

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

(USPS184-660)

Church of God Servant



Volume 58, No. 6

58th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35c Per Year

September, 1980

Law of Bondage and Law of Liberty



Upon the mount of Sinai
 God spoke in thund'ring tones,
 And gave to Moses, while so nigh,
 His law engraved on stones.

How precious were those stones to show
 To man his wrong and sin;
 But yet no farther did it go
 To make him pure within.

"Thou shalt do this," and "Thou shalt not"—
 Man's heart condemned became,
 Because the pow'r of sinful blot
 Remained in him the same.

An effort to conform and yield
 Became frustrated ends;
 The flesh proved an unfruitful field
 For God's divine amends.

And many years of darkness passed,
 But hope was shining, too:
 The coming of the Christ was cast
 Upon man's eager view.

A new and better hope was given:
 A written law within,
 When Jesus Christ, the Son of Heaven,
 Was sacrificed for sin.

His risen life and quick'ning power
 Gave what the law did fail;
 The Holy Spirit's fresh'ning shower
 Helped man to thus prevail.

Not written on the stones His law
 But deep within the heart,
 Inspiring with devotion's awe
 And grace abounding's part.

Thank God for vict'ry over sin,
 His holiness bestowed:
 A law, a life without, within
 To guide us on life's road.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Holy Quietness

"In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength." (Isa. 30:15) In these days we do not need so much to pray that God may lessen the power of evil forces that are in the world, as we need to pray that He may give us power to overcome them. Strength of soul is what is needed. That strength of soul that will enable us to lie quietly, calmly, restfully in the hand of the Lord amid all the disquieting circumstances of life is what the Christian needs, and it is what we can have. To lie still, not exert one effort of our own, to not make the faintest struggle, is the great secret of victory, and one of the highest attainments of the Christian life. When we are misunderstood, when evil reports are circulated about us, to lie still and let God be our defense is real strength. Nothing so strengthens the inward man as quietness, because nothing is more difficult to possess. The more difficult the task, the more strength is required in its accomplishment. Quietness of soul comes only by perfect reliance upon God. "Oh, be still, thou soul of mine." We had the opportunity of having splendid exercise in this direction recently.

In Isa. 30:7, we have the thought expressed, as in the text which we have quoted above. "Their strength is to sit still." In their struggle against the invaders, the Jewish rulers had sought an alliance with Egypt. This greatly displeased God. He longs to fight our battles for us, but cannot do so except we cease our own struggling and rely fully upon Him. It is sad to look on and see professed followers of Christ endeavoring to carry on the work of the Lord by their own efforts, human inventions, and methods, and by making alliances with the world. In verse 18 of this same chapter, we are told that God is waiting to be gracious unto us. God longs to show us His favor and to be gracious unto us, but, oh, how long He often has to wait until we cease our own efforts and cease seeking help from some source outside of Himself. God must needs wait until we come to the end of ourselves, until we realize our utter helplessness, and fully trust and rely upon Him. God's help for man lies beyond the point of man's self-reliance. Confidence in and perfect trust and reliance upon the Lord is the

secret of calmness, rest, and holy quietness, and these result in great strength of soul. This is the way to honor the God whom we profess to love.

Soul, remember that quietness and sedateness do not come through the removing of trials, nor with the surrounding of ourselves with more favorable circumstances, or through being showered with the smiles of men, but through full reliance upon God! He can give us holy stillness of soul, calmness, and rest in the midst of trials and adverse circumstances. Those who have learned to lie still and wait on God have assurance of constant victory. They are the people who do exploits and bring greatest honor to God. To exalt the Name of the Lord, we must let Him reveal His power through us. We rob God of honor when we send to Egypt for help.

How shameful, how God-dishonoring are the alliances many professors of Christianity are making with the world in their efforts to carry on the work of the Lord. They have become blind, or have lost their vision of God. They are walking in their own ways. They are increasing their members, may be getting the favor of man, may be erecting costly church edifices, may be thinking they are getting rich, but they do not know that they have left God and are poor, miserable, naked, and blind.

Trust, O my brother, not in horses and chariots, but in the living God if you would have inward strength and to conquer in all conflicts of life. "The stillness of heaven within me I feel, when low at the cross of my Jesus I kneel."

—C. E. Orr

(Selected for publication by Mrs. Paul Slifer.)

Locked In

Years ago, there lived a man who preached the gospel. He came to a city where people opposed him. Soon a riot occurred. This man was taken from the mob, bound with chains, put in prison, and had a number of trials. In his last trial, he was told that nothing could be found to hold him a prisoner, but because he had appealed to the highest court, he would be sent there. While in prison, awaiting his last trial, he did not murmur nor complain. He looked past those prison walls which confined him, and saw Jesus Christ, the One whom he loved and was obeying. He saw the men who put him into prison only as instruments through which God had caused it to come to pass. He summed it up and said, "... I, Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ ..." (Eph. 3:1). He was locked in by Jesus Christ.

Is there a believing husband who comes home to a dirty house, no hot meal waiting, and finds the wife curled up reading a magazine? Maybe he finds himself left to care for the children, while his wife goes out for the evening to a social affair, where she is receiving attention from men of the world. Is he "locked" into many different situations, which he feels he cannot change? Can he look away from those walls of confinement and see Jesus? Can he resist every thought of just walking out and leaving it all to

her? Does he not know that he is obeying the Lord who has said, "... If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away?" (1 Cor. 7:12) Locked in? Oh, yes, he is tied by the Word of God. Then what is the answer? "I ... [am] the prisoner of Jesus Christ." What a different color the situation takes on when he looks at it in this way. Oh, yes, all of those touches of sorrow, grief, frustration, and the many circumstances are only to bring him into the form of his Lord and Saviour. This is the highest and noblest life he can have in this world. Only when he looks away from the circumstances can his soul really know the love of God in its richness, and in its comforting, satisfying completeness. Praise God! As the man looks up, he can begin to praise God for his children, for a house to live in, for a wife that he can still have the privilege to woo and try to help desire to do differently.

Is there a believing wife whose husband drinks, curses, and abuses her and the children in various ways? Yet when he is sober he loves her and does not want to leave her. Or maybe he doesn't drink, but abuses her in being ugly, uncooperative, critical, nagging; holds over her a fear of spending any money, or just outright declares, "I am the head of this house!" He forgets that he is to love his wife as his own body. He has forgotten that she is to be a "help meet for him," not a slave. He has forgotten that he is to protect, cherish, and consider her feelings as his own. The believing wife might have a husband who doesn't feel he has to provide for her or to see that her needs are met, and she has to go out to work. There are many situations that a wife can be "locked" into. Many times she can be overwhelmed with difficulties, trials, and emergencies. She, too, might be tempted to walk out and leave it all, but she hears the Word of God speaking to her, which says, "And the woman which hath a husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him." (1 Cor. 7:13) What then is she locked into? Those walls of confinement are there from the Lord, so she can look up and say, "I ... [am] a prisoner of Jesus Christ." Oh, she can lose sight of the things around her and place all of her needs over against the riches of Jesus Christ, and draw heavily from the channel and great source above her. The glory can come right down from heaven into her very soul, and a song will spring up. New grace will flood her soul, as she faces each day with its trials.

Is there a believing young person in the home who feels that his parents are too strict? He may long to try his own "wings" and "fly" away. He feels that he is confined to the walls of circumstances that try the soul. He longs to get up and leave it all, but he hears the Word of God saying, "Obey your parents." He is locked in and confined, but he looks up and says, "I ... [am] a prisoner of Jesus Christ." Oh, that will help him (or her) to keep still, stop being so restless, and give God a chance to work in his life.

The very trials that threaten to overcome him with discouragement and disaster, will become God's opportunity for the revelation of His grace and glory in his life, as he has never known before. Things change when we combine humility and trust, and say, "Not my will, but Thine be done." We are only as strong in God to the degree that *self* is brought under subjection to God and His Word. Struggling brings defeat, but when we submit, then peace will reign in our souls.

