bro. Lewis Williams and others, at Tillie's Memorial Chapel, San Bernardino, Calif. Interment was in the Mountain View Cemetery, San Bernardino, to await the general resurrection.

(Editor's note: Our dear Bro. Ulysses Phillips, a valiant soldier of the cross for many years, finished his course, laid down his armour, and was promoted to that Home of eternal rest. This writer first met Bro. Phillips more than fifty years ago when he and his wife attended the Oklahoma State meetings here in Guthrie. They faithfully attended and participated in all these State meetings until they moved to California in 1965. During the past half century Bro. Phillips contributed many articles and poems to this publication, presenting the gospel by the press as well as the pulpit. We printed several books of poetry for him. Several songs composed by Bro. and Sis. Phillips appear in our present church hymnal—*Evening Light Songs*. Now they "rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." May our heavenly Father comfort the children, other relatives, and the many saints and friends. —L. D. Pruitt)

Many years will be required to efface from the sands of time the footprints you make while journeying through this life. In the earnestness of my soul I appeal to your hearts to seek diligently a close walk with God. The closer you walk with Him, the brighter will be the beams of light that will stream from your life down through the future years.

—C. E. Orr

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING REPORT

The California State Assembly meeting proved to be an exceptional blessing from the Lord from beginning to end. The Lord richly blessed in sending Holy Spirit-filled ministers who carried burdens necessary for the hour and who were faithful to deliver these messages with love and clarity. The power and authority with which the Word was delivered was effectual, as demonstrated by the numbers at the altar seeking help and salvation throughout the meeting.

Not only in the services, but throughout the grounds and especially in the kitchen, the sweet spirit of cooperation and worship prevailed.

We deeply appreciate all those who came to be with us, some from great distances, and most staying for the entire meeting.

—E. L. Sorrell

BATON ROUGE, LA., MEETING REPORT

We just ended a meeting here at Baton Rouge, La., on Jan. 13. Bro. Leslie Busbee came to be with us and preach the precious Word. The house was full nearly every night. The saints came from Walker, Albany, Hammond, and Loranger, La. Bro. Cecil Carver was also here, along with those from Baton Rouge.

The Word went forth with the anointing of the Holy Spirit and power. Our souls were blessed as we feasted on the manna from heaven. There were three at the altar for help, and several raised their hands expressing their need of salvation. It was good to have Bro. Leslie and his daughter in the home with us, and we hope they will be able to come back some time. . . .

—Max F. Williamson

REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

The saints at Bakersfield, Calif., extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 15, through Sunday night, Feb. 24, 1980. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at one o'clock on week days, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday.

Please pray for the success of the meeting and that the Lord will send those of His choosing to help in the meeting. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone 395-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Mays, 524 So. Haley St., phone 325-2730, Bro. Z. E. Francisco, 305 So. Owens St., phone 323-0747, or Bro. A. W. Sherman, Jr., 3400 Rayborn Way, phone 871-1636. All area codes are 805.

—Sis. Robena Montgomery, Sec.

HAVE FAITH

Have faith and don't despair;

You are in God's special care.

His love is the most precious known;

God looks out for His very own!

—Edward M. Brandt

Prayer Requests



Ohio—"Pray for my son who desires to get saved. He is bound by a habit and needs deliverance."

—Tressie Adkins

Ind.—"Please pray for my husband and me. We both have cataracts on our eyes. We have no one to go to, but one couple in another city."

—Mr. and Mrs. Willie Brown

Ore.—Remember Orpha Mapes in prayer. She has some serious afflictions.

Ore.—Helen White needs healing to her body.

N. Car.—"My husband is engaged right now in paper work with the U. S. Army. He is trying to get an early discharge as a conscientious objector. He would like to hear from anyone who has been through this and could give him some advice. Write to Harry F. Yocum III, 1052 Revere St., Fayetteville, N. Carolina 28304."

—Cheryl Yocum

Okla.—Sis. Evelyn Taylor is very sick. She had the flu, and then it seemed she had a heart attack, and other afflictions took hold of her. She is unable to care for herself. Her children all came. Right now two of her daughters are caring for her along with the help of others. She has trusted the Lord for many years and God has healed her many times, so pray for her.

Ky.—Bro. Curtis Williams is still in need of prayer. He still has problems with his heart and extreme weakness.

Mo.—Bro. Egbert Allen still has trouble with his back and is very nervous.

Fla.—Pray for Bro. Earl Bliss who is in the furnace of affliction that his faith will fail not, for faith is the victory.

Remember all of the ministers who are afflicted. The ministers surely are tried by the devil. They are practicing what they preach. Remember Bro. Murphy Allen, Bro. and Sis. Sam Abbott, Bro. Archie Souder, and others. God is still healing His children who trust Him. Different ones among the saints are fighting the good fight of faith and holding on for healing. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth them out of them all."

—Sis. Marie Miles

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUEST

The safety of our nation and the world is in great jeopardy at this time. Pray earnestly for our world and national leaders of authority. At this time plans are being made to reinstate the military draft system here in the U. S. It is being strongly considered to include the young women among the draftees. Let us pray that our young men and women can be exempt from this.

"Oh, help us to praise thee, and grant that thy training, Through pruning the branches, may strengthen the root; That our spirit new graces from grief may be gaining, Afterward yielding thee peaceable fruit." —C. E. O.

