

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

(USPS184-660)

## Church of God Servant



Volume 58, No. 8

58th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

November, 1980

### *What Is There To Be Thankful For?*



What is there to be thankful for  
As look we all around  
At cares and burdens more and more  
That on our hearts abound?

What is there to be thankful for  
When grief our hearts impress,  
When losses heaping at our door  
Bring anguish and distress?

What is there to be thankful for  
With war and crime in view,  
Disease and sickness to deplore  
Life's mortal journey through?

Ah, friend! would we but turn and lift  
Our anxious gaze away  
From all these scenes to Heaven's gift  
And joys that abide for aye;

The bounteous harvest of His love  
Provides a hope divine,  
Assurance of a Home above  
Forevermore to shine.

And while we pass our sojourn here,  
A fount of life is ours:  
The grace of God without a fear  
And all its holy pow'rs.

And yet our God does not bestow  
The fulness of His grace  
Without provisions here below  
For all our human race.

The sorrows He permits with care,  
And works it all for good;  
Designing us one day to share  
Eternal brotherhood.

So what can we be thankful for?  
The answer, friend, is plain:  
Salvation's great abounding store  
And everlasting gain!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### *"In the Beginning Was The Word"*



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1.

As we behold this material universe; the earth with its hills and dales, its rivers and beautiful fountains; distant planets—beholding their silent devotion to their Creator—our hearts swell with emotion and we exclaim with David: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Psa. 19:1.

A moment's reflection, however, reminds us that there was a time when, besides God, there existed nothing but darkness and space. There was no world, nor nothing out of which to make a world—nothing but the word of God. "In the beginning was the Word." "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb. 11:3. God spoke and it was done; His word was the beginning of all creation. When darkness yet prevailed upon the face of the deep, "God said, Let there be light: and there was light." Gen. 1:3. When the earth was "standing out of the water and in the water," "God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so." Gen. 1:9. "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit-tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." Gen. 1:11. Thus the heavens and the earth were finished. God's word was the beginning of all these things. His word, therefore, is the origin or beginning of all things material. They are still upheld and supported by the same word of God. "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." 2 Pet. 3:7. "... Upholding all things by the word of his power." Heb. 1:3.

All material things are destructible. He who created them can also destroy them. "... The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and

the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Pet. 3:10. "The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." Isa. 24:19, 20. "Seeing then, that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness." 2 Pet. 3:11.

Since this earth and its surroundings shall pass away, how important for us to take our stand upon that which shall never pass away—the word of God. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. "The grass withereth, the flowers fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand forever." Isa. 40:8. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Pet. 1:23. "But the word of the Lord endureth forever." Verse 25. The word was not only before the beginning, but it will continue after the end; it not only preceded all else; but, long after all earthly things have been dissolved, the word shall abide, yea, it shall endure forever.

Dear reader, see to it that you are walking in all of its commandments blameless. See to it that you are keeping its law daily. Stand on the word of God; and when the heavens have fled before the face of him that sitteth upon the throne, and this terrestrial ball is destroyed, and all material things have passed away, you will still have a sure foundation.

—W. T. Seaton

## "As Children of God"

"By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments." 1 John 5:2. Again, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God." Matt. 5:9. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Rom. 8:16.

The word *children* seems very special to me now. I'm thinking of the time Jesus' disciples came to Him saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea." Matt. 18:1-6.

Jesus called a little child that could walk, so that he could come willingly, with obedience and with

childlike innocence. "Blessed are the poor in spirit [humble]: for their's is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:3. For us to have this nature after we reach the age of accountability, we must be born again, or we cannot see the kingdom of heaven (John 3:3). We must be converted with the blood of Jesus, be saved to the uttermost, then throughout our entire Christian life we must be free from all sin. If we allow disobedience and prejudice (all of which are poisonous and deadly), we will die spiritually. Then the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world, is our only cure.

We must watch unto prayer. Watching is as necessary as our praying. Our actions, words, and thoughts, even our very intentions, are important. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." John 15:4. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another." John 15:16, 17.

The second part of Christ's answer was, "Ye shall not enter the kingdom of heaven," or in other words, ye shall not enter except you be converted, changed, made "a new creature," 2 Cor. 5:17. If we are converted, then we can see the kingdom of heaven, its beauty and its divine origin. The divine Son purchased the Church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). It is built upon the Rock of truth. "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Eph. 2:20. Her life and light are the eternal Spirit. Her creed is the pure Word of God. All was done by Christ's sacrificial death on the old rugged cross. Physically, He suffered great pain, but the greatest suffering was that God "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Praise the Lord for His resurrected body that came forth a conqueror over death, hell and the grave. God forbid that He would tolerate any sin, hatred, malice, jealousy, envy, hypocrisy, seducing spirits, carnal-ruling, or disobedience to any of His commandments. The inhabitants of His kingdom must be holy with a perfect decision to obey His commandments, to walk humbly before and with Him day by day, moment by moment, without spot or blame. He is coming back for a blameless Church walking by His divine plan and rules. "... But to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isa. 66:2. "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things." Mark 13:22, 23.

May our Lord preserve us all, in my prayer.

—Sis. Hazel A. Clark

## **We Are Not Our Own**

Did you ever hear it said, "Well, I worked hard for what I have. It is mine; I will keep it. No one can take it from me." One should work and give an honest day's work for his pay, but he should have it in his heart not to keep it all to himself. He should take care of his family, help the sick and suffering, the helpless, the needy, the Church, and the mission fields. God wants us to look on our own as not belonging to us, but belonging to Him, and we ourselves as just the overseers or stewards putting it to use for His glory.

Some may say, "I am not going to work. The world owes me a living." He may rob, steal, cheat, and go out to get every thing he can regardless of whom he hurts, or what it takes to get it. He swindles and takes everything he can get his hands on dishonestly. God wants man to work for a decent living by the sweat of his brow, realizing that the opportunity to work comes from God. He should not be stingy, but put the money to good use to the glory of God. We are not our own; we are bought with a price.

We should realize that our time and material blessings should be used in a way pleasing to God. God loans us our children for a short time that we may lead, teach, guide, and instruct them to love and fear the Lord. We should bring them up in the nurture and admonition of God. I believe that if we just let them do as they please and don't instruct them to live for God, we will pay for it later.

Some people say regarding the unsaved, "Let them go to hell if they want to; I don't care. I just don't want to be bothered." How sad! The Bible says that we are our brother's keeper. We should pray for them, and let our light shine that they may see God in us.

Maybe we have done a good deed for someone. Did we do it as well as we would have done it for ourselves? or did we hurry, and do a skimpy job? Love brings out the good in us toward others. When everything is going well with us, do we still think of others? When others are in need, do we fast and pray in their behalf? Do we take time to visit the sick or write cheerful letters to the discouraged or isolated saints? Jesus wants His light to shine out to the whole world through His people. Romans 15:1, 2 says, "We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification." We read in Romans 14:1, 7-9, 11, 12, "Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. . . . For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. . . . For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then

every one of us shall give account of himself to God." We should pray to God to help us do to our brothers and sisters as we would have them do to us. Let us be good stewards for God.