Maybe a companion, daughter, or son is locked into the confinement of caring for a sick invalid who may be the father, mother, or companion. They are locked in four walls. At times, there may be a longing for freedom from the sameness of each day, that grinds on the nerves. "Oh, for a change," the person cries out! "Will it never end?" Then the Word of God comes and says, "... If any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." (1 Tim. 5:8) Oh, yes, he wants to "provide for his own." He does love and care for those dear to his heart. But he needs something to help him do it. He then says, "I ... [am] the prisoner of Jesus Christ." With Jesus in the room, and being in His will and order, brings a calmness and a peace that makes the duty light and fills the heart with gladness. "If we suffer with Him, we will also reign with Him."

Are you locked into a job, a duty, an affliction, an obligation, a debt, or a promise? Look up and be glad that you are locked in with Jesus, the Lover of your soul. Sing the song of praise, and even the shadows of the four walls will flee away and they will take on different hues, which brings peace, joy, and comfort to the soul.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Is the Antichrist Coming Soon?

The New Testament has several warnings about the antichrist, so we don't need to be in the dark about who he is or when he will appear. He was working in the day of Christ and the apostles, and he is working now, and will continue working until the end of time.

Some folks are looking for a half-man, half-animal body to appear, but dear ones, he works through no other body except bodies like ours, and in whomever will let him. Anyone who opposes any Bible truth is antichrist. I am speaking of people who have seen truth, and light has shined on their pathway. If they deny it, oppose it, and refuse it, they are activated by the spirit of antichrist. The Word and the Spirit of God agree, and if we have a belief or a doctrine that does not correspond with the Word of God, we know who is wrong, as the Word is forever settled in heaven. Matt. 24:24 is one good reference.

I have heard people say that the antichrist would appear in the "millennium," but since the Bible doesn't give any room or time for a millennium, I can't believe that. Read 2 Peter 3:10. John tells us that anyone who didn't believe Christ is come in the flesh was antichrist. Almost everyone will agree

that He came in the flesh by the virgin birth, but not many will agree that He lives in the flesh now and has since Pentecost. He lives in His body—"the Church." Malachi 3:1 prophesied of His coming to His temple suddenly, and isn't that what happened at Pentecost? Jesus told the disciples that the Father would send the Comforter in His (Christ's) name. Read St. John 14:16-28.

If you wonder where the antichrist came from, read 1 John, chapter two, carefully. Read and digest verses 18 and 19, and you will find that they came out from among the believers of that day. Neither the world, nor the gates of hell can prevail against the Church, but let that little root of bitterness spring up, and many are defiled. Remember, it was the religious people of that day who killed Christ. Religion and salvation are not the same thing.

—Effie Ray

PRAYER POWER

By J. Hudson Taylor

A young man had been called to the foreign field. He had not been in the habit of preaching, but he knew one thing—how to prevail with God. Going to a friend one day he remarked, "I don't see how God could use me on the field. I have no special talent."

"Brother," his friend said, "God wants men on the field who can pray. There are too many preachers and too few pray-ers." The young man went.

In his room in the early dawn we heard a voice weeping and pleading for souls. All through the day the closed door and the hush that prevailed made us feel like walking softly, for a soul was wrestling with God.

To this man's home hungry souls would flock, drawn by some irresistible Power. In the morning hours one would call and say: "I have gone by your house many times and have longed to come in. Will you tell me how I can be saved?" or from some distant place another would call saying, "I heard you would tell us here how we might find heart-rest."

The mystery was unlocked. In the secret chamber the young missionary pled for souls and claimed them. The Holy Ghost knew just where these souls were, and sent them along. If all who read these lines would thus lay hold on God, with the holy violence and unconquerable perseverance of faith-filled prayer, a good many things would give way, against which we have been beating in vain with our puny human wisdom and power.

The prayer power, I believe, has never been tried to its full capacity in any church. If we want to see mighty wonders of divine grace and power wrought in place of weakness, failure, and disappointment, let the whole church answer God's challenge in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

"O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"

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. (USPS184-660)

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year.....\$.35
Single copy, three years.....\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year.....\$1.00

Write for prices on larger quantities.

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

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: Separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service 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; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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

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EDITORIALS



CHRISTIAN GREETINGS TO OUR READERS:

According to our usual policy, this paper was not published for the month of August, which allowed time for our faithful co-workers and all of us to attend campmeetings or make trips in July and August. However, activity more than usual continued here at the Lord's Print Shop throughout the summer. The mail was taken care of, and the orders for gospel literature were filled almost every work-day.

Quantities of gospel tracts, papers, and booklets were sent or else taken to various campmeetings and tent meetings for free distribution. Also, through the year, thousands of pages of English, Spanish, German, and Philippine gospel literature have been processed, printed, and mailed out free of charge, or at cost, to distributors and readers in this country and overseas. Your freewill contributions have made this literature ministry possible, and thereby you are laying up treasures in heaven, as Jesus commanded, where they will never fade away.

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Our co-workers are back from the campmeetings and trips, and are again busy in their respective departments in the office and shop, printing and mailing out the gospel literature. "The Beautiful Way" paper and the "Bible Lessons" for the fourth quarter of 1980 are in preparation for the press, as well as this September issue of "Faith and Victory."

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Congratulations to our co-workers, Bob and Irma Gayle Sallee, on the birth of their fourth child, a daughter named Angela Dawn, who arrived about dawn on July 20, 1980.

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The 43rd National campmeeting of the Church of God, held on the campground at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, closed on July 27th with victory in every phase in this centennial anniversary year of the Church of God restoration movement in this "evening time" of the gospel day. In spite of the extended heat wave in this area, the meeting was well attended from over this country and some from Canada. However, the attendance was not as large as that of last year. The Executive Officer of the Church placed the ministers in the pulpit as it pleased Him, gave the message, and sent forth His Word with power and holy anointing. Numbers surrendered to the conviction of the Spirit, sought and found the joy of salvation, believers were sanctified, and others received spiritual and physical help at the altar of prayer. God again met with His people in a special way on the old campground. Believers partook of the ordinance of water baptism. The ordinances of the Lord's House—feet-washing and the Lord's Supper—were observed by a large group of happy saints, fulfilling the words of Jesus which read, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." John 13:17.

In the business meeting, plans were laid to make some major improvements on the campground, if the Lord wills, before another campmeeting.

Our Bible Book Store was open on the grounds where Bibles, songbooks, and other gospel literature were made available to those in attendance. It was our pleasure to meet many of our readers whom we had known before, as well as a number of new people who were there for their first time.

The date of the National campmeeting next year was set for July 24 to August 2, 1981.

Bro. and Sister John Varghese, native missionaries in India, were present and participated in the campmeeting. It was a pleasure to have these gospel workers from that faraway land at this annual gathering of God's people. On Sunday, July 27, they boarded the plane at Tulsa, Okla., for their return trip to their homeland after having participated in several campmeetings across this country for about two months. May God bless and prosper their efforts in that vast foreign field.

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Books Recently Off the Press . . .

"The Hero of Hill House" by Mabel Hale. A very interesting true story, this book consists of 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00 each, plus 65c for postage and handling.

"Food For Lambs" by C. E. Orr, in the English language. This book in the German language is also in stock at this office. This English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each, plus 65c for postage and handling.

"Evening Light Church of God Mission Work in South India" by Dorothy Keiser, is a brief history of the gospel work in India and her observations on her recent trip there. It also shows the spiritual and financial needs of that great mission field. This booklet consists of 56 pages, including 18 pictures, in a heavy paper cover. Sister Keiser paid the cost of printing, and she is offering a copy to anyone for a contribution in any amount to the mission work in India. Many of these books were passed out at the various campmeetings. This book is still available from Sis. Dorothy Keiser, R. 6, Box 10, Shawnee, Okla. 74801, or here at the Office on the same basis. If you want a book mailed to you, the cost of postage and handling is 50c, plus your contribution to the gospel work in India.

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On August 18, the Christian Path of Life school here in Guthrie began its third year of operation with 22 students enrolled. The pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, is the principal. Pray the Lord to continue His blessings upon this worthy effort to keep the saints' children under this Christian influence in their formative years, and that every spiritual and temporal need will be supplied. Pray also that the Lord will give special wisdom, grace, and courage to the teachers and administrators who are using their time and effort in this worthy cause. Bro. Wayne

Murphey is the treasurer for the school, whose address is 1210 W. Noble, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

Pray for the other Christian schools which have started or are scheduled to open this year at Springfield, Mo., Goulds, Fla., and Loranger, La.