Dorothy Keiser Writes From South India After She Arrived on Jan. 1, 1980

South India (Jan. 11)—Bro. Pruitt, Sis. Miles, and all the dear saints everywhere: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the only name by which we can be saved.

The general campmeeting held five days in early January was well attended with people sitting close together on grass mats. They hope by next year to have the building all finished. I didn't know whether I would be allowed to preach, but everyone was interested in the coming of a "Madama" (white woman), so I was called upon to preach once in an evening service and once in a morning service. I was also privileged to conduct two Bible study services, and a sisters' meeting. All of this was done by and with an interpreter, which is not easy.

I am feeling much better than when I arrived. I have been eating plantains (short bananas), coconut, lots of rice which is slightly pink in color, hard-boiled duck eggs, and cashew nuts. Bro. John Varghese found some American-type cookies and a box of cornflakes for me. All this has helped in adjusting to their way of life. The water agrees with me fine.

Bro. John has taken me on two walking tours near here, and I have taken quite a few pictures. Yesterday afternoon we drove to Nadukkunnu which is about three miles from here to see a partially finished building where a mission work is started. Four were baptized from there last Sunday morning, a total of 15 in all.

My understanding of the needs of these people has greatly increased. When I see the vast field I wish I were young again. Continue to pray for me, as I desire that everything would be accomplished on this trip that was in God's plan. I don't do much in the daytime—it is too hot, but the evenings are nice.

Bro. John, Sis. Sara, and everyone have been wonderful to me with their smiling faces. Some have never seen a white woman (Madama) before.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Dec. 22)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and other saints of God: Greetings in the most precious name of the Babe of Bethlehem who descended from the height of glory to the depth of shame for the redemption of mankind from spiritual death. The shed blood of the holy Lamb of God will never lose its power, no, never. It avails for us forever. Amen.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated December 1, 1979, and enclosures.

Our joy could not be adequately described for the arrival in our midst of Bro. Jefferson Pierro, his wife, and daughter Sis. Jefferlene Pierro, who touched down on the soil of Africa for the first time in Lagos, Nigeria, on Dec. 18, 1979. At the airport to receive them was Sis. Eunice C. Enu, the writer's eldest daughter, who was dispatched to Lagos to welcome them to Nigeria.

With eager expectation the saints of Kwale congregation assembled as early as 1:00 p. m., to hail the arrival of these U. S. saints who finally pulled in at Kwale at exactly 2:15 p.m. It was a day of happy smiles with warm embracing. Bro. Pierro and his wife live in Earlimart, Calif., while their daughter, Jefferlene, lives in Sacramento. Their visit is in answer to our standing invitation to the saints of the U.S. to come over to Africa to see how we fare in the Spirit and to labour with us.

While here in our midst, they will attend and participate in revival meetings, open air evangelistic meetings, and personal witnessing. . . . All the servants of God are on permanent, active service. . . . This writer will travel with and conduct them all around the congregations of the Church of God within and outside Bendel State. The visitors are feeling well in body and happy in the Spirit. Take your turn and come over. The world is for you to evangelize.

It is a matter of much appreciation to read that Sis. Dorothy Keiser is now in India to attend camp-meetings convened over there. We pray that through the meetings the light of God's dear Son will shine in entire India.

Yours devotedly, —Titus U. E. Enu

LETTER FROM MEXICO MISSION

Ojos Negros, Mexico (Dec. 10)—Dear Brother Lawrence and Sister Marie: . . . I begin this letter with much love and courage in the Lord, greeting you in the precious Name that is above every name, Christ Jesus, desiring that this finds you well with victory in your souls over sin.

Appreciated brethren, the present serves me to write you for the sole purpose that we might have communion, giving thanks to God always for His great love and salvation that He has given us by the medium of His Son, by whom we come to be saved and made one family in love (Eph. 5:2). Where there is love, there is unity. . . . Thanks to God for His Word and His promises. Because we know and live the truth, we are in the Church of God, which is the Body of Christ, and we are made one in the Lord.

We have had some beautiful services and each of us has felt the presence of the Lord. We still visit in La Huerta, too, and have services. We have gone over twice to Sis. Edith Lara's station and had services that were of great blessing. . . . On the 9th of December we had a beautiful service here. Bro. and Sis. Sherman, James Kutra, Carnell Montgomery and five Mexicans came and visited us. We were made happy in the Lord. We also went to La Huerta. Thanks be to God for the love they have for Mexico, because their visits always have been of great blessing, and I know that the Lord has worked and does work in all this. We desire that God keep using them and us in the Lord. It is my desire to be useful to the Lord, and there is much hunger and thirst here for the Word of God. The truth is that the harvest is great and the workers are few. May God help us to be more diligent,

and that He will bless His work and each one of those who has a part in the work of God, whether it be materially, physically, or spiritually. . . .

This village is growing and there is more opportunity to speak the Word of God. We hope someday you will visit us and will be able to be with us several days. We appreciate your help in the work of God with all our hearts, and many thanks for the offering.

May you and all the saints of the Church of God have a prosperous New Year in the Lord.

With much Christian love,—Mayarino Escobar

NOTE OF THANKS FROM MY CRIPPLED FRIEND

We received the checks that you sent us, Sister Opal. Many thanks. You do not know how very much we appreciate them and all who sent them. May God reward and bless you all.