—Sis. Pearlene Whitson

## **Is God's Kingdom Here or Look We for Another?**

Some folks are looking for a millenium when all will be saved that have neglected to do so in this present world. Satan has lulled more people to sleep with this false teaching than any other. Satan's job is to keep people in darkness and deception. We can't believe this teaching if we believe the words of Jesus. Daniel prophesied of this great kingdom that the God of heaven would set up that would never end. Read Daniel 4:3, 6; 6:26; 2:44, for a few references. Read Luke 4:17-21. Today is the day of salvation, meaning the great gospel day or the dispensation of grace, the one that Abraham saw hundreds of years before Christ came to this world.

We need not wait for a time when Satan is bound to get saved, as he is bound now for everyone who has the blood applied to his heart and is living a clean and holy life. He is bound by the Word and the Spirit. Satan only has power that God allows and also that we allow. Read Matt. 28:18. If all power was given to Jesus as He said, how much did that leave Satan? Read John 19:11.

Jesus said, "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it." Luke 16:16. Paul said in Col. 1:12, 13 that we have been delivered "from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of God's dear Son." His kingdom is not of this world. John 18:36. Matt. 16:28 says the kingdom would be set up then. If that is not true, there must be some very old people still living. Luke 17:21 tells us the kingdom of God is within us.

The Jews were looking for a literal kingdom when Christ came, so they rejected Him and their house was left to them desolate. They were so wrapped up in their own traditions, they had gotten away from the law of Moses. If not, they would have discerned Christ for who He was. The natural-born Jew has to have the circumcision of the heart the same as any other people in order to become one of God's chosen people. God no longer dwells in the temples made by hands, but dwells in His spiritual temple, or His Church.

Read 1 Cor. 15:24, and you will find that the Son will deliver the kingdom up to the Father. Jesus is King of kings now, and was born for that purpose, and He is coming the second time without sin unto salvation, coming after a pure and holy Bride, His Church. We need not worry about Christ's not knowing who are His amid all the religious confusion, because He keeps His list up to date and knows all things.

—Effie Ray

## "FAITH AND VICTORY"

### 16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

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

### FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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

### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION

1. Title of publication: FAITH AND VICTORY.
2. Date of filing: October 14, 1980.
3. Frequency of issue: Monthly except August.
4. Location of known office of publication: 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Logan, Okla. 73044.
5. Location of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers: Same as last named address.
6. Names and addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor:  
Publisher: Lawrence D. Pruitt, 1106 W. Wash., Guthrie, Okla. Editor: Same as foregoing. Managing Editor: Same.
7. Owner: Faith Pub. House, Inc., 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. (This is a non-stock non-profit religious and charitable corporation.)
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders: None.
9. The purpose, function and nonprofit status: Have not changed during preceding 12 months.

| 10. Extent and Nature of Circulation:                                     | Average No. Copies each issue During preceding 12 Months | Actual No. of Copies of single Issue Published Nearest to filing Date |
|---|--|---|
| A. Total No. Copies Printed   | 11,154   | 10,350  |
| B. Paid Circulation—<br>Mail Subscriptions                                | 8,918  | 8,650   |
| C. Total Paid Circulation   | 8,918  | 8,650   |
| D. Free distribution (including samples) by mail, carrier, or other means | 1,561  | 1,175   |
| E. Total Distribution   | 10,479   | 9,825   |
| F. Office use, Left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing             | 675  | 525   |
| G. TOTAL  | 11,154   | 10,350  |

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

## EDITORIALS



### "Praise Ye the Lord!" . . .

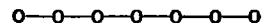
"If I had ten thousand lives in which to praise Him, I could not enough my blessed Lord adore!"

Every day is a day of thanksgiving for the child of God.

This special day of Thanksgiving in the autumn of the year was begun by the God-fearing Pilgrims who first came to the eastern shores of the New World more than 200 years ago seeking religious freedom from the oppression in England. After their food crops of their first year were gathered, they met for a day of worship and thanksgiving to the Lord for sending the rain and sunshine to produce the necessary food to carry them through the coming very cold New England winter. They had many other reasons to be deeply thankful for God's bountiful blessings in this land of freedom to worship God in an acceptable manner.

It is sad to note that, generally speaking, this national holiday is observed today in feasting and revelry rather than in true thanksgiving. Though God's blessings are great toward all mankind, most of the present generation are unthankful and unholy, never looking up to recognize or acknowledge where those blessings are coming from. Remember that there is coming a day of reckoning when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess to his Creator. It would be so much better for every soul to bow and confess now on time's side of eternity.

The Apostle Paul exhorts to thanksgiving with these words, "By him [Jesus] therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."



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

Continue Sending Yearly Gift Subscriptions . . .

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

**Beautiful 1981 Wall Calendar with Scripture . . .**

This 1981 Wall Calendar has beautiful nature scenes in color for each month with Scriptural emphasis. Size 7¼ by 13½ inches. Price, \$1.25 each, plus 65c for postage and handling, which is a total of \$1.90, postpaid to your address.

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

**Scripture Text Christmas Cards** — 14 cards in box. Sunshine Line—price per box, \$2.00, plus 65c for postage and handling. Order your supply NOW!

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

**"Secular Humanism: The Most Dangerous Religion in America"** is the title of a book that every one should read, especially ministers and teachers. This deceptive doctrine has infested all the nominal churches, and poses a threat to the very elect. This book contains 81 pages in a heavy paper cover. The price is \$2.00, plus 60c for postage. Order TODAY!

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

My sister Marie Miles returned Wednesday, Oct. 1, from a week's visit with relatives in California. She reported an enjoyable time.

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

The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting, the largest winter gathering of God's people in the U. S., will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla., from Dec. 26, 1980 to Jan. 4, 1981. Further announcement of the meeting will appear in the Dec. issue.

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

Congratulations to Mark and Elois Spinks, former workers at the Lord's Print Shop, on the birth of a daughter on October 5, 1980. They reside at 1010 - 7th St., Piedmont, Okla. 73078.

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

Word was received that Sister Essie (McDonald) Wilson peacefully went to sleep in the arms of Jesus at the Church of God Sunset Guest Home on the church campground at Pacoima, Calif., on October 16, 1980. She was 96 years of age on April 1, 1980, having spent many years as a minister of the Gospel in Oklahoma and Missouri. The Lord blessed her with a long life in His service after she was marvelously healed at the age of 18 in the state of Texas when 22 doctors had given her up to die. (The tract with her picture and written in her own words of her wonderful healing in 1902 is in stock at this office.) Another holy pilgrim and soldier of the cross is at rest in the paradise of God, and her works do follow her.