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What Sin Is Reproved by the Holy Spirit?

Jesus said to His disciples, "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove [margin: convince] the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they believe not on me." John 16:7-9. Did the Holy Spirit come in this dispensation primarily to convince the world of mankind of the sin of lying, stealing, murder, and all that catalog of sins? No, the text states that the first and foremost sin is that of unbelief, that of refusing to believe on Jesus Christ, or that of rejecting His shed blood for the remission of their sins. The acceptance of Jesus' blood for atonement would blot out all other sins, but that way is totally blocked until the sinner believes the good news of salvation through Christ. There is no deliverance from sin by any other name or means.

This act of believing on Jesus is more than a mere head or intellectual belief, but it means a heart belief with true godly sorrow and repentance for sin to the extent that the sinner is made a new creature in Christ by the miracle of the new birth. The Apostle Paul wrote: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Romans 10:10.

Sinner friend, Jesus stands at your heart's door seeking admittance, and anxiously waiting for you to open the door. Come while He is calling lest He leave you bound eternally in the sin of unbelief!

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"If we meet and you forget me, you have lost nothing; but if you meet Jesus Christ and forget Him, you have lost everything."

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Another shipment of 10,000 pounds of printing paper at the cost of \$4,310.11 was received at the Lord's Print Shop in July. The order for this mill shipment was placed last January, so it takes about six months to get delivery on an order.

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With thanks and praise to the Lord, this writer is pleased to testify that in the midst of affliction and pain He continues to give me strength and courage to work long hours each day in this gospel literature ministry. Though the furnace of affliction appears to be more severe, my faith is still anchored in Christ's atonement for my healing, and I mean to hold up the shield of faith until the victory is won. It is said of faithful Abraham, "Who against hope believed in hope," and that he "was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Rom. 4:18, 20. Pray that my faith fail not, for faith is the victory. Praise God!

Our sincere appreciation is extended to our dear readers who have so faithfully co-operated with us in their prayers and financial support in helping to keep the gospel going out by the printed page in all directions, as we endeavor to hold up all the Bible truth as it has been taught and practiced by the "evening light" Church of God for the past one hundred years. Be assured that "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love which ye have shewed toward his name." —L. D. Pruitt

In Memorial

Sis. Dazella Bell (Dennis) Taylor, daughter of Delpha Ann and Joseph Dennis, was born July 25, 1902, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She departed this life June 17, 1980, in Pacoima, California, at the age of 77 years, 10 months, and 22 days.

She was united in marriage to Thomas R. Taylor on March 18, 1922. To this union, two daughters were born.

In 1940, she attended services at the Church of God in Springfield, Missouri, and came out into the full light of the gospel. Her holy life led her husband and one daughter to the Lord. She exercised great faith in God to the end.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her beloved husband; her daughters, Mrs. Joan Johnson of Quapaw, Oklahoma, and Mrs. Thomasene Pierro of Paradise, California; one sister, three granddaughters, one grandson, nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

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Amelia Mae (Nash) Ligons was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma, to George and Zetta (Gray) Nash on July 28, 1916, and departed this life on July 7, 1980, at the age of 63 years, 11 months and 7 days.

On November 18, 1933, she was united in marriage to James A. Ligon. To this union ten children were born.

She was saved while still a young woman. After her conversion, she quickly embraced the truth. She was a faithful saint. Her hands were never idle. She was always available to work in any capacity. She was faithful to visit and pray with the sick and shut-ins, and always gave comfort and help when needed. She was a Sunday school teacher, and a cook at Hoffman, Okla., for over twenty years. She was a tower of strength to those who confided in her. Proverbs 31:10-28 portrays her life beautifully. She was a gentle, kind, and devoted saint, wife, and mother. She had unwavering faith and trust in God for body and soul to the end.

She is survived by her husband, James Ligon of Hoffman, Ok.; one sister, Geneva Bruner, of Akron, Ohio; one brother, Hiram Nash, of Hoffman, Ok.; seven daughters, Mrs. Loretha Johnson, Mrs. Juliann Stone, Mrs. Wynema Clay, and Mrs. Goletha Francisco of California, Mrs. Jo Ann Gresham and

Mrs. Zenobia Willis of Tulsa, Ok., and Mrs. Izetta McCray of Wichita, Ks.; three sons, William Ligon of San Jose, Calif., Donald Ligon of Wichita, Ks., and Marcus Ligon of Tulsa, Ok.; 25 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and a number of other relatives.

Funeral services were conducted at the Church of God chapel in Hoffman, Oklahoma, by Bro. Woodrow Warren, assisted by Bro. Lewis Williams and Sis. Kathryn Williams. Interment was in Hawkins Cemetery at Hoffman, Oklahoma.

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Forrest S. Norcutt was born Nov. 25, 1904, in Bolivar, Mo., and departed this life July 30, 1980, at the age of 75 years, 8 months, and 5 days.

He lived in the Fort Scott, Kansas, area for 45 years. He moved to Shawnee, Okla., in 1971.

On November 2, 1972, he was united in marriage to Sis. Mae Belcher. He was a good husband, father, and grandfather, and a very patient man in his heavy and lengthy trial of affliction.

Survivors include his wife, Mae Norcutt; one stepson and daughter-in-law, Richard and Karen Belcher; three stepdaughters and sons-in-law, Ruby and Derrill Smith, Rada and Robert Hull, Eula and Curtis Edwards; three sisters, Mamie Norcutt, Naomi McNeal, and Ora Wentworth, and ten step-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Gordon Cooper Drive Church of God, Shawnee, Okla., officiated by Bro. Charles R. Smith and assisted by Bro. Orie Young. Interment was in Johnson Cemetery.

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Ruth Rachael Turner was born in Rockwell, Texas, on August 5, 1907, and departed this life on June 29, 1980, at Glendale, Calif., at the age of 72 years.

Sister Turner dedicated her life to God at an early age, displaying the attributes of Christ whom she loved and served as her Lord and Saviour.

Her husband preceded her in death.

She leaves to cherish her memory: one daughter, Lois Green; four sons, Truman, Arlie, Darrel, and Eddie; her mother, Essie Wilson; 16 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Pacoima, Calif., with Sister Mary Lawson officiating. Interment was in Valhalla Memorial Park in North Hollywood, Calif.

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Edith Bell Wittenborn was born Nov. 17, 1891, at Lincoln, Nebraska, and went home to be with the Lord on June 19, 1980, at Pacoima, Calif., at the age of 88 years.

On Jan. 9, 1910, she was united in marriage with August George Wittenborn. To this union eight children were born—four daughters and four sons. Two of the daughters, Delilah and Ethel, and one son, Eldred, preceded her in death. Her husband also preceded her in death on Feb. 12, 1962.

Edith was converted to Christ when a young woman, and loved and served Him for many years. She died in the faith that she lived in, and was

faithful unto death. She has now entered into rest with the Lord, whom she loved and served, and has received the crown of life which He promised to all the faithful. She was a member of the Church of God congregation of Pacoima for about forty years, and was much loved and appreciated among them. She was very faithful in her church attendance and in her Christian duties. I was her pastor for many years and appreciated having her in my congregation. A congregation with all members like her would be a joy to any pastor. She will be much missed among her friends, in the church, and most of all, in her family.

She is survived by two daughters, Alberta Wyckoff of Cupertino, California, and Evelyn Wilson of Albany, Oregon; three sons, Chester of Modesto, California, Melvin of Merced, California, and Byron of Delaware, Oklahoma; 22 grandchildren and 52 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the Noble Mortuary in San Fernando, California, on June 24, with Ostis B. Wilson officiating. Scripture readings were Proverbs 31:10-28 and Revelation 7:9-17. Interment was in the Oakwood Memorial Park in Chatsworth, California.

—Ostis B. Wilson

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Charles Stanford Fuller was born March 6, 1924, in Akron, Ohio, to Charles James and Rose Fuller. He departed this life June 19, 1980, at the age of 56 years and 3 months.

In 1948, he was united in marriage to LaDolia Chaney. To this union five children were born. Mark Stephen preceded him in death.

"C.S.," a quiet and gentle man, was a loving husband and father. During his many hours of agonizing pain, and even as the outer man was perishing, the inner man was so renewed that he left this testimony: "I'll be glad for the Lord to take me, and I'll go to a place where there is no pain."