—Rosa Maria Ruiz

—Submitted by Opal Kelly

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: There appears to be a need for the Church to take a firm stand on a couple of related questions. When couples live together as man and wife without having taken marriage vows, does God consider them married? Should we tell young people that after they have lived together after this fashion for a time, they are now free to walk out and enter into marriage vows with another because there had been no vows taken in the first instance? If a couple lives together without marriage for any time, long or short, and introduce each other as "my wife" or "my husband," are they then married in God's sight? What if one of the people living in this condition and introducing someone as "my husband" or "my wife," has been married and divorced, is the other party then free to marry after having lived for a time with a partner as husband and wife without marriage?

Answer: In the first place, I would advise this inquirer that the Church already has a strong stand against this abominable practice, and that stand is solid. I am certain that not one minister could be found among us that would approve it.

Also, let us recognize that the drift is always downward and the trend away from God and right. All righteous and clear thinking people will surely recognize that moral standards in the world are at this time very low and terrible. But they did not get this way all at once. There has been a gradual decline from one step to another over a period of many years until in these later years the decline has been sharper and more rapid. I would say that evil and moral corruption reached a kind of "sub-saturation" point and the bottom fell out and the world took a plunge into low depths of evil and moral corruption. I do not say it would be proper to say it reached a saturation point. It did not. Because when

it reaches that point and the cup of iniquity is filled up, then judgment will come. Things will get worse yet, much worse. So we can only say that the point reached which precipitated the sharp, steep decline into low depths of moral corruption was a "sub-saturation" point.

This will give us some insight into this abominable practice we are now discussing. I can remember when I was a boy there were comparatively few separations in married couples. If a couple did separate, it was the common talk of the community. It was looked upon as something that ought not to be. If a couple got a divorce, they were just about black-listed. At that time moral standards in general were high, and the general populace demanded high standards and upright behaviour out of every body if they expected to be respected by the people. In those days people got married to stay married and had no thought of divorce. That arrangement produced a solid and wholesome society with marriage as a basis and the home as the corner stone. The female partner in the marriage accepted her proper place in the home as wife, mother, and homemaker. The male partner accepted his responsibility as husband, father, and provider for his family. Since divorce was a rather rare thing, the couple felt secure in each other's love, and their children felt secure in their parents' love and supervision. The parents dedicated themselves to the rearing, training, and guidance of their children to make them grow up to be honorable and upright people as the major priority of their lives.

At the time of the First World War, women left their homes in large numbers to take work in the war plants and other places which had been vacated by men going off to war. This was an evil within itself and produced other evils along with it. It was a severe blow to the home and family life which was the corner stone of the society. Women worked among groups of strange men which led to improper familiarities and behaviour. Also, it created an atmosphere of independence, and the woman no longer felt dependent upon her husband for support because she was earning her own income. This led to unrest, dissatisfaction and conflict in the home, and divorces became more common. Moral standards fell a considerable degree under this onslaught. The whole thing was entirely out of God's order, and His blessing was not upon it. The devil and forces of evil won a great victory.

At the time of the Second World War moral standards plummeted again to a new low and for the same reasons. Since that time the decline has continued sharply and rapidly, and the home and family life has lost its place at the head of the list of priorities, and divorce is almost as common as marriage. Oh, how different this is to what it was in the time of my boyhood and youth. It is all grossly immoral and contrary to God's law. This prevalence of divorce destroys the sanctity of marriage, which is THE basis of a good home and family life, which is the corner stone of any solid, upright, and honorable society.

Because the sanctity of marriage has been largely destroyed by this condition, the way has been opened for this that we are discussing here—"shacking up" or living together without marriage—which is the most abominable of all up to now, and if carried to its ultimate would be a fatal blow to the basics of our institutions. Even the upright and honorable people of the world frown darkly on this practice. I say without fear of successful contradiction that this thing is Communistic in principle and spirit, and is aimed at undermining and destroying the home life and family ties. It is another BIG step of man's departure from God and charting his own course according to his corrupt and depraved nature. It is another step toward an atheistic and godless society. It is tantamount to man shaking his fist in God's face and telling Him, "I don't like your way, it is too restrictive; I am taking my own way from here on."

God ordained marriage for the good, happiness, and welfare of mankind. He Himself performed the first marriage and pronounced His blessings upon that first pair—Adam and Eve. Right and proper marriage has always had God's sanction and blessings upon it, and Jesus gave considerable dignity to it by using it to represent the relationship between Himself and His church. Read Eph. 5:21-32, Rom. 7:4, Rev. 19:7,8, Rev. 21:9,10, 2 Cor. 11:1,2 and more.

But the God who gave us the grand institution of Christian marriage and established the society of mankind upon it as a foundation, has also placed certain restrictions and bounds on it. In the first place, it is for the duration of life for the contracting parties. The death of one of the parties is the only thing that can dissolve it. Romans 7:2,3 says: "For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man." Again in 1 Cor. 7:39, we read: "The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord." These two texts make it perfectly clear that a couple is bound by their marriage vows as long as both of them live. Jesus said in His teaching in Luke 16:18, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marieth her that is put away from her husband committeth adultery." So we see that God is very specific and positive in His instructions and rules governing marriage.