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

In the October issue this writer mistakenly reported that Bro. Bob Forbes was the present pastor at Hammond, La. In a recent letter Bro. Forbes stated that he had resigned the pastoral work in Hammond effective at the end of December, 1979. Since that time Bro. Forbes has been helping part-time in Hammond and assisting Sis. LaVern Manuel with the work at the Oak Grove congregation near Loranger, Louisiana, about ten miles from Hammond, La. Brother Forbes is also the administrator of the Christian school which began a few weeks ago in

the Oak Grove congregation. Thus, he is putting his full time into the work of the Lord. Pray for all the gospel work in the South, as well as the other Christian school which is progressing nicely in the congregation at Goulds, Fla., under the leadership of Brother H. H. Hargrave.

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

**Gospel Work Continuing in Vermont . . .**

Bro. Jack Morrison, formerly of Kansas, wrote on October 9 that they had begun their own gospel ministry in the state of Vermont by the help of the Lord. Also, they started a Christian school in their own home in Wolcott. They have only five students, but the Lord is blessing the effort. They desire earnest prayers that souls in that area will recognize their condition and seek after God. That is a Catholic country, and the Burlington, Vermont, paper reported that there may be only five Bible-believing churches in the whole state. Bro. Morrison had not seen any of them. The Morrisons have two Bible studies during the week, but few people will come out. They would appreciate the prayers of the saints for the salvation of souls in that state. Address your letter and words of encouragement to Bro. Jack Morrison, Church of God, R. 15, Box 16, Wolcott, Vermont 05680.

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

Our sincere sympathy and prayers are extended to and for Sister Ruby Hamilton of St. Paul, Minn., whose husband Clarence departed this life to be with the Lord on July 6, 1980, at the age of 72 years. This couple had lived here in Guthrie and attended the local church services a few years ago. May the Lord sustain and comfort Sister Hamilton in these days of re-adjustment.

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

**Large Percent Registered for the Draft . . .**

Bernard Rostker, Director of the Selective Service System, announced on Sept. 4, 1980, that 93% of those required registered for the draft last summer. However, Selective Service registration figures are much higher than those compiled by the "Boston Globe." After conducting an extensive survey, the "Globe" concluded that as many as 25% failed to register. In addition to the registration statistics, Selective Service stated that nearly 2% wrote on the cards that they were conscientious objectors or that they were registering "under protest."

Out of the 3,880,000 which Selective Service determined to be eligible, 3,593,187 registered as of August 22, with late registrations still coming. This, however, leaves at least 250,000 young men who have not complied with the law and are subject to a possible five years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. It remains to be seen whether these non-registrants will be prosecuted for the violation of this federal registration law.

All Christian young men who are required to register should follow the teachings of Jesus Christ in His Sermon on the Mount and register with Selective Service as conscientious objectors to military

service and training therefor. Alternate civilian service will be provided for all sincere conscientious objectors.

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

We are very pleased to witness that the Lord answered prayer in the sale of the Church Guest Home here at Guthrie, Okla. Though several months had elapsed since it was put on the market, the sale was closed on October 9, 1980. The proceeds of the sale were comparable to the original purchase price two years ago. Our appreciation is heartily extended to all those who helped in any manner in the effort. It is disappointing that the Guest Home project did not work out satisfactorily as planned. However, we, as the administrators of the estate fund for that purpose, feel that we have discharged our responsibility in the matter by making this honest effort to comply with the direction of the testator. The proceeds from this property will be held in trust by the Oklahoma State Association of the Church of God.

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

Second class postage rates for our three publications, paper, and printing costs all along the line continue to rise, but the gospel literature must continue to go forth to this perishing world, for their only hope is to hear and believe the gospel of Christ which has transforming power. May the Lord bless and reward all those who are so faithfully praying for and co-operating with this literature ministry to help meet Christ's last commission to His Church.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

## In Memorial

**Harold Lee Davis**, the eldest son of Audney and Etta Davis, was born November 16, 1925, at Twitty, Texas, and departed this life October 6, 1980, at Guthrie, Okla., at the age of 54 years, 10 months, and 20 days.

At the age of five weeks he moved with his parents to a farm southwest of Guthrie, presently known as the Alonzo Ford farm. Since then he has lived most of his life in the Guthrie area.

Early in life he attended and was taught the doctrines of the Church of God. Going to Sunday school and church was an essential part of his training.

In 1946, Harold Lee was married to Twilla Benson of Oklahoma City, to which union was born one son, Troy Keith. In 1955, Harold was married to Mayme Ambrose. Both Twilla and Mayme preceded him in death.

On January 12, 1973, Harold Lee and Lois Hightower were married. He is survived by his wife, Lois of the home, Guthrie; one son, Troy Keith Davis, of Anaheim, Calif.; his mother Etta (Davis) Brant and step-father, Clarence Brant of Guthrie; one brother, Ernest; three nephews, Steve, Rick, and Kenny Davis, all of Guthrie; and one granddaughter, Lisa, of Calif.; as well as a host of friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Willie C. Murphey, and the interment was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

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

**Sister Rosa (Bedwell) Watson** was born June 4, 1909, at Kokomo, Mississippi. She died at the Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, Oklahoma, on September 17, 1980, at the age of 71 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband John Watson and one son Earl Watson.

She leaves behind: three sons, Dennis, William, and Ervin Watson; four sisters, Mrs. Annie Smith, Mrs. Evie Smith, Mrs. Lily Terrol, and Mrs. Weeder Holmes; four brothers, Ernest, Virgil, Henry, and Burkley Bedwell, and many friends and relatives.

Sister Watson was a humble sister who loved the Lord and tried to serve Him to all she knew and understood. Her spiritual warfare was great as she opposed the powers of the devil through much accusation. The last few years of her life were spent in a battle against cancer, but she maintained the victory in her soul as she pressed her way toward the mark and labored to maintain her integrity with her God; and we understand that her passing was sweet and peaceful.

Funeral services were held in the Colonial Funeral Home Chapel in Columbia, Miss., and she was buried next to her husband in the Shady Grove Cemetery, with services being conducted by Bro. Bob Forbes.

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

**Mrs. Freddie Mae Morrow** was born in Pickens County, Alabama, on June 6, 1903, and departed this life at her home in Reform, Ala. on August 2, 1980.

She accepted the Lord as her personal Saviour as a young woman and was faithful until death.

Survivors to mourn her departure include: one son, Milton Morrow of Coram, N.Y.; one daughter, Mrs. Callie Mae Byrd of Reform, Ala.; three sisters, Mrs. Irene Richardson, Mrs. Omah Lee Jones, and Mrs. Bernice Petty, all of Tuscaloosa, Ala.; four brothers, Paul Mullins of Reform, Ala., James Mullins of Aliceville, Ala., Herman Mullins of Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Coleman Mullins of Steubenville, Ohio; ten grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Henry Effinger, assisted by others, and the interment was in the Hopewell Cemetery, Reform, Ala.