Deeply saddened by his passing are his wife, LaDolia; his children, Keith Allen, Francine Hobbs, Charles Courtney, and Diane Denise; his mother, Rose Fuller; three brothers, six sisters, seven grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lewis Williams, assisted by others. Interment was in Mount Peace Cemetery.

Note of Thanks

The Fuller family deeply appreciates your kind expressions of sympathy.

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IN LOVING MEMORY OF LOWELL BOWERS

The family of Chalmer Bowers has made an offering to this gospel literature ministry in loving memory of Lowell Bowers, who departed this life to be with the Lord on June 24, 1980. Interment was in Muncie Cemetery near Wheaton, Mo. Born on Dec. 2, 1907, Lowell adhered only to the one true Church of God which Jesus built. His deceased parents, Charles and Artie Bowers, were both ministers in the Church of God.

—Editor

MISSOURI STATE CAMPMEETING REPORT

We are thankful to report that the Missouri State Campmeeting held at Myrtle, Mo., July 28 to Aug. 4, was one of great victory. A sweet spirit of unity and love prevailed. The meeting was well attended by many saints from across the nation. Services were held under the new tabernacle, which proved to be a great blessing in accommodating the large crowd. The singing was heavenly, and the Word went forth with power and anointing. Many souls sought and obtained help at the altar of prayer, while others recognized their need, but failed to put in for it. We trust the Spirit of God will continue to deal with them.

The saints were edified and enriched in their souls. We appreciate the showers of refreshing blessing God has poured out on our souls once again, and trust each one will not be a forgetful hearer, but will profit by the Word which was preached.

Indebtedness on Tabernacle

The new tabernacle recently constructed on the Missouri State Campgrounds proved to be a great blessing to the saints in the recent campmeeting. We are all thankful for what God has provided. The attendance had so far out-grown the seating capacity of the chapel that it would have been almost impossible to have had services in it this year, so God has been timely in His provision. We would like to report that the indebtedness on the tabernacle, which was \$6000 at the beginning of the campmeeting, has now been reduced to \$4000. We appreciate how God is providing financially and believe He will continue to do so. Those who feel led of the Lord to contribute to this cause may send their contributions to Sis. Carol Sorrell, Rt. 1 Box 116, Myrtle, Mo. 65778, or to Bro. Donald Sharp, Rt. 1, Myrtle, Mo. 65778.

—Harlan Sorrell

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FRESNO, CALIF., CAMPMEETING REPORT

The 1980 Church of God campmeeting at Fresno, Calif., has come and gone, leaving us with many precious truths. God's watchmen were faithful to bring us messages, if heeded, that would make us more like Christ our dear Saviour, but if rejected, the dire judgments that will befall us. Many warnings went forth pleading for souls not to let the meeting close and leave them not ready to meet God. The last Sunday morning service was beyond description because the glory of God rested on it so heavily. The Spirit of God fell upon us in such anointing that the altar was filled and emptied several times without any preaching. The shouts and praises lasted for sometime, with testimonies and more altar work. If I remember correctly, there were only two services out of the ten days that we had no altar work. Surely God is doing all He can to get souls ready to meet Him.

We truly thank God for all His blessings to us throughout the meeting, and the saints for their prayers. Our prayer is that all will keep true and faithful to the end.

—Lavern Moles

MISSOURI TENT MEETING REPORT

The Skyline tent meeting on Highway 76 in Missouri has come and gone.

We trust there will be lasting good from this effort. One sister was saved and followed the Lord in baptism. Others, we believe, were convicted of their sins, but did not move out for the Lord. One brother said that he never attended a meeting where more solid gospel truth was preached. May it continue to bear fruit.

We appreciate the ministers who came from a distance to help in this meeting, and also those people who helped in a temporal way. May the Lord bless them richly. —Written for Bro. Egbert Allen Rt. 2, Norwood, Mo.

WISCONSIN CAMPMEETING

You are cordially invited to attend the Church of God campmeeting on Route 1, Shell Lake, Wisconsin, which will be held September 24 to 28, 1980. Come one, come all to the "Vermont" of the upper mid-west—the beautiful northern Wisconsin. Good food, and some dormitory facilities are available. Bring your trailers and campers, and enjoy the Holy Spirit led services.

For further information, phone (715) 468-2798.

—Duane LaVeau

AUTUMN SINGING AND ALL-DAY SERVICES

Lord willing, the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo., will have its annual gospel singing on Sat. night, Oct. 4, 1980, followed by all-day services the next day. We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and be with us. We're looking forward to a rich outpouring from heaven on this weekend, as well as the coming in of the saints. May you come to get a blessing and to be a blessing.

—Harlan Sorrell

Prayer Requests

Mo.—Remember Sis. Mae Smith's son who goes before the parole board in Sept. If it's the Lord's will, they are hoping he will be paroled.

Mo.—"I haven't been able to do much work anymore. I need your prayers. I know my help comes from the Lord." —Jewell Lane

Calif.—"I am writing to request prayer for my body. I am not very well. . . . I am not able to serve others, as I have in years past, but I am on a secret mission. I pray three times a day for missionary work here and abroad, also for the requests in the *Faith and Victory* paper." —Sis. Margaret Hall

Va.—"Pray for both soul and body . . . I have poor circulation, pains in my neck and back."

—Lillian Bohannon

Mich.—"I am not well, but I am some better. Pray that the Lord will heal my body. He has done it many times."

—Lela Stewart

Calif.—"Please pray for my healing. I have a terrible affliction. I suffer greatly."—Opal Williams

Okla.—"Remember me in prayer, as I need healing for my eyes which are very weak, and I have other afflictions."

—Bro. Alex Fields

Let us continue to pray for one another. Surely, we are living in the last days, and the enemy of all souls is working overtime, it seems, trying to discourage and cast down every one he can. But, thank God, we can be "more than conquerors through Christ." So be encouraged and look up. If we look around us or look to people, we will not make it. We will never be discouraged by looking to the Lord. We want to hold our faith steady in God. The Word says, "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself." (2 Tim. 2:13) Our unbelief doesn't affect our Lord. He still has spoken, and it will stand. So it will behoove us to believe and meet His conditions. We will receive, for His promises are true. Praise be to our God who is faithful!

—Sis. A. Marie Miles

MEXICO CAMPMEETING REPORT

Ojos Negros, Baja Cfa., Mexico (July 14)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: We greet you in the precious Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the firm Rock and hope of our salvation, desiring that this finds you with victory over sin and better in health.

We are encouraged in the Lord, giving thanks to Him for salvation and sanctification, the preservation of our lives, and the great blessings poured out on the mission work, principally in the campmeeting held here the first part of July. Nine souls were saved, and five were baptized—three from the area here, one from Valle de la Trinidad, and one from Patzcuaro. Many people attended, and it was a very precious meeting of much encouragement and blessings to all. The three ordinances were observed with the resulting blessings through obeying God's Word. The saints from Pacoima and Bakersfield were in all the campmeeting, as well as those from Mexicali and Valley of the Trinity. I plead special prayer for those who were saved and baptized, and for all the congregation here, especially for those of the Valley. They do not have a pastor, so let us pray for a gospel worker for the Valley. A brother in the Valley is willing to give a lot on which to construct a house of prayer. Also, pray for me that God will help me to visit them in the Valley, in La Huerta, and in Chapultepec, to encourage them in spiritual things. I desire to visit them regularly. May God help us to be diligent workers, approved of God, carrying the flame of light and the message of salvation to the lost.

I thank God that He has helped me in my body. I feel much better than formerly, without any medication. Pray for my family. My wife does not feel well, and my son had a fall. Pray that it will not affect his brain.

I appreciate your prayers much, and your burden and love for souls in Mexico. Thanks for your valu-

able offerings. May God bless each of the saints richly.

Yours in God's service, —Mayarino Escobar

MISSION LETTER FROM INDIA

Kerala, So. India (Aug. 4)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, other dear ones at the Print Shop, and the saints in America: We send our greetings in Christian love to all of you in the most holy name of Jesus Christ, our Intercessor and High Priest.

By the grace of God we reached home safely on the twenty-ninth of July, and we are grateful for your prayers for our safe journey. Now we are busy visiting our congregations in different parts of South India.