Also, He has set forth in His Word very specific rules and instructions regarding the lives and duties and responsibilities of a married couple. To the wives He said, "That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." In Eph. 5:22-33 we read again, "Wives,

submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. . . . Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; . . . So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: . . . For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. . . . Let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." Also, read 1 Peter 3:1-7, which is a very pertinent Scripture in this connection, but which I will not take the space to insert here. There are others along this same line. Oh, the dignity, honor and virtue God has attached to Christian marriage!

In order to avoid the scriptural restrictions of a proper marriage and to escape from the binding obligations and duties associated with marriage vows, many today are following this practice of living together without marriage. This is an arrangement whereby a couple may enjoy all the benefits and conveniences of marriage without being married. It is a kind of walk-in and back-out deal. The parties are free to dissolve their relationship and enter into a similar arrangement with someone else at will. And that is just what many are doing. It is a rebellious spirit, rebelling against restrictions and directions. It is producing a wicked and adulterous generation, an unstable and irresponsible society, and a society with little regard for law and order in any area of life and behavior.

As to the question of whether a couple would be considered married in God's eyes if they have lived together for two or three years and introduced each other as "my wife" or "my husband"—of course, not. And if they lived together for 50 years without marriage they would still not be married in God's sight. It would be an adulterous relationship all the way through, and sooner or later the judgments of God will fall upon this thing and all who participate in it.

As to the question of whether we should teach our young people that if they have lived this way they can walk away from it any time they choose and be free to marry some good person, no, I do not feel that we should teach such a doctrine. We should try earnestly to get our young people to see the evil of this, and avoid it by all means, and if perchance some are already in it, try to persuade them to forsake that way of life and break off that relationship and to come clear of it. I suppose I could not say that such a person could not possibly be eligible for marriage. The condition in which they have lived could not be classed as a marriage because the basic elements of a Christian and Scriptural marriage are lacking. There have been no pledges given and no vows taken. Therefore, there is no breaking of a pledge nor violating of binding vows when the relationship is broken off. There is no betrayal of confidence because such arrangements are not entered

into with confidence and assurance. However, I would say that such a person has already manifested a spirit of rebellion against the "establishment" and against God and His plan and arrangement for men and women, and has declared by his actions that no one is going to prescribe any pattern of life for him, but he is going to do his own thing and live by his own rules regardless of established customs and the feelings of other people. Furthermore, he has manifested a principle and has identified himself with a segment of society which is unstable, undependable and irresponsible. Therefore, I would consider such a person poor marriage material and a poor risk unless he had obtained a good, solid experience of salvation—saved and sanctified—and has been manifesting the fruits of the Spirit over a suitable span of time.

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

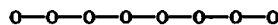


Ore.—I pray for all of you at the Print Shop, laboring so hard to bring this precious truth to us in these perilous days in which we are living. If we looked around us at the awful things that are happening, we surely would be fearful and almost discouraged. God instructs us to lift up our eyes for our "redemption draweth nigh." Our faith is really being tried in these evil days, but He said He would not allow us to be tried above that we are "able to bear," so we press on.

My faith has been put to the test recently. I awoke one morning and could hardly turn my head, as my right arm and shoulder were so lame. It was hard to dress. I called some of God's people and they prayed, and I began getting better at once. It has about all left now, just a little soreness remains.

Immediately after the holidays my eyes went bad, caused by overstrain in writing so many letters and cards. . . . My eyes became badly inflamed and I could see little things that moved with my eyes, like a little round wire or something. Sis. Evalee Stice said it was overstrain and that I had probably broken some little blood vessels in my eyes. I was prayed for and then anointed Tuesday night at our prayer meeting. The redness is gone and my eyes are much better. . . .

—Sis. Grace Jones



Ohio—Dear saints: . . . I am so glad to be able to serve a wonderful God who is our Savior and Healer.

I want to tell what God has done for me. When I was three months expecting, I went to a doctor. I found out that I had a very serious kidney problem. The second time I went to see this doctor, he wanted me to take medication, and they wanted to put me in the hospital to be treated by a kidney specialist. I told them I didn't want medication or to go to the hospital, so he dropped my case because I wouldn't do as they wanted. (God is my specialist.) The doctor told me I should make out my will, as though he thought I was going to die. After I left, I was upset, but I knew I was going to trust the Lord no matter what

happened to me. I told some of the saints here in Dayton about it. They got burdened for me and would fast and pray, and the condition seemed to get no better, but I never gave up.

During this time I received different letters and cards telling me how the Lord had healed other young mothers. I appreciate the letters and prayers of the saints who had a burden for me. The saints continued to pray for me, and on Jan. 1, 1980, the Lord healed my body. Some time during the night I knew I was completely healed.

Continue to pray for us that we will be what the Lord wants us to be, and that God will work out everything for His glory. —Dianna and Rick Cox

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Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Greetings of love in Jesus' precious name. It has been about ten months ago that I was afflicted with a bad case of pneumonia and was unable to be up or do my work for weeks. My family was really concerned and kept begging me to go to the hospital. Finally I told them I would go if they would first talk to the doctor and get him to agree to put me in an oxygen tent, but no medication whatsoever. He thought this was most unusual, but let me have my way. My lungs cleared up in four days and they let me come home. I soon congested up again, but this time we just used a cool mist humidifier and left the rest up to the Lord. I promised Him if He would see me through that I would send my testimony to the *Faith and Victory* when I was able. But when I did get able, I seemed to keep myself occupied with my household work and canning, etc., and just didn't take the time to keep my promise to the Lord.