## A FRIEND TO THE END

When human friendships reach their end,  
We still have One abiding Friend!  
More faithful is He than any other,  
Jesus sticks closer than a brother!

—Edward M. Brandt

Perform every duty, however small, in just as perfect a manner as if that were the only duty you had to perform this entire year.

—C. E. Orr

## A Mother's Memories

I know you have heard of our tragic loss of our lovely, sixteen year old daughter, Colleen Meek. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men . . ." Gal. 6:10. This verse was the kind of life Colleen lived. She loved and cared tenderly for babies (especially for her only nephew, sixteen month old David) and entertained toddlers to teen-agers. She offered the best to others, and was content with what remained or willing to do without. Adults and the elderly loved Colleen because she often put her arm around them and said she loved them and that she would be praying for them. Business acquaintances said Colleen visited on an adult level and showed maturity beyond her years. Remarks were made such as, "You could tell she was a Christian by the 'glow' about her; it was on her face."

Colleen loved her family devotedly and was ready to help at any time, changing her own plans to do so. Colleen loved her grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, saints, and young people. She looked forward to attending church services three times weekly, revivals, and campmeetings. She often sat alone during service to benefit all she could. Colleen's counsel, concern, and understanding with the young people were often used. After listening to someone's problems, she would sacrifice in any way to help. I have been touched by the letters, calls, and visits by young people telling me how much she encouraged them.

The week before Colleen found her Heavenly Home, an elderly sister called for prayer. Colleen answered the phone and said, "I'll pray for the Lord to heal your suffering." Within thirty minutes the Lord gave relief to the dear sister in need. She was so thankful. "I have confidence in Colleen's prayers," she said.

Colleen prayed through her own trials, but would often come to me saying, "Mother, I need you to pray with me," or, "I need to talk to you." Sometimes it would be a problem, a heartache, a burden for loved ones, or a desire to do the right thing in certain situations. We would talk it over and pray it through, and she would hug me saying, "Mother, thank you for helping me. I'm so glad you taught me to live for the Lord in the true Church of God." We often shed tears together, laughed together, and we talked about life each day. We made many short trips together; ours was a rare, open, easy companionship. Colleen appreciated every little thing anyone did for her and it took very little to make her happy, since she had a natural loving, happy nature, often skipping or running. She loved and played with her dog, Muffet, in her lonely hours. She played the piano and loved to sing.

Now and then, Colleen felt the need of asking for counsel from the ministers. She often said how much she loved and appreciated her Aunt Roberta and Uncle Ed Wilson. They remarked that if each person were as easy to work with as Colleen, their burdens

for the Church would be lighter. Colleen never resented sound advice, but acted on it as she was able.

The week before her heavenly journey, Colleen came to me one morning and said, "Mother, the Lord woke me up with a song in the night—Look! it is in this book and the words are just like I was singing them, 'I want to be ready to meet Him.'" She sang that song every day afterward. That song was sung at her funeral, and those who knew her best said she lived that testimony.

Another day within her last two weeks, Colleen said, "Mother, I needed a special blessing from the Lord, so I took my Bible, pencil, and paper and I studied and prayed about two hours. The Lord just blessed me! I'm clean inside and out!"

On Wednesday night prayer meeting before she left us, Colleen led the testimony service. She said she had gotten saved (in Grandma Meek's cabin at Monark Springs) when she was ten years old and had been saved now six years.

Colleen just earned her "crown" a little sooner than most of us.

I desire to show love and wisdom to my three grown children. They are so precious to me! Robbin and Steve are both married; Lorraine is still at home and has been a help to me.

May the Lord reward each of you for your prayers, love, phone calls, flowers, cards and letters, food, and offering. The saints are our "family," also, thank the Lord! You have lightened our grief by sharing our burden of loss.

The Lord has just poured His great oil of healing over my heart and it has been a miracle! I can but rejoice that Colleen is safe; I grieve for my great loss, but not for her. The Holy Spirit has given me courage, and grace, and comfort above measure. Praise the Lord!

Let us pray one for another, —Wilma Meek

## A Family's Appreciation



Okla. (Oct. 17)—Dear saints: We wish to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation for all the kind expressions of love and concern everyone has extended to us during this time of the loss of our daughter, Janice. Our hearts have been touched that such love would be shown to us. Someone made the statement, on the way back to the hospital after Jan's service (I was able only by God's grace to attend the service in a wheelchair), that "those people [the saints] sure do stick together." I said, "Well, yes, but the common bond between the saints is the love of God." Through these past trying weeks, this love has become a reality again and again. We appreciated each and every card, letter, and visit. Words are simply not adequate to express our gratitude for all the lovely plants and flowers, for the many who supplied and helped serve the food, and for the love offerings as well.



We can look back and see how God had tried to prepare us for this time. There is really not space to tell all that God has done for us, but we do wish to tell what we can to His glory.

About a month before this accident, I had felt a need in my soul and made a deeper consecration to the Lord. Soon after this, the Lord gave me this Scripture, which came to my mind often: "Trust in the Lord with ALL thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Prov. 3:5, 6) The morning after the accident, I understood that God wanted me to trust Him for His wisdom in allowing this to happen and for taking our precious daughter. Loren and I truly believe what took place was the will of God, and we know God makes no mistakes. While at moments our grief has been almost unbearable, yet we have felt God touch our hearts and give us comfort which no man can give though he offers many devices. I recall a song the Lord gave me as I was being taken back to my room after the funeral service. "Praise God, I live in Beulah land! My house can ALL the storms withstand." I had some that were with me to sing that song. The Lord God of heaven has proved Himself strong in our behalf, and we thank Him again and again.

I was critically injured in the accident, and as I was lying in the street, Bro. Roger and Sis. Marsha White came. I came to with Marsha holding a cloth to the cut on the side of my head and praying. They called Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson to come, and the four of them prayed for me right there in the street, under the threat of arrest. We all believe God worked a miracle on my body before I ever got to the hospital. My own belief is that God saw what I could bear and left me with the injuries I could endure. My left arm and six ribs at my back were broken, a cracked vertebra in my neck and another one cracked in the lower part of my back, was the extent of my broken bones. I had a severe chest injury and my knees were severely lacerated and required several hours to sew up, along with the cut on the side of my head. I had to wear splints on my legs during most of the 14 days I was in the hospital.

During the two weeks in the hospital, the Lord answered prayer in my behalf many times instantly. Those in the room witnessed God's power, and although some were unsaved, I have personally heard them testify to what they saw.

For some months before the accident, I had been praying for God to touch our lives that we all would serve Him better, and also for Loren's salvation. We are thankful to report that God did touch Loren's soul and he is now your brother in Christ. We both know that if we prove faithful we shall meet our Jan again, never again to part. Praise God!

We still covet your prayers that in the days ahead God will continue to be real to us and heal our broken hearts completely.