We really enjoyed our visit in America, and we have many good memories of the campmeetings and other wonderful experiences. We are thankful to each dear one who contributed freely for the mission work in India. God supplied money to complete the building on our General Convention ground at Karikkom. It will be ready for use by next month. Praise the Lord! Also, the Lord supplied the need for a chapel at Kootarville, a new center, and that chapel building will be ready for use within a few months. Thus, God has helped to fulfill two urgent needs (Nos. 2 and 3) mentioned in the book written by Sister Dorothy Keiser. Praise the Lord! We still need to pray for the need of a Van.

Lord willing, we plan to start a new congregation near Trichur town, which is in north Kerala. Many are coming out of "Babylon."

Words cannot express our gratitude toward the saints in America for what they have done for us. We see everyone through the eyes of prayer. All our co-workers and saints in India are doing well. My wife sends her love to all the dear saints. May God keep us safe under His wings here and there.

We continually pray for your complete healing.
Yours in Christ, —John Varghese

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace. He said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. . . ." John 14:27.

Thank you for your letters dated June 3 and July 1, which came to hand with their contents duly noted.

The basis of reward is not for great accomplishments, but faithfulness. If we would be faithful to God, we must be faithful to His Church. It is His agent in carrying the gospel to a lost and dying world. We must be faithful to God's ministers, who are His chosen vessels, and work hand in hand in the great harvest field of the Lord.

We say amen to the wonderful work of God in our midst in answer to prayer for healing and in adding to His Church souls that have been redeemed from the daughters of Babylon. With the increase in the

membership of the saved, the need to erect a chapel for comfortable assembly of the saints is engaging our attention. This need is more urgent because we may soon be denied the use of the hall where we are now worshipping.

The Lord is being followed wholly with no departure from His divine direction. Caleb, it will be remembered, was one who, with Joshua, wholly followed the Lord in the matter of entering Canaan after the ten spies brought back an evil report (Num. 13:26-33). Our prayer is for daylight in which to accomplish our spiritual battle aims. In the midst of furious battle, Joshua and his forces needed extra daylight to accomplish their battle aims. In response to Joshua's prayer, one of the greatest miracles of the Old Testament was performed. The sun stood still in the midst of heaven for about a whole day (Jos. 10:13). The spiritual battle of our day is more furious, and thank God that through the prayers of the saints, the "sun" is standing still for us to humiliate the enemy of souls in this spiritual warfare.

Praise God for the ordination of Sis. Regina Uka recently as an evangelist. She thus becomes the first sister to be so ordained in Utagba-Ogbe-Kwale congregation. Be perfect as the Lord is perfect, is the constant language of Regina, a saint of spiritual beauty.

Twenty-two believers followed the Lord in water baptism in Ase River at Osemele point, located three miles east of Kwale. The Ethiopian eunuch inquired, "What doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. . . ." Acts 8:36, 37. Men and women who have repented of their sins are qualified for baptism.

Prayers of faith ascend to the Throne on Mondays and Fridays for our Father's touch of your body for complete victory.

Yours in Him,

—Titus U. E. Enu

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Ejido Patzcuaro, Mexico (Aug. 19)—Dear Brethren in Christ: We greet each one of you in the love of Jesus, that name whereby we have access to the riches of heaven.

We would like to tell you that almost every one has returned to our village of Ejido Patzcuaro after the earthquake in June. Nearly everyone left the night of the quake because the earth opened up and water came out. Then everyone thought that the government would move the village to a different place because our village is so close to the steam wells, and the government wants this land to make more wells. Yet time passed and nothing more was said about it. One by one the people returned to their homes and are repairing them. Some houses were damaged more than others. The chapel walls are cracked a little, and evidently it has sunk a little, because the doors won't close. In our home, one floor raised up in the middle and cracked open and water flowed out. There are cracks in three rooms, and one wall has sunk as the doors won't shut. But all of this

damage is comparatively little to other villages. Our water supply (a large cement canal) was really torn up and all of the water ran out. This took a long time to be repaired, and even now there are people who watch it day and night. Many roads had to be repaired, for there were great cracks three to six feet wide in places. Even the railroad had damage to its tracks. But how grateful we are that there were only two or three deaths, and none in our village. Had the quake happened during the night, there would have been many deaths and many more injuries.

All of this makes us to see the great power of God, and how terrible it would be for one to fall into the hands of our living God unprepared to meet Him. It is no wonder that people will call for the rocks and mountains to hide them from His face. As we talked to people afterward, we could readily tell who lived for God and who didn't. Oh, how fear held many in its grip, while others were praising the Lord for His care over them.

One precious saint, in her hurry to leave the house, left her Bible along with some food they were preparing to eat. After they had left the village, she thought of this and told her husband. This man had ridiculed and made fun of her life for God, but he went back on foot and brought only her Bible, leaving the food. In time of a real crisis the unbelieving are believers. We feel certain that God's love was in this quake, trying to awaken precious souls to their need of God.

We do appreciate each one of you who has prayed for us here. We thank all of you who have helped us, and we are asking the Lord to reward each of you.

The campmeeting in Ojos Negros was the very best yet. There was such a good spirit and a real burden for souls. The Holy Spirit directed such good soul-searching messages. It was a blessing from the beginning to the end. Many went to the altar for help and salvation. Among them was an 80-year-old man who sought the Lord for salvation, and God saved his soul. He was so happy. But his little wife, who for years had called on God day and night for his soul, I think, was even happier than he. He was baptized at the end of the meeting along with several others.

... I would like an interest in your prayers for my sister-in-law, Tomasa Lara, who has cancer. She seemingly is getting worse day by day. She has given her heart to the Lord and loves Him even though her knowledge of Him is small. She really needs your prayers.

We still desire your prayers, as we are passing through some hard times. The Lord knows it all, and our desire is to be faithful and true to God, and live in a way that He can and will use us in His service. The saints here are all well and encouraged. The Lord blesses us in our meetings.

Christian love,

—Edith (Cole) Lara

P.O. Box 1425, Calexico, CA. 92231

Concern for Mission Work in India

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the dear saints scattered abroad: I want to thank the Lord, and all of you, for the wonderful response made for the Church of God work in South India through the little booklet *Evening Light Church of God Mission Work in South India*. Interest in the Indian work is growing as God is working, and we cannot know all that God can and will do in that land before the end of time.

A number of the saints, particularly the brothers, have expressed the desire to make short-term visits to India, but I have not heard of anyone who carries a burden to go and stay on the field as a full-time, foreign field worker for the Lord.

Since my return to the United States from India in March of this year, and even before my return, I have had the desire to return to India and stay for as long as the Indian Government will permit. As a sister in the Lord, and being a single person, I would not want to hinder any qualified person or persons from going to India to labor for the Lord. I want the saints to know this. Since I am not aware of anyone's desiring to go to India for full-time service, and since I do carry the burden to go, I am receiving this situation as a go-ahead to fulfill my long-time desire of serving God on the foreign field.

My trip to India last winter was surely ordered of the Lord. I was received with open arms and hearts as a missionary, and I have no reason to believe that God would withhold my return to India. I will be working with Bro. John Varghese again. I feel to be submissive to his able leadership, to teach, to instruct, to lift up the name of Christ among the people, and to be first of all, the example. Pray for me.

It won't be long before the door to India will be closed to the gospel, as Communism is fast moving in. No one from the outside will be able to enter India. May the good Lord help us, as the people of God, to take advantage of the time we now have to spread the gospel in India.

I am in the process of applying for a visa to enter India as a resident. I am planning to go again this year in December, so I can participate in the conventions in January and February. If God, in His infinite wisdom, would have me to return to India as a resident worker, He can move on the hearts of the persons I am working with in regard to this matter. If God does not see fit to give me a residential visa, I still would return to India for whatever time the Indian government permits me. God knows what is best.

I have but a few short years at the most in this life, and I desire the will of God to be done above all else. Pray much concerning this visa, and I will keep everyone informed through the paper of the progress being made.

Yours for souls in India,—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

To sing and rejoice and praise the Lord in the midst of trials is music that causes angels to rejoice and greatly discomfits the devil. —C. E. Orr

"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them."

From the Mailbox . . .

Ohio—Enclosed please find check, for which please send me the book *What the Bible Teaches* by F. G. Smith. I am so thankful you are reprinting so many of the valuable books written by our pioneers that Warner Press no longer prints. May God bless you.