Now for the past week or two, I have been having the same complications and have been struggling for my breath again. I have been trying to blame it on the weather, but yesterday I realized that I must have displeased the Lord or I would have been completely healed by now. After having a little talk with Him, He revealed to me that I had broken my promise I made last spring. I told my husband last night that it was all my own fault that I was sick again and that if the Lord would see me through the night that I would get my testimony in the mail today. I had a rough night, but I made it, and my breathing is much better this morning, although I am weak and sore from coughing and am not able to do my work yet. About 10:30 this morning my husband brought a writing tablet and pencil to me so I could write my testimony. He is so good to me and so thoughtful.

The Lord has healed me of other afflictions from time to time, and I am still looking to Him for complete healing of my lungs. . . . My greatest desire is to see my loved ones all saved and preparing for a home in Heaven. Our earthly homes will soon pass away, but a home in Heaven endureth forever.

I want to thank all the dear saints who remembered me with special prayer so many times last winter, also the lovely get-well cards and letters, and a special thanks to Bro. Jim Broker who made

several special trips to our house to have prayer for me.

May God bless and encourage each and every one of the saints, and a special blessing to all those in the Print Shop.

I desire your prayers for complete healing that I may be able to do for others. —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn

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Fla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: Greetings again in the name of our dear Saviour who suffered on the cross that we might have everlasting life, and by His stripes we are healed. As I see this world wallowing in wickedness, and getting worse all the time, I am made to be more thankful for the way I was reared and taught the ways of God. I know you are the same. God has been so good to me down through the years. He has helped me out of many sorrows and established my feet on the solid Rock. While others speculate, I stand on the Word of God regardless of how things seem to be outwardly. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." So if we know this, then we can put ourselves on the altar and in God's hands, and feel assured that God knows what He is doing, and He will not let more come upon us than we can bear. . . .

This is a lonely old world, especially when one is away from home and no one to talk to about the things of God. It seems the word *Christian* is lightly spoken of anymore. Many call themselves Christian that have never separated themselves from this sinful world and its follies. They won't go to church services because they might miss a good show on TV or a ball game. This is just what they will be doing when Jesus comes to take them by surprise.

Best wishes for you and yours in this new year.

—Earl Bliss

869 29th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33704

(Bro. Bliss, whose home is in Anderson, Ind., is spending the winter in Florida. Though in the furnace of affliction, he is trusting the Lord fully. Please pray for his complete healing to the glory of God.—Editor)

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Mo.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . Praise God for salvation this morning. I have had another wonderful healing. I had the flu. . . . I was all ready to go to the Guthrie, Okla., Assembly meeting, but wasn't able although I was nearly over the flu. I had about three days of a very bad nervousness. I could hardly sit or lie down. I had to try to keep busy. . . . The thought came to me, and I said to the Lord, "If you will give me a good night's sleep, I'll not use any more vitamins," and I slept like a baby. (I don't condemn anyone for using vitamins.) . . . The next morning I got nervous, but around eleven o'clock God healed me. God keeps a very close watch on me, and I am glad to obey Him.

My son got his eye hurt. It was the worst thing I ever looked at. It was just a bloody mass. He said

that it felt like the eyeball was being pushed out and the blood was running behind it. . . . I had just come back into the room where he was, after calling down there (Guthrie) and he said the pressure and hurting were gone, and he could see the clock on the wall, not clearly, but he could see the form. He has improved in five days until now his eyeball is about cleared up and he is seeing pretty well, and is still improving. He is so happy that he didn't see a doctor. He is the one that was healed instantly of tick fever about three years ago. He was really bad with it. Oh, how we thank God for His mercy to us! Keep praying for us.

—Sis. Goldie Knapp

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La.—Dear ones at the Lord's Print Shop: We extend greetings of love in the name of our Saviour who condescended to die for us that we may have eternal life. . . .

Here of late we have been meditating on a verse of song: "Swiftly the shadows are deepening, Light of my life be near; strengthen the trust I am keeping, fill me with hope and cheer. . . . Keep me, dear Saviour, so near Thy side, draw me close to Thee." Every day I realize that we are all graveyard travellers going towards the mother dust from whence we came. We have a dying day coming. One writer in the Old Testament said, "For we must needs die, and are as water spilt to the ground, which cannot be gathered up again. . . ." So many seem to have a fear of death. This we can readily see, is a very natural fear which we all have to battle. But death, cruel as it may seem, is but a gentle passageway to heaven's peaceful rest for the saints. A ready heart needs not fear to cross its chilly waters. A poet once wrote, "There is no death; the stars go down to rise again upon a fairer shore." It is but another birth to freedom from the flesh to a more immortal worth. This thought of death is fearful, simply because the human recoils from it, not knowing its fond relief. Oh, may we all realize we have a dying day coming, and we need to be ready that when it comes it will only seize us in our innocence.

It is said that death is "the poor man's doctor." This means that its effect administers a lasting cure from all sickness and painful struggle, and does in the end give sweet relief from the many sorrows and cares of this life. This chilly river of death doth provide a gentle sleep to wake in the blissful company of saints singing songs of "Home, Sweet Home." There "the wicked cease from troubling, there the weary be at rest." There all faces are beautiful and every word spoken is sweet.