Before we close, I do want to thank each one who made the effort to come to Jan's service. Your

presence meant so much to our whole family and left a deep impression on the funeral director. He made the comment, with tears in his eyes, that he felt the Spirit of God in that service.

Thank you again, each and everyone.

Yours in Christ,

—Loren, Maxine,  
Charissa, and Sarah Busbee

### Progress Report for the Church of God National Campgrounds Monark Springs, Neosho, Mo.

During the business meeting at the close of the National campmeeting last July, a private donation was offered to cover all material costs for a concrete floor under the tabernacle. We are glad to report that the floor has been completed.

A few in the Neosho congregation worked very hard clearing the site, excavating, building forms, and ordering the materials. Pouring of the concrete was scheduled for the weekend of October 11. Calls were made to the different congregations, and many of the saints came to help with the work. There was plenty of help, and at the end of the day on Saturday, fifty-six cubic yards of concrete had been poured and finished. Most of the normal winterizing work on the campground was also done. Now it will not be necessary to have the regular fall work day originally scheduled for the first weekend in November.

We appreciate very much the help of Gene Barton and two of his experienced workers. They donated their time and the use of their special equipment. This made the work much easier, and resulted in professional quality work.

Total cost for the slab was \$3,068. This amount has been paid by the special donation. May the Lord richly bless all that had a part in this effort.

We are also pleased to report that all debts for the land purchase have been paid. Praise the Lord!

The cash reserve for routine expenses and for starting the meeting next year is lower than normal, but all debts have been paid. We are looking for the Lord to continue blessing the National campmeeting at Monark Springs, Neosho, Mo. —James R. Wall

### REVIVAL AT GREEN BANK, W. VA.

A revival meeting of the Church of God at Green Bank, W. Va., will begin on Nov. 25, 1980, and continue as long as the Lord leads. All that come will be cared for.

—Bro. and Sister Mart Samons  
P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944  
Telephone (304) 456-4469

### LIGHTS IN THIS WORLD

We shine as lights in this world of sin,  
God's Holy Spirit burns brightly within.  
O, may our witness never grow dim,  
But bring more and more souls to Him.

—Edward M. Brandt



## Prayer Requests



Va.—“Pray for my brother who is an alcoholic. He is in a pitiful condition and needs help so much.”

Miss.—“My eyes are failing. . . . It's old age and hardening of the arteries. I know God can heal my eyes. Pray that I will not be so forgetful.

—Viola Touchstone

Pa.—“I have been and am still suffering much with an affliction. I need healing. God has healed me many times before.”

—Virginia Myers

La.—“I am getting frail in my body. I can hardly walk, and my legs and back give me much trouble. I would like for some middle-aged woman to come and live with me in my humble home. . . . Pray for me.” [Write to this office if interested.]

—Sis. Mary Bush

Okla.—“I am afraid that I have cancer, and I am in need of much prayer. I know that God knows.”

—Sis. Dolly Brooks

Okla.—“The bones in my arm are not knitting together as they should. Please pray that God will cause them to knit.”

—Maxine Busbee

Mexico—“I write with a heavy heart. My sister-in-law, Tomasa, is very sick. . . . Her doctor says that the cancer is in every part of her body now, especially her liver. He feels it's a matter of two or three weeks at the longest. She coughs constantly and suffers terribly, and almost loses her breath. . . . God is blessing her soul and she has a good testimony. We ask an interest in your prayers for her, her [four] dear children, and for us.”

—Sis. Edith (Cole) Lara

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.” Psa. 34:19. It seems this has been my case lately, but it's wonderful to trust God for my body. I had some kind of virus. I had a deep chest cold, with fever and sweats every hour or so. I was very weak, but after about four days, the Lord healed me. Then I began having pains in my lower back. One morning I came to the office, but I suffered so much that I went home and started praying. After about an hour, the Lord touched me and I came back to the office. For about five days I would have pains come in my back, but the Lord didn't let them stay long after prayer. The Lord took them away, and I do thank Him. Other things came, but the Lord again proved faithful. It's so precious to trust Him for both soul and body.

We do thank God for what He did for Maxine Busbee who was in the accident. The Church got under the burden for her while she was still lying on the pavement, as word was received immediately here in Guthrie and at other places. She had need of prayer many times during those first days.

Someone said to me the next morning that they wondered if she would recover. They reminded me of Maxine's friend, and of the like pattern of the lives of hers and Maxine's. They went to school together, and graduated together. Each was the bridesmaid for the other. They both married and had three girls. In July of this year, Maxine's friend was in an accident and she and one of her daughters were

killed. As I called this to mind, the Lord gave me the thought about Peter, who was in prison. The Bible says, “. . . but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.” (Acts 12:5) I said that prayer changes patterns and changes conditions of one's body. Many were praying for her. Early the next morning I received a phone call from someone in another town asking about her. Then another call came, saying that the saints in Alabama, Louisiana, and Missouri knew about Maxine's need. So Maxine had to live and come through because “prayer was made without ceasing of the church.” Oh, the love of the saints and how they care! Oh, how we thank God for His great love and His care! He does hear and answer prayer.

—Sis. Marie Miles

## GOSPEL WORKER GOING TO NIGERIA

Bro. Robert Eckenwiler, a member of the Church in Wichita, Kansas, has been praying many months about his going to Nigeria, West Africa, to help Bro. Titus Enu in his mission work. When Bro. Enu was in the States more than a year ago, Bro. Eckenwiler faithfully took Bro. Enu in his car to various congregations and preaching appointments. Now he feels God calling him to help Bro. Enu in his native Nigeria. Accordingly, Bro. Eckenwiler made arrangements at his own expense to leave Wichita by plane on Nov. 5, 1980, and arrive in Lagos, Nigeria, on Nov. 6, from where he will be taken to Bro. Enu's home in Kwale, Bendel State, Nigeria. Lord willing, he will work with Bro. Enu three months. Bro. Eckenwiler desires the fervent prayers of the Church that he will have a safe trip and that the Lord will make him a blessing to all those he contacts in that needy mission field. We plan to send a large box of gospel literature with him for distribution in their gospel work.

—Editor

## MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Sept. 15)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the dear saints in America: We send our greetings of Christian love to all of you again in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you very much for your very kind letter dated Sept. 4, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude.

I just came back home after visiting many places in north Kerala. They were Trichur, Kodali, Kodsary, Nellikkumu, Velappaya, Athani, and others. We have already started a congregation at Athani which is a new station opened for us. The need is urgent to build a chapel there. At Kodali three Catholics got saved and baptized very recently in our chapel. I talked to them from the Word about the Church of God doctrines for their edification. All these northern places are strong Catholic centers, and the light of the pure gospel is being spread there through our workers and evangelists. In north Kerala we now have five congregations, and they badly need a ceme-

tery for their use. Five hundred dollars is needed for this project, and if some dear ones feel burdened to help for this need, it will be appreciated very much. A public address system is also needed in the north for street meetings, which may cost \$400. I hope the saints in America will co-operate with us in prayer for these needs.