—Mrs. T. J. Steenbergen

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Calif.—To Brother Lawrence and all the saints: Mother (Armilda Abbott) wishes to send her love and greetings once more to the dear saints, and wants to thank each and every one who writes to them.

At the present date she is very weak, and can hardly hold up her head. She cannot walk or stand except for a moment or two. She is fully trusting the Lord, and is ready to go or stay, although she said (as the Apostle Paul once said), that she has a desire "to depart and be with the Lord," which is "far better." We praise the dear Lord that she has no pain. The Lord has raised her up from "death's door" before; we don't know what is best, but God does!

Today (Aug. 10) she asked us to sing, "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word . . ."

Daddy isn't very well either, but the Lord blesses him to be able to care for mother and encourage her. They are still living in the Sunset Guest Home. If anyone wants to write to them, their address is: Mr. and Mrs. Sam Abbott, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA. 91331.

—Alberta Cook

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Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers: Greetings in the holy and precious name of Jesus, who came into this world to seek and to save the lost ones. Many rejected Him, and many are still lost in sin and serving self.

I hope that many found the Lord at Monark Springs campmeeting, and at the campmeetings of the saints elsewhere in these terrible times. The wages of sin is death (spiritual), but the gift of God is life everlasting.

I am well at this writing and happy in the Lord Christ Jesus, who has done so much for me and for all saints. We know not the day nor the hour when He will come in the clouds to take His saints Home.

Much love and prayers, —Bro. Andrew Senti

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Okla.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and people everywhere: Should anyone ever doubt the evil influence of beer and other alcoholic drinks, there is vivid proof right here in prison! We had relatively calm days for some time, but recently quite a bit of hostility has broken out. In the last three days, there has been a stabbing incident EVERY DAY, and fights breaking out as well. When the guards investigated, they found gallons, and gallons of home-brew hidden in different places in the institution. It has been proven that when beer, alcohol, and narcotics are not available, the prisoners are more peaceable and make more intelligent decisions. Surely a person would have to be "willingly ignorant" to refuse to accept such

knowledge in the face of such obvious truth. I beseech all mankind to BEWARE of the mind-changing effects of alcohol! The results could become FATAL!

Your brother in Christ,—Elbert Johnson #98893

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Virginia—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all the saints everywhere: I thank you for your letter of encouragement and I thank the saints in Guthrie for their prayers. I also want to thank the saints in Green Bank, W. Va., for their prayers.

My wife has an enlarged heart, which resulted in two heart failures. Also, a nervous condition came on her some time ago. We both went to the altar at Green Bank, W. Va., and asked God to save us, but the devil has caused us to doubt our salvation almost continually. My wife's condition grew worse. Some times she would burst out crying, and all kinds of terrible thoughts would come to her, causing her to choke up with hard breathing. We have prayed for deliverance during this time, but things seem to get worse. My family talked her into going to the hospital, where she is at present.

I believe in God's promises. I know He can do anything. We are going through a terrible trial, but I believe God is going to deliver us from it all. I was raised up in this great Reformation Truth of the Church of God, by a holy mother. I thank God for her. I backslid several times, which is a terrible thing to do. I know what Satan can do when we fail to obey the Lord. Satan is raging in these last days because he knows his time is short. He wants to take everyone to hell with him. I failed so many times because I didn't pray enough, I didn't read God's Word enough, and I let the cares of life interfere. I let myself be influenced by the people I worked with. . . .

After all of this, Christ has continued to call me back to Him. How merciful He is! Praise the Lord! I'd like to say to all backsliders, "Start calling on the crucified Savior, as He shed His blood for you, too!"

As I have failed Him so many times, I would like to say to all saints: "Is your spare time spent in pleasure of some kind? Why not pray instead? Pray without ceasing for the lost and dying world. Don't be ashamed to tell of His shed blood anywhere. Seek a greater faith for Divine healing. The devil wants us to suffer both physically and spiritually, but Jesus' blood was shed for both."

Pray for my wife and me that we might live for Christ the rest of our days. —Robert L. Powell

(Editor's note: Bro. Powell's deceased mother was Sister Laura Powell, an old-time saint and minister who lived in Richmond, Va.)

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Calif.—I do appreciate getting reprints of original editions of books from the old school of the Church of God reformation movement. Condensed paperbacks are convenient for classroom use, but in my opinion they lack much of the reform spirit of those who so devotedly gave their lives to make the Church more than a church—they made it truly a reformation! A true reformation refuses to be strangled and entombed

by buildings and rituals of worship! Praise God for that truth!

—Hubert W. Lavelle

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Canada—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: Greetings of holy love to you and all my dear brothers and sisters abroad. I'm still pressing on in the narrow path. So-called Christians think they have been successful in "broadening" the narrow way a little and can still make it to heaven; however, they are deceived. The path is as narrow as ever, and to tread it means to give up everything sinful and worldly.

I thank God for the true saints and for the full gospel. I, too, was under bondage in "Babylon" (sectism). I sought the Lord often as a child, and desired to please Him, but as I grew older, I listened to "instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge" (Prov. 19:27), and my heart waxed cold toward God and His Word. I honored the preacher and what he said more than God's Word. But praise God! He spoke to us and said, "Come out of her, my people," and gave us the grace to obey His precious call. It's very important even now, not to look up to people, but to look into the Word of God. The Word of God is our criterion, and we cannot possibly err if we adhere to it. Let us not deviate from God's Word even a tiny bit!

I would also like to testify of how the Lord answered prayer. For a long time I had had a rash, but it never bothered me enough that I prayed or requested prayer for it. Recently, the Lord impressed me that I should request prayer at our service with the Oppels. Our next service was a prayer meeting on a Saturday night, and a Bro. Wiens also came. I then requested prayer for my rash, and to the glory of God, I can say that He has completely removed it! Praise the Lord! This is not such a big thing, but if the Lord answers prayer in little things, He will answer prayer in big things, too.

I desire your prayers that I may grow in the grace of God, and that I grow deeper in love, patience, and humility. I especially want to be more humble, for He can give grace only to the humble.

—Agathe Friesen

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings in the lovely Name of Jesus. Oh, it is so wonderful to have a loving Saviour who saves and keeps us from the sins and evils of this old world. Some seek pleasure in the things of this life, but my greatest pleasure is found in Jesus. I love Him for what He has done for me: He saved my soul, takes care of me, and has a mansion in glory for me where I can live with Him in peace and happiness in the ceaseless ages of eternity. Such joy and happiness fills my soul as I think of that Home over there!

We had some unusually hot weather in June. People were seeking ways of getting and keeping cool. They can get some relief here, and look forward

to a break in the hot weather, but in hell there is nothing to bring relief—no break, or end to look forward to. The rich man in hell was not granted one drop of water to cool his tongue. (Luke 16:23,24) There is no trouble or suffering in this life to be compared to hell. If souls would only consider these things, it seems that they would be constrained to do something about them.

—Sis. Myrtis Flynn

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

Kentucky (July 31)—Dear Bro. Lawrence: We greet you in Jesus' Name, the one on whom we can always count at all times, and who never fails.

We received your letter and offering, and want to thank you for both. Sorry to hear that your physical condition is worse. We have been praying for you, along with many others, and hope this letter finds you much improved. Lord, increase our faith! We need a real inspiration of faith. Let us hold fast the confidence of our faith without wavering, for He is faithful that promised. As for me, I am gaining ground, but it is . . . a slow process. God is faithful, and He will not fail. Praise God for His mercy to me!

We are batching, as Wife and the family left this morning with Brenda and Delmar on their way to the Myrtle, Mo., campmeeting.

Remember us in your prayers, and we will be remembering you also in prayer. We were glad for the good reports we have heard of the meetings at various places. My desire was to be there in them, but the Lord has called me aside for some special schooling that He saw I needed.

Christian love, —Bro. Curtis Williams
R. 1, Box 656, Morehead, Ky. 40351

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La.—Dear Sis. Marie and Bro. Pruitt: I'm still saved and on the way to heaven. I don't see any place to turn back, for the Word says that it will be the one who endures to the end that will be saved. I'm 81 years old, and I have been saved about 50 years. I'm not tired of the straight and narrow way. It suits me!