I often sing that inspired song that our precious Brother Ulysses Phillips wrote, "And when I lay this body down, to mold and crumble in the ground; my ransomed soul shall fly away, to one long bright eternal day." Bro. Ulysses has now gone on to Glory, "into the realm of glorious light."

I often think of a precious sister in Loranger, La., who on her dying bed, when breathing her last fleeting breath said, "Is this death? I have waited all

my life for this day!" Then I think of Brother Isaac Chandler who, when dying, requested the saints that if he should pass away while they were singing, not to stop, but to sing on. And so it was, that as his soul was in departing, the brethren sang. . . . Oh, how "precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints!" "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

—Salvatore DiDio

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[Following is the testimony of Carmelina, the 27-year-old, married daughter of Bro. and Sis. Salvatore DiDio of Hammond, La. Recently she had surgery for cancer. Pray for her—soul and body.]

La. (Jan. 13)—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, Bro. Leslie Busbee, and all the saints: God has really seen me through this trying time, and I appreciate the prayers of all of you loved ones.

I want all the saints to know that I have committed a few sins, but I asked Jesus to forgive me, and He did. I love Him very much.

—Carmelina Joy Waite

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear co-workers: I am pressing on, as the Lord has been so good to me, especially since I fell two years ago and hurt my back. I thought I was going to have to give up and go stay with my children. I even packed to go, but the Lord came to my rescue and made me able to take care of myself and stay at home.

I was getting very weak again in my back, so I was anointed and prayed for last Sunday night. The Lord touched me, and my back is stronger. Thank the Lord! I was 83 in November. The Lord has blessed me so much. I can't thank Him enough, so pray for me that I will be faithful to the end.

—Mary Bush

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—To the saints abroad and to all who read this paper: Greetings to all in the all-prevailing name of the Savior of the world. Thank God, the blood has been applied and I'm fully saved, sanctified, and healed! I am glad to report to all that Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday, today, and forever!" I am a personal witness that His healing virtue for the body is just as powerful as when He healed the woman who had an issue of blood for twelve years. She received her heart's desire of healing by simply touching the hem of His garment (Mark 5:25-34). I did the same thing through faith, and I also have been healed! Today I am a well woman, after suffering for several weeks with a sickness that from all apparent signs appeared to be appendicitis.

On November 15, 1979, after the evening meal, I was stricken with an attack of stomach and abdominal pains. This continued throughout the night and the next day. I assumed it to be the flu. I was anointed and prayed for (James 5:14,15) on the evening of November 17, while Bro. Tom Melot was here holding several nights' meeting. I began feeling some better, and by Monday was doing quite well. However, the pain started again that evening, and by

the next morning I knew that whatever I had was much more serious than the flu. I was finding it difficult to eat. Although I did not vomit, within five to ten minutes after eating I got severe stomach pains, sometimes lasting thirty to forty-five minutes. Very few things seemed to agree with me. For days I was unable to rest well at night, and what little sleep I did get was fitful. Along with the abdominal pains I had fever, very severe headaches, and a soreness in my stomach and abdomen that prevented me from lying in any position but on my back, and made me unable to straighten up when on my feet. During part of that time I was so sore that I could hardly get out of bed.

The most severe spell that I had was on a Friday morning, about 4:15. I had gotten up, having been in pain most of the night, and was returning to bed. Before reaching the bed I was stricken with such severe pain that I was doubled over and it even hurt to breathe. Sister Joan McIntosh helped me get to a chair and I was able to sit down. The pain lasted for about an hour before I was able to go back to bed.

By this time my body was in a very weakened state, my nerves were frayed, and I was unable to pray for myself effectually. At times like that we need the saints more than ever before, and it's their responsibility to bear the burden (I Cor. 12:26, Gal. 6:2). I'm very thankful to be able to testify for the saints, that they did just that: the local congregation was faithful in fasting, calling, and visiting. Several from out of state who were aware of my condition called or sent cards, and, of course, assured us of their prayers. Those prayers reached the throne, and their thoughtfulness and concern will be long remembered.

I can distinctly remember the times I felt a witness of marked improvement. One Saturday evening I was visited by a number of the local saints, and some sang several songs for my encouragement. The one song that particularly rang in my heart was, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord." That song was the prayer of my heart, and I was determined to let God have His way with my body. I felt very confident that it was His will to heal me, and I can truthfully say that not once was I ever fearful of the outcome, nor did I ever doubt the power of God in my behalf. That night marked the turning point for the better. Little by little I began to improve, Satan fighting every inch of the way, but he was constantly losing ground. A signal victory came one morning after a night filled with pain. The day before, I had written down a number of Scripture promises relating to divine physical healing. That night when the pain started in again I just decided I would fight the battle myself without waking any of the household. I was determined to resist the enemy with all the strength and ammunition I could muster, and gain a victory. I began quoting Scripture and standing firm on God's eternal Word. The one verse that I particularly stood on was Matt. 8:17. Jesus bore my sicknesses on the cross, and my physical healing was provided for in the atonement. The pain still persisted, but so did I. I

knew there was power in the Word, and I refused to be discouraged by my feelings or to accept defeat. I began thanking God for healing before I could actually feel it, because I knew it belonged to me as a part of my inheritance. Praise God, the next morning the pain left and the soreness began moving out of my body, too! Not one night since have I been kept awake with stomach pains. When God heals, He does a perfect work.