I got a call from a place by the name of Anchal, south of us, and Lord willing, I plan to visit them this Sunday and to conduct a meeting there. We thank God for these new stations opening for us, which reveals that the harvest is ripe and the field is vast. Building of the chapel at Kootarvila is progressing.

My wife, mother, and others in our family, and all my co-workers send their love and greetings to the dear saints everywhere in America.

We earnestly pray for your healing for the glory of God.

Yours in His service, —John Varghese

### NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria, (Sept. 29)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the saints of God abroad: Greetings in the name of Jesus, the Holy Lamb of God. His love for us which brought Him down to earth as our Saviour continues strong.

The advance copy of the *Faith and Victory* paper for September, 1980, mailed to me by airmail, has since been received, while the regular monthly communication is yet to arrive. . . .

Our trust in God is firm and high. No amount of threat, hate, blackmail, or denial of material co-operation can change our mind to share the glory and honor due to God with any other, no. It was good of Paul to say, "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (Phil. 4:11).

Our indebtedness to God cannot be adequately expressed for the blessing of His Church with divine revelations. Never a time in our spiritual race did we have constant revelations from the Lord for the guidance of His Church as is now being experienced. Nothing comes to pass which will not first be revealed. Yet, we solicit the co-operation of the saints with us in prayer for attainment of higher power. The Church needs a higher power to free the entangled from the clutches of "mystery Babylon."

We deem it a matter of much interest and appreciation to find the *Faith and Victory* paper to convey to the world the stand for truth of the Church of God through the inspired articles of our beloved saints published therein monthly. This writer has in his possession a testimony in writing from a man he has not met in person, far away in Imo State, whose life has been changed through reading the saints' writings in the *Faith and Victory* and through the books from Faith Publishing House. Praise God for the truth of His Church, the only Church, the Church of God.

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

## From the Mailbox . . .

North Dakota—Brethren, greetings in the Master's name: Thank you for the prompt delivery of my recent order of books. I would like to order another copy of *Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag*.

Once again, I want to thank you for the ministry you are fulfilling. Some of these older books are such an inspiration and encouragement. They are full of spiritual counsel. Thank you for seeing the vision of reprinting these books and fulfilling that vision. Praise the Lord! May God bless you.

—Pastor Wayne Cook

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

Ohio—Greetings Bro. Lawrence and co-workers: Summer is past and fall is here. God did bless us with a good garden this summer, and the harvest was really good. To have a garden, we had to plant the seed; after the seed, came the plant. To get a good crop, we had to keep the weeds out and dig about the plant. By doing this, our garden yielded good vegetables. This is the same way it should be in our lives today. We should be sowing the gospel seed. If we leave it on the shelf, it will not do any good. We need to get them off the shelf and spread the gospel seeds, so they can bring forth fruit.

Do remember us in your prayers as we do you there at the Print Shop, for there is power in prayer.

—Bro. Rufus Perry and family

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

Va.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I have so much to thank the Lord for. He has brought me through some rough things, and I'm still holding on to God.

On Saturday, April 5, 1980, I went to the hospital in Petersburg, Va., to see my son, Taylor. He came down the hall and stood beside me. He then fell to the floor. They couldn't bring him to consciousness. I feel God knew that Taylor couldn't stand any more. Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons came to Richmond and took care of the funeral. It was beautiful. Bro. and Sis. Golden Arbogast and their daughter Gwen, were there. It was wonderful how God supplied the money to pay for it all.

Keep praying for me that I will always stand true.

—Nannie T. Connell

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

(Following is a letter from Sister Alberta Cook of Montclair, Calif., whose aged parents, Bro. Sam and Sister Armilda Abbott, are in the Church of God Sunset Guest Home at Pacoima, Calif.—Editor)

Dear Brother Lawrence and Sister Maybelle: We greet you in love in Jesus' dear name. . . . Mother is very low. Several times it looked like she was passing. She says she is waiting for the Lord to take her. For the most part, she has not suffered greatly. God is good, and we praise Him. Daddy is holding up very well, and has good courage. He is very good to care for Mother and to get her up in the wheelchair, and take her out for some fresh air. Yesterday, though, she could only be up for a few minutes, as she was so weak.

Time passes by so swiftly. More and more I realize that only what's done for Christ will last. I am witnessing for Christ on this corner [at the gas station], and encouraging every child of God to fight that good fight of faith. So often the tendency is to look on the dark side of everything, but a faith and trust in God knows that there is a bright side also, whether or not it is revealed to us at the present. Some day we'll understand.

I will close in love, asking God's blessing upon you. We do appreciate your prayers, and your loving letters mean so much to Mother and Daddy.

Thank you again. —Alberta Cook

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ohio—Dear saints: Greetings of love in the precious name of Jesus! We trust this finds all well and pressing on. Our hearts are rejoicing for the mercy God has shown to us in so many ways. We could not express the thanks and praise we feel towards God for what He means to us. We are living in a time when the devil is trying every way he can to drag us down or to deceive us in some way. We realize how easily we could have fallen into a snare, but, praise God, He spared us from it.

You may not know altogether what we've been through during the past few months, but we have come through with victory. Praise the Lord!

We have not a thing against anyone, but it burdens our hearts to see how the devil takes advantage of people. He's like the roaring lion that walketh about seeking whom he may devour. He doesn't care what way he does it, either.

Although some have left the congregation here in Dayton, we who remain are still with the saints and the "Evening Light" truth. We appreciate and thank each one for their prayers and burdens carried for us and other saints here.

Some of us were privileged to attend the Myrtle, Missouri, singing on October 4, 1980, and we received such a blessing. It was so wonderful to be with the saints and enjoy the fellowship. We are much encouraged in the Lord and striving to make heaven our home. Pray for us that we will be true.

—Kenny and Mary Abbott

Kansas—Dear Sis. Anna Marie: Praise the Lord! Oh, I'm so glad I found Him, and I can't live without Him. He is so precious, kind, loving, and patient with me. I have completely submitted my life and all to the Lord, and I want this earthly vessel to be used to the glory of God.

Oh, to think that I might have had this joy and peace years ago, instead of living in the dark pit in which I groped my way around until my precious Saviour reached down and "lifted me out." That song has to be my testimony. Oh, I love Him so much and want only His pleasure and will in my life! Oh, yes, His grace is sufficient.

Sis. Marie, after the things that the Lord has already showed me, there is no way that I could ever go back to the "city of destruction." I'm bound for the "Celestial City," and by the mercy and wonderful grace of God, I mean to be among the faithful.

Years ago, when you gave me my Bible (June 23, 1962), you wrote something in the back that I read then, but didn't read again until recently, and it is so true; in fact, it is the whole basis of living for God. You wrote: "Let God's will be your will." "Trials and afflictions cannot injure when blended with submission." Praise the Lord!