—Etta Averett

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Michigan—Dear Sis. Marie: I want to thank all of you for praying for the affliction I had. With a thankful heart, I can say the Lord touched me and healed me from those pains I was having. I praise His precious name for His healing touch! I had this for quite some time; then I wrote and sent a handkerchief to be anointed in January of this year. You had it anointed and sent it back to me. . . .

I still need a touch for this nerve problem that I have had for seventeen years. My stomach throbs all the time if I get nervous. I have more problems, but I know the Lord will take them away, as He did from the woman that touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was made whole after twelve years of her agony.

I haven't forgotten when the Lord healed me of sinus trouble. That was many years ago. I am still healed! Your dear father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, sent me an anointed napkin. Praise the Lord! God healed me! I had suffered so much with that affliction. I really

thought at times I would die, as I could hardly stand it. I prayed to the Lord to please heal me or to take me, as I couldn't stand it anymore. He came to my rescue. All praise to His sweet Name! It surely pays to have our Lord on our side. What could we do without Him? He has been so good to my parents and me. He healed Mother from her injuries sustained in a bad fall in 1973. We don't forget to thank Him. All of you were so good and precious to stand by us with your prayers when the days looked so dark and sad for us.

May God bless all of you and keep you in His loving care. Psalm 120:1 says, "In my distress I cried unto the Lord and He heard me."

—Sis. Olive Getterson

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

Wyoming—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' Name. We are serving a powerful Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God!

I called your office in July for prayer for my sister who was on her deathbed, spiritually and physically, with cancer of the stomach and liver, plus a diabetic condition. I asked for prayer for her salvation and healing.

We drove about 300 miles to Billings, Mont., under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and took our two grandchildren with us. When we got there, we found her still alive. Her color was purple and bluish, and she was having a hard time breathing. We knew she had to have help fast. Praise God, He alone kept their three married children out of our way. None came to see us with her except her husband. She was in a critical state. We prayed with her trying to get her out of the Roman and Greek Catholicism she was in. We helped her to bed at 9 p.m. About 10 p.m. she called me to get her ice to put on her chest, as she was burning up. She is an R.N. When she couldn't get to sleep and couldn't get enough oxygen, I called my husband in, and I read James 5:13-15 to her. (She had no olive oil, so we used cooking oil.) Bill prayed for her according to James. She went to sleep, and all night she made such a terrible noise in her breathing. I got up three times to check on her to see if God had, or was, taking her Home. At 7:30 a.m. I awoke very relaxed, after being awake most of the night. I looked in on her and she was breathing normally. I went to the kitchen to get breakfast for our two grandchildren, Bill, and myself. In about ten minutes, she came walking in with her walker. I looked at her, and to my joyful surprise, she was herself in appearance—no bad color, and eyes and cheeks were not sunk in. I asked her what she wanted to eat, and she told me. I told her she looked good that morning. I then asked her how she felt. She answered, "Amy, I have not felt this good for so long!" I said, "Praise God!" I gave her the food I had prepared, and I was about to fix pillows on the divan to prop her up to eat, but she refused and said, "I am going to eat at the table with you, Bill, and the children." She did. She walked around the living room and then sat down. She didn't lie down again all the time we were there.

We got there Monday morning and left on Tuesday morning. We prayed with her again and told her to call if she needed prayer. The clinic doctors at Billings said that two weeks to three months was the longest she could live. However, I knew that God through Christ would undertake for us as no human hands could do anything. I just knew in my heart that Jesus would do whatever we asked Him in our prayers. She was also healed yesterday of a brain injury which she received in a hospital in 1942. You will realize more deeply how we thank God for His love, mercy, and healing for all. Praise God for you dear saints. I have thanked Him that at last we have found the right place of true saints, and freedom to worship Him in all righteousness and truth. Thank you for helping us in prayer.

The wonderful thing is that the Holy Spirit gave me such sweet assurance that my sister is His now, and I will meet her on the other shore, be it now or at a future time. Jesus never fails!

Yours in Him,

—Bill and Amy Coffin

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

Missouri—Dear saints: The Lord permitted me to go to the Myrtle, Mo., campmeeting, but I had only attended two services when I became very sick during the night service. That afternoon I had spent several hours alone in my tent and made a deeper consecration to God, and had felt His peace flood my soul. I didn't know how soon I would be tested. Most of the night I was right at death's door, but, oh, the wonderful feeling of complete submission to God's will! There was such a peace and calm assurance felt that it would be all right how ever the Lord worked it out for me—ready to go, or ready to stay. At one time especially, I was so near passing and the most precious scene was right there, oh, so close! I believe the Lord would have let me go on if I really would have wanted to, but I heard our twelve-year-old daughter crying there beside me and I knew that she needed me. I felt a strong desire to live so I could help rear our children for the Lord. (We have two teenage sons and this daughter still at home.)

I was not able to pray even in a whisper, but the Lord said He knows our thoughts. About noon the next day I started getting better. I took sick on Wednesday. By Saturday I was enough improved that Bro. and Sis. Delmar Wilkins brought me home to Monark Springs in their motor home. What a blessing! I made the trip good, and I'm improving slowly. I have had several attacks, but the Lord is with me, and I'm confident He is working this out right for me.

Oh, I wish everyone could have seen the love and concern of the saints. There is nothing to compare with it! I feel so unworthy of such love and interest.

I failed to mention that the night I was so sick, I was also suffering with an affliction that I had had for several months which was steadily getting worse. (It could have been breast cancer. I do not know as I had no examination.) Bro. Samons said, "Let's pray

the Lord to take all the pain away." When they said, "Amen," the pain immediately left my body, and now two weeks later, I am still healed! Oh, praise the dear Lord, and thank God for saints who can pray the prayer of faith!

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the saints who prayed for me and helped me through this trial. It hasn't seemed like a trial, as the Lord has been so precious through it all. The blessedness still lingers with me.

I love all the dear children of God and have a burden for the unsaved. "O taste, and see that the Lord is good!"
—Dora Doolittle

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: When did the old covenant end, and when did the new covenant begin?

Answer: Perhaps we can collect a few Scriptures together which will answer this question to the inquirer's satisfaction. But we must remember that all Scripture must be applied and interpreted according to the established law of "Unanimity of faith" which means that any particular text on any given subject must be applied or interpreted in harmony with all other Scripture texts in the Bible on that subject. We cannot take any single text and interpret it privately without consideration for other texts on the subject and ever get a proper understanding of any given subject. If we vary from this law, there are some Scriptures which might throw us off course in the particular question we are considering now.

For example: Luke 16:16 says, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." To interpret this text privately would seem to indicate that the kingdom of God came in with John the Baptist. But there are other Scriptures which prove this could not be. John preached saying, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (Matt. 3:2) Jesus preached this same thing saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15) Note they both said, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." It was just about to break in upon them, but it had not yet broken forth and been set up. Also, Jesus said in Mark 9:1, "There be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power," which would seem to make it clear that the kingdom of God had not come yet, even though John had preached it and was even then preaching it. But Jesus said in Matt. 12:28, "The kingdom of God is come unto you." It had come unto them in the person of Christ, but it was not in full operation yet. Again Jesus said in Luke 17:21, "The kingdom of God is within you." Surely we would not conclude that He was saying to those self-righteous Pharisees that the kingdom of God was within them. It could not have been in them,

because they rejected the Lord of Glory Who brought it. Neither was it yet within His own disciples at that time. But He was merely stating the nature of the kingdom of God and that the place of its establishment was in the hearts of (within) the people of God who would be saved through His blood.

Jesus' ministry was a preparatory ministry and work for what was to come. He observed the law and customs and practices of the Israelites in many respects, while at the same time preaching grace. We might say there was a little overlapping of dispensations during the life and ministry of Jesus between law and grace. The law still had a standing until grace was brought in fully.

Rom. 10:4 says, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." But at what point was Christ the end of the law? Was it at His birth; during His life and ministry, at His death, or when? In Matt. 5:17,18, Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled." But Jesus didn't fulfill the law until the time of His death, so the law still had a standing during His life and ministry.