After the pain was gone, I was left in a very weakened state and felt nearly drugged. I was very slow in gaining my strength back, and after awhile I realized I would have to resist weakness the same as I had the pain. So, even though I didn't look or feel totally healed, I began to activate my faith again and act like I was, anyway. I began by dressing in street clothes each morning rather than staying in night clothes. Then, each morning I began taking short walks, each day walking a little farther than the day before. Also, little by little, other foods were being added to my diet that I was unable to eat when at my worst. Each new step I took in faith brought the desired results. Within approximately one and one-half to two weeks I was back on my feet and able to care for myself. "What a mighty God we serve!"

May I encourage those who are in the furnace of affliction to obey God's Word and trust His power. He is well able to deliver, and just as willing when we meet the conditions His Word demands. Divine physical healing did not die with the disciples and apostles of long ago, but belongs to the Church of God of today (Heb. 13:8). He is just the same today. Praise His holy name forever! And to those skeptics who are full of arguments and ask, "What would you do if you got appendicitis?" let me answer, "Trust God fully. He heals without ever making an incision, and there's no scar or side effects!" I know, because He did it for me.

Saints and friends, God is still in the healing business. I never took one pill or the first dose of any kind of medication, nor did I place myself in the hands of an earthly physician. God alone diagnosed my case and provided the remedy. Praise God, I am healed!

In the Master's service, standing in the old paths,
—Margie Sallee

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Sis. Marie and Bro. Lawrence: . . . Trusting you dear ones are well and encouraged to work and labor in His service, that many precious souls will be saved, as the Word goes forth through the printed page. We trust and pray that the Lord will reveal truth and light to every honest soul.

I thank the dear Lord for the way He has so wonderfully blessed my soul and encouraged my heart to keep pressing on in this strait and narrow way. I surely do thank the Lord for the one true way. My desire is to live closer to the Lord and have greater victory in 1980 than ever before. I love the Lord with all my heart and am so glad I can trust Him for both soul and body. I had an affliction the

past few weeks—an allergy of some kind breaking out on my legs. It would itch and sting, but I'm so glad the Lord came to my rescue and healed me. I had quite a test of faith. I have been having some trouble with my sinuses. Old folks have trouble that they didn't have in their younger life. My trust is in the Lord, and I need your prayers. . . .

—Sis. Audrey Baumgartner

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

Texas—I am still saved, sanctified and living for the Lord. "Jesus has been so good to me. No other friend so kind could be."

I've had a cold now for over a week, but it's better, thanks to the good Lord. I have had some dizziness lately. I need your prayers for soul and body. I surely want to be as a bride adorned for her husband when Jesus comes in glory to receive His Bride that is pure and spotless, and without blame.

May the good Lord keep you in the center of His will and bless the Word in the booklets and tracts that are sent forth, is my prayer. . . .

—Sis. Nellie Lovell

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

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: . . . I am thankful for salvation and for its many benefits. I love the Lord and want to love Him more, for He has done so much for me. There is not anything back in the life of sin that I desire. As the song says, "The longer I serve Him the sweeter He grows." I know I'm unworthy of His love and blessings, but that is what makes it sweeter, because He yet loves me and hears and answers prayer. His love is what draws us to Him. Who couldn't love and want to serve Him?

We surely desire your prayers. . . .

—Kenneth, Virgie, and Kevin Flynn

—————o—————

From the Mail Box . . .

Michigan—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We truly love the Lord with our whole heart, and desire to please Him with our lives.

It was good to be in Guthrie once again. We truly appreciate the blessed privilege of being in service and hearing the good messages to stir our souls to a deeper walk with God. Of course, it's always good to be with the saints and visit. . . .

Your Sister in Christ, —Dorothy Wilkins

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

Tenn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings of love and appreciation to each of you for your continued efforts in the Lord's work there at the Publishing House. May the Spirit of truth guide, direct, and keep you encouraged in this new year of 1980. We enjoy the paper, Sunday school lessons, tracts, etc., very much. . . .

As you have stated, things and people of this world are in a terrible condition, so deep in sin, greed, selfishness, violence, crime, murder, and the like, and many calling such acts in the name of their god or religion. It surely is time for us, the

people and Church of God, to pray much, not only for ourselves, but also for all mankind, and much for our leaders who have such awesome responsibilities in these perilous times. Christ is the answer, and He will bless, honor, and lead everyone in the way that's good, safe, holy, righteous, peaceful, and lovable if we'll seek Him with all our heart, put Him first and keep self out of the way. I'm thankful there's always a way out of evil, a solution to any problem when taken to Him in faith and humble obedience. He's a refuge and shelter to every child of God.

May God richly bless and encourage each of you, and give healing to you, Bro. Lawrence. We appreciate your continued faith and trust. I'm sure the Lord is pleased and honored by it. . . .

Christian love,

—Charles B. Williams

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

Ohio—. . . You have been so faithful in sending me the wonderful paper *Faith and Victory*, which has been a real blessing to me. It seems each time I get it, there's always at least one article that's just meant for me. I look forward to getting it, and would not want to be without it. I would appreciate you sending me a bundle of them each month, as I feel impressed to get them to my friends and many others I meet, as I'm in the public a lot and meet many people. . . .