Pray that I'll ever be submissive, obedient, and humble.

Your Sister in Jesus, —Janice King

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ky.—Dear Brothers and Sisters: I am still saved and holding on to the Lord. I have come too far to go back, and besides there is nothing to go back to. I am so glad that I gave my heart and my all to Jesus about forty-four years ago. I love Him better every day.

I have had lots of sickness and two deaths in my family. I lost my oldest son three years ago, and I gave up my sweet little sainted wife one year ago the 23rd of September, but God has been with me through it all. Oh, praise His holy name! I don't know what I would have done without Him in these sad and lonely days. I now stay by myself. I took care of my darling wife for six years. She was bedfast for four years and totally blind for two years of the four. I waited on her day and night, and did all of the house work. If it had not been for my blessed Lord, I could never have stood the strain, but God gave me strength and courage. There is nothing too big for Him to do. He said in His word, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Please pray for me, that He will ever bless and keep me until He is ready to call me Home.

—Frank Dunaway

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: I trust this finds you and yours abounding in the mercy and grace of God. I can say that His mercies have been great toward me. He has just recently healed me of a cancer on the left side of my face. It was just in the edge of the hairline. It itched, burned, and hurt at times. I felt that everyone noticed it where I work in the public. I work as a custodian at the Granby School. I was anointed and prayed for on prayer and fast day for the sick at Monark campmeeting this year. Not long after, it began to become loose. It quit hurting, itching, and burning, except very little. Finally, it became so loose that I just lifted it off without its bleeding very much. The place soon healed over. One cannot even tell where it was. I am required to take a physical examination each year to hold my job. Just about the time school would start, I wondered what they would say if this was still on there, but thanks to the good Lord, it came off before then. I want to thank the Lord for healing. Also, I want to thank the

dear saints who prayed for me. It's such a relief not to bump that place when I go to wash my face.

I want to tell of another healing in my body recently. About four weeks ago, I began to suffer with prostate gland trouble and possibly kidney infection. I suffered almost constantly. My kidneys would hardly act. We requested prayer. I got some better, but still had much pain. While I was looking earnestly to the Lord for help, He brought to my mind how lovingly and compassionately Jesus suffered for us; knowing that He is just the same today, my faith began to take in help and healing. From that day until now, I have continued to get better. I have had some tests since then, but I believe He touched my body then. Thanks unto God for His healing touch! I am almost normal now, and am trusting Him to take care of the rest.

One time during some suffering, the Lord brought the comforting Scripture to my mind, "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." Romans 8:28.

I thank the Lord not just for the healing of my body, but also for the saving of my soul, and for bringing me into fellowship with His dear Son. This morning I thought of the Scripture where it mentions He loved us and had died for our sins. As I thought of His dying for our sins, I thought of how sin brings a separation between us and God. He didn't want us separated from Him, but He wanted us to be in fellowship with Him that we might partake of His consolation and goodness in every way.

—T. V. McMillian

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. . . ." John 14:27. I praise my dear loving Master, Jesus Christ, for the deep settled peace He gave me. Praise His blessed name! I am determined to go all the way with Him, whatever the cost. . . .

I hope you are better in body and rejoicing in your soul. Remember Wife and me when you pray, as we always do you.

Yours in the One Body, —Nathan Mobley

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

Mich.—Dear Sis. Marie: Thank you for your good letter. It was so encouraging and uplifting. May God bless you.

I want to thank all of you for praying for me. I feel much better, but it was rough through July, August, and September. I began feeling better after all your prayers. I could breathe better. My throat still fills up with phlegm a little, but thank the dear Lord, He helped me! Praise His blessed name! I feel more relaxed and I can now sleep better. When I couldn't sleep, I would pray through the night, so I feel that was good, too, and I would feel refreshed. So many need to be prayed for, and I remembered all of you dear ones, Sis. Viola Wier, and Bro. Lawrence. We surely hope and pray he is much better. We hope Sis. Viola Weir's leg is well now.

My parents are doing quite well, praise God! At their age, it is amazing how they can be up and around. Our God is so good. Bless His holy name forever!

I love my books; all of them are so good to read. I received my precious *Faith and Victory* and *The Beautiful Way* papers.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Olive Getterson

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

New Mex.—Dear Sister Marie: I do praise God for these pretty days we are having. . . .

The Lord has been so precious to all His children. I am thanking and praising Him from the very depths of my heart. On my birthday, October 16, I was 79. The good Lord heals me when I am sick, and I still have good health. Praise God!

Remember my unsaved loved ones in prayer. Thank you so very much for your dear letters, and especially the *Faith and Victory* papers.

May God bless all of you. —Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: I want to thank the Lord for His love and mercy to me.

On the night of July 28, 1980, I was bitten by a copperhead snake in our back yard. Within a very few minutes the pain had become severe. Different ones of the saints came to our home immediately and began praying. After about an hour, the Lord took away this unbearable pain. The swelling came, and for several days I couldn't walk on my foot. But the Lord took care of it all. He has even taken away the soreness that lingered for several weeks. There are no bad aftereffects. I surely thank Him for all He's done for me; and I thank everyone for their concern and prayers.

—DeDe Harmon

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

Pa.—Dear Saints: It is so precious just to be one of God's little ones—saved, sanctified, and satisfied. I know of some who don't want to take the high calling of being a saint. One thing is for sure, we are either a saint—one forgiven and set aside for God's use—or a sinner. I surely don't want to be in the latter category. The dictionary defines a saint as a *holy or sanctified person*. The Bible tells us to be "holy as he is holy." In Luke 1:74, 75 it says that we "might serve him without fear, in holiness, and righteousness before him all the days of our life"—our life, not after we are dead, as some believe. Ephesians 1:4 says "that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." There could be more Scriptures given, but we surely see the need to live a holy life.

I feel it would be good to tell of an experience I recently had with the Lord. I have had an affliction for several years, and my unsaved companion began demanding I see a doctor. I finally consented to go to be checked. As we were on our way, I was crying and quite upset because I didn't want to go; I wanted to wait on the Lord. I was wanting to have the saints pray for me, but I don't live near any of the saints, so I was feeling low, nervous, and upset. Just then it seemed that the Lord whispered to me, "I will go with

you." Unconsciously I reached for my purse that was laying on the front seat, to make room for Jesus to go along. Tears of joy began to flood me. Every now and then I would look over to that seat, and a big smile would come on my face to think that Jesus was going with me. The troubled spirit left me, and I felt so at ease because Jesus was right with me. When I reached the doctor, I had to go into different rooms to wait for different things, and in every room I entered I looked to see if there was a chair for Jesus. He surely was a comfort to me.

This may seem amusing to some, but He did go with me and He comforted me. Since then, I feel He has touched my body, and I am looking for complete healing without any medicine.