In Heb. 10:1, it says that the law had a shadow of good things to come and not the very image of the things. Col. 3:17 makes it clear that the shadow of things contained in the law, (in this case it was the sabbath, but the same principle would apply to all the shadows contained in the law) found their body, substance, reality, or fulfillment in Christ. Col. 2:13 says that Christ has quickened us together with Himself, having forgiven us all trespasses, and verse 14 says, "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross.**" This text makes it clear that all the carnal ordinances, rituals, and ceremonies pertaining to the law were taken away when Christ was nailed to the cross. Heb. 10:8 says that God had no pleasure in the sacrifices and offerings for sin which were offered by the law. Then verse 9 says, "Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second." Thus, it is clear that Christ removed the old covenant to make place for the new covenant, and verse 10 says that this was through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Heb. 9:11, 12 makes it clear that Christ became a high priest of good things to come (the new covenant) by His own blood.

All of the above texts make it clear that the fulfillment of the law was not complete until Christ died. As Jesus hung upon the cross, He said, "It is finished." These were His dying words—His last utterance. The law age with its daily and yearly sacrifices for sin was ended and completely fulfilled in Him Who said He came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it. (Matt. 5:17). The last, final, permanent, and continuous sacrifice for sin had been offered, and

was now complete. The plan of salvation was completely executed and the dispensation of grace had been ushered in. All things were now ready for all to come into the kingdom of God (Matt. 22:2-4).

Matt. 27:50,51 says that when Jesus yielded up the ghost (died), the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. That veil divided between the holy place and most holy place in the temple. Behind this veil in the most holy place is where God Himself chose to dwell on the mercy seat between the cherubim (Ex. 17:22). Read verse 22 in particular. 1 Sam. 4:4 says that God dwelt between the cherubim. Heb. 9:7 says that the high priest was the only one ever permitted in this most holy place, and then only one time each year, and he was to sprinkle the blood of the sin offering as he went. Then verse 8 says, "The Holy Ghost thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing." But when Jesus died, the veil was rent, and God moved out of that place, never again to dwell in a temple made with hands (Acts 17:24). He was through with that temple and its religious system forever, and it was left desolate without its inhabitant (God). Luke 13:35.

Thus, we see the law was not abolished and ended until Christ's death. It came to its end then. However, the new covenant was not fully established until some 52 or 53 days later, when the Holy Spirit came and filled the hearts of believers, and set the Church in full operation under the new covenant.

Field Report From Western Canada

Dear saints scattered abroad: It has been requested that we give a report and our address in this paper. We don't do this to be seen or heard. Pray that God will keep us hidden behind the cross. Even at this moment our cross is working for us an eternal weight of glory.

By the grace of God, the evangelistic bus and company traveled some ten thousand miles without any serious trouble or accidents, for which we humbly praise God.

The campmeeting in Prince George, B. C., Canada, was attended by saints from three provinces, as well as from many states in the U. S., and it will long be remembered as a time of God's visible manifestations in the services with outward signs of healing, saving, and sanctifying. To God be the glory! Surely, this is a ripe field. Many attended from the local area. Much gospel seed has been sown. About thirteen were baptized on the last Saturday. Several saints had their vision enlarged from being in a new field of hungry souls. "Where there is no vision, the people perish." The meeting was one of unity among ministers and love among brethren, and it closed with victory.

Through Divine leading, your servant has felt led to labor in this area of Canada until the Lord releases him, or sends a permanent minister. Accordingly, your servant has moved and would like to hear from

any saints interested in this field. It would be much appreciated for any saints to come and visit here, and meet the dear Rabel family and others.

We want to thank all the saints for their support in supplying for the bus, tent, gas, and everything that is connected with this gospel work. Dear saints, pray for us. We love all of you.

Our mailing address is: Tom Melot, Trailer Village, S. S. No. 3, Comp. 39, Prince George, B. C., Canada V2N-2S7.

The Meaning of the Seven Churches of Asia in Revelation

Why were the seven churches of Asia Minor selected as the ones to which the Revelation should be dedicated or addressed? (See chapter 1, verse 11.) "Does what is said of the seven churches in chapter 1 and to them in chapters 2 and 3, have reference solely to the seven literal churches named, describing things only as they then and there existed, and portraying what was before them alone?"

The entire book of Revelation was dedicated or addressed to the seven churches. (Chap. 1, verse 11) "But the book was no more applicable to them, except the special messages to the individual churches, than to other Christians in Asia Minor—those, for instance, who dwelt in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, and Bithynia, addressed in 1 Peter 1:1; or the Christians of Colosse, Troas, and Miletus, in the very midst of the churches named." "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass." Note that the Revelation was sent "unto his servants"—all of God's servants, regardless of geographical location.

"Only a small portion of the book could have personally concerned the seven churches, or any of the Christians of John's day, for the events it brings to view were mostly so far in the future as to lie beyond the lifetime of the generations then living, and consequently they could have no personal connection with them," except in the special messages directed to the particular congregations named.

"The seven stars which the Son of man held in his right hand (verse 20) are declared to be the angels of the seven churches. The angels of the churches, doubtless all will agree, are the pastors or ministers of the churches. Their being held in the right hand of the Son of man denotes the upholding power, guidance, and protection provided for them. But there were only seven of them in his right hand. And are there only seven thus cared for by the great Master of assemblies? May not, rather, all the true ministers of the whole gospel age derive from this representation the consolation of knowing that they are upheld and guided by the right hand of the great Head of the Church? Such would seem to be the only consistent conclusion."

"John, looking into the Christian dispensation, saw only seven candlesticks, representing seven

churches, in the midst of which stood the Son of man. The position of the Son of man in their midst must denote His presence with them, His watchful care over them, and His searching scrutiny of all their works. But does He thus take cognizance of only seven individual gospel ages? Then why were only seven mentioned? Seven, as used in the Scriptures, is a number denoting fullness and completeness, like the first seven days of time, which gave the world the still used complete weekly cycle. Like the seven stars, the seven candlesticks must denote the whole of the things which they represent." The entire universal Church throughout the gospel age is symbolized by the figure "seven." The scope of the prophetic feature of this symbolization is not derived from the churches themselves as such, or the messages to them, but rather from the symbolic number "seven" alone.

Any congregation of the Church in any period of the Christian dispensation is subject to the same condemnation or commendation as any one of the seven churches if it is found in a similar condition. One authority has rightly said, "Many expositors have imagined that these epistles to the seven churches were mystical prophecies of seven distinct periods, into which the whole term, from the apostles' days to the end of the world, would be divided. This theory, though very old, has arisen from imagination, and finds no basis in reason or fact from the Scriptures."

F. G. Smith writes, "These churches can scarcely be symbols of chronological epochs for the reason that they are themselves the object of symbolization. We know that type and antitype cannot be united in the same things, that they are mutually exclusive; and I fail to see how a particular church can be a direct object of symbolization and at the same time a symbol of something else. 'The seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.'" (Rev. 1:20b.)

Again Smith says, "Some have assumed that the seven were selected in order to set forth seven successive historical epochs in the Christian Church. The record shows however, that instead of the seven being symbols, they are themselves the objects of symbolization. Furthermore, the actual facts of ecclesiastical history, in their successive order of unfolding, do not agree with the messages as given to these churches."

Throughout all prophecy we find first the true Church in her apostolic beauty and glory, later arises apostasy and the deepest spiritual darkness in the Middle Age, and finally there is a restoration of the true Church just before the end of time. Now, for instance, try to make the message to the church at Ephesus apply or correspond to the Church of the first century when she shone forth in her pristine glory. The message to the Ephesians indicates that it was a backslidden church. (Rev. 2:5) Such a prophetic symbolization of the Church in general at this period is inconsistent with the facts. Then according to this theory, the restored Church in the evening time—"At

evening time it shall be light" (Zech. 14:7)—would be represented by Laodicea, reference to which the message from the Son of man declares that they are "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." (Rev. 3:17)

This unsound doctrine arose many years ago, and has been widely promulgated by the Seventh Day Adventist sect, whose false doctrines on other lines were exposed by Bro. D. S. Warner in his day.

Brethren, let us endeavor to hold fast to sound doctrine, rightly dividing the word of truth.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

ONE LIFE

One life for Christ 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 for Christ my Lord,
One life to do my part;
One life to give my very all,
With all my soul and heart.

One life for Christ in all I do;
One life to show my worth.
One life to glorify His name,
And prove my second birth.

—Edward M. Brandt

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