—Nora Beckwith

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

N. Mexico—. . . I am thanking and praising God for all His goodness and mercy to me in every way. I had a sick spell which seemed to be the flu. I hurt in my chest. I never experienced it before, and I was very weak. After the hurting, I had fainting spells, but the good Lord brought me through it so well. I feel so very thankful to my dear Lord. . . .

I trust every one of you are well and very happy in God's service.

Christian love,

—Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We send greetings of love in His Name who died for us that we might be made one in Him. Oh, how we do appreciate the family of God.

We just came in from prayer meeting awhile ago and were reflecting on how anxiously we wait for each one of the saints to come in the door. Everyone is precious, and we want them all to be blessed. It is a blessing for them to be together, pray together, and sing the songs of Zion together, and be filled with love one for the other. That attitude is so foreign to the world where selfishness, greed, and hatred are so prominent. No wonder the song writer looked with anticipation to that glorious day when we will all be gathered together over there to ever dwell in His holy presence with all of His dear children forever. Thank the Lord!

We are still interested in the gospel by the printed page, and feel sure that only the Judgment will reveal the good that has been done through that means. We pray for you often that He will sustain

you by His free grace and grant you the strength and courage you need to continue on. Be strong and of a good courage, for soon the conflict will be over and the final victory won.

I firmly believe the coming of the Lord is drawing nigh. In former generations, when evil would get out of hand in a locality, the Lord could deal with it on a local level and spare the rest, but wickedness is so worldwide now until a local effort would be of no avail. May the Lord help us to do all we can to salvage every one we can before it is too late.

Please remember us when you pray, as we also want to endure unto the end. —Clifford W. Wilson

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

La.—... May the dear Lord bless you one and all as you labor to get the gospel out by the printed page. I do thank the Lord, and appreciate the way the truth has been held up all these years since Bro. Fred Pruitt started the work, and since his death, up to the present time. May it continue to go on and on without compromising the truth, is my prayer.

The world conditions are getting so bad, being brought on by sin and wickedness, that we don't know how much more time we will have for the printing work or any public worship, so we need to appreciate and make use of what time we do have.

—Mrs. A. E. Flynn

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

Okla.—... Greetings of love to all in the precious name of Jesus, the name we love because He first loved us. . . .

We serve a mighty God and we know He is still on His throne and still answers prayer. May God help us to pray more earnestly and believe He hears us, and if we know He hears us, we know we have the petition we desire of Him. Praise His dear name for ever more!

I surely enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory*. I usually read it through before I stop, when we get it. May the Lord bless you every one, is my prayer.

Love and prayers, —Emma L. Dilley

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

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: . . . I am well in soul and body and looking for the soon coming of our Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus, who said He would come again in the clouds and take us home to be with Him forever in the Glory World. . . .

I am feeling well at the age of 93, thanks to my Lord and Saviour who does all things well! Winter has set in at last with its ice and snow. It is 15 degrees below zero this morning.

"Jesus has been so good to me. From this world He set me free." Praise His name!

—Bro. Andrew Senti

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

Ohio—Dear Bro. Lawrence: . . . Jesus is our healer, our burden bearer, and a refuge in every time of need. We still are asking the Lord to heal you and all the saints that are trusting God for their healing.

We enjoy receiving the *Faith and Victory* paper. Please keep it coming our way. It helps us to know

more about God and His saints. Its messages are food for our soul.

I thank God for the big family of God. There are a lot of ways out there in the world, but God, our Father, has but one way. I am truly thankful for how I was led to know the family of God. I am really sorry for those who once knew the old-time way, and then left it for another way. . . . Oh, may they turn back to the old way before it is too late.

Do remember us in your prayers as we do remember all of you. —Bro. Rufus Perry and family

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

Ohio—Dear Mr. Pruitt: I get several papers besides the *Faith and Victory*. Among these are *The Way of Truth*, *The Gospel Trumpeter*, and *Vital Christianity*. Of all these, I believe you people are the closest to what the Bible teaches. There is too much worldliness and division among the so-called Church of God. God has a people for His name and they are the only ones that He will recognize. . . .

—Theodore Kelzenberg

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

Fla.—Dear saints: We send greetings of love in the name of our dear Savior, whose name means more to us today than ever before. Surely He is worthy of all praise and honor for His faithful dealings, precious blessings, and for what He is in Himself. . . .

We're encouraged in God, appreciating more the Church of God, His people, against which the very gates of hell shall not prevail, though it comes against it with all its power. Our triumphant Lord Jesus has seen to that. Praise His name!

I trust this finds all of you looking upward, for our redemption draws nigh. Our love and prayers are to and for all the household of faith.

—Sis. Bonnie and Bro. Jackie Riley

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

Zion Forever Stands

I love the gates of Zion;

Her foundation is secure.

She's high above the works of man,
And she'll evermore endure.

She'll stand the blasts of Satan's host,
And onward she will go.

Triumphant she will stand for truth
While men their scorn will show.

She's pure and holy through the blood,
Contending for the right.

Press on, don't falter, or look back
For heaven's shore's in sight.

The crown of life is waiting there
For all who'll faithful be,

And there we'll see our Savior's face
Through all eternity.

—Earl L. Sharp

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