"He is so precious to me." I surely want to be pliable in His hands. If He sees fit to lay His hand (of affliction or whatever) on me, I want to be able to say as the song writer, "In the heated furnace, Father, let me stay; precious gold refining, purge the dross away." When I think that He loves me enough to take time to deal with even me, my heart fills with praise and appreciation. Many times He has been merciful to show me the same lesson over and over again. Maybe I hadn't grasped it, but He loved me enough not to cut me off. He extended more mercy and chastized me again till the lesson was learned. His mercy goes far. God is love.

Pray for me that I will be able to understand all His dealings with me and that I will be quick to respond.

Satisfied in Jesus, —Virginia Myers  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Pa.—Dear Sister Marie: Jesus sticketh closer than a brother. The arm of flesh will fail, but He will never fail. He has been so good to me. Each hour I thank Him for all of His loving kindness and for helping me through each time of stress. He's always there to help. Praise His name!

We had an unexpected lightning and thunderstorm the other evening. The thunder made such a loud noise that some people said their houses shook. I feel that God is trying to show people His power. Many things are happening that have not occurred in years. Now it is reported that an outbreak of tuberculosis is in a school near Pittsburgh. These things will come.

Your Sister in Christ, —Eva Cox  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Texas—Dear Sister Marie and all at the Print Shop: I do pray daily that Bro. Lawrence is improving, and that you are staying well. I am not very well, but at least I'm improving somewhat. My blood pressure has dropped. I had to slow down with my yard work. Pray for me.

I really enjoyed the meeting and I was so happy to be baptized. For a long time I had wanted to be baptized. I'm sorry that I got there too late to take part in the other ordinances.

I do appreciate the prayers of the saints, and I need them. —Lessie Speed

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: This past summer, we attended a number of meetings, and how encouraging it was to fellowship with the dear saints of God! Some we did not know and some we had known since early childhood. It was so good to see them still living that same consistent, holy life.

We want to give thanks again how the Lord blessed us in our travels. We had visited our brother and his family in Washington D. C. Our plane was to arrive in Chicago, Illinois, within an hour and thirty minutes. The pilot had informed us that we might not be permitted to land due to the weather, which proved to be true. We were aboard for nearly seven hours. Within that time, we had to land in Indiana for refueling and flight instructions. In the crisis, the people of the world (at least some of them) turned to drinking, but we looked to the Lord who was our Helper. Blessed are we, His people, who commit the keeping of our souls to a faithful Creator. During the time we were aboard, I had desired of the Lord to have someone to pray for us. When I called my sister in Oklahoma City, she let me know she had been praying for me. Isn't it wonderful how the Lord can touch another saint to pray for someone in need! They really don't have to know what the need is. Truly, the saints of God are a dear people!

—Bro. and Sis. E. V. Davenport  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Minn.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." He helps me day by day in the heavenly way.

My health is good, but we do not know the day nor the hour when the Lord will call us Home, or when He will come in the clouds on the last day. It behooves us to be ready for His coming. I still love the Lord who has done so much for me in times past.

I received the *Faith and Victory* papers. Praise God! They are a great help to keep me in the straight and narrow way.

I love all of you, and I appreciate your love and fellowship in the Lord.

With much love and prayers,  
—Bro. Andrew Senti  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Fla.—Dear Sister Miles: I want to testify to the healing that I received last October 25, 1979. That morning I had pain and was bleeding from my bladder. I had first called a friend who usually encourages me to trust the Lord, but that day she said something like this, "The Christians around here are too busy to really get in earnest or fast for you. You had better go to the doctor." I had been reading the *Faith and Victory* paper, and I knew that you and the other saints at Guthrie would be ready to pray. I called and you calmed my fears. I also obeyed the Word and called my minister, and he came with a couple of other men and anointed and prayed for me. The Lord healed me the same day. At about 5:45 p.m. there was no more pain or bleeding. It will be one year this October, and I am free from this trouble, for which I give God all the praise.

I had witnessed to my neighbor, who is a Seventh Day Adventist, of my healing. She did not encourage me, but said that I would need to have surgery. You brought the tract "Christ's Atonement for Our Healing" to my attention. I reread it, and it was more meaningful than ever before. I am grateful for the words you wrote at the end of the "Prayer Requests" in this month's (September) issue of the *Faith and Victory*.

One day the Lord spoke to me through His word in Isaiah 51:13, "... and hast feared continually every day because of the fury of the oppressor, as if he were ready to destroy? and where is the fury of the oppressor?" I understood then that the Lord didn't want me to be afraid of the fury of the devil. I appreciate the testimonies of those who have stood on the Word and overcome.

I have need of healing of other afflictions. I read where Satan stood up against Israel, and I feel that's what has happened to me. As you said, it behooves us to believe and meet the Lord's conditions. The Lord has promised the armor and we shall not be wounded in the hottest fight.

May God's richest blessings be upon all of you who prayed for me. —Sis. Geraldine Dick

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

Canada—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: I thank the Lord for being saved, sanctified, and satisfied in His riches. I, too, can say, "Jesus Christ [is] the same yesterday and today and forever."

I would like to tell what the Lord has done for me recently. As some of you know, I have severe arthritis spread over my entire body and cannot walk or take care of myself at all. I was seventeen when it set in and in ten years it left me a complete invalid. We've been with the saints for two years and love the truth. Before I accepted the truth, I tried everything I knew to help my arthritis, but nothing helped me. I even had two plastic hip operations, but they were unsuccessful.

For months I had had excruciating pain, inasmuch that I couldn't be put in the shower any more. We had some meetings scheduled for Oct. 11 and 12. Sis. Kay Williams, Bro. and Sis. James Cornelius, and Bro. Abbage from Akron, Ohio came, and we had blessed fellowship. The Spirit of God prevailed in the meetings.

During the week before and while they were here, my pain was worse than it had been. Sis. Kay Williams stayed in our home, and we would pray and the pain would subside, only to recur.

Tuesday (after the meetings) when they helped me up, it felt like they were pulling my body apart, the pain was so extreme. I then felt that I **must** get help from God. I felt inspired to fast, which I did for nearly three days. On Wednesday, when they helped me up, there was no pain whatsoever. Praise the Lord! Since then there has been practically no pain, and I have been able to be moved with greater ease since. I plan to go back into the shower, also. I am determined not to let Satan bring the pain back, as

I know he is a conquered foe.

We are thankful for what the Lord has done, but we are not content with this. I know the Lord will raise me up completely, as He has given me the promise. Pray for me. —Betty Friesen

## Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** I do wish that you could clarify the meaning of "fornication" as it pertains to divorce in Matt. 5:32. Also, other Scriptural references to "fornication," such as 1 Cor. 5:9-11 and 6:13, and Matt. 19:9. I feel that some sound teaching in this area is needful at this present time.

**Answer:** I wish I could clarify the meaning, too, but all I can do is to try, and that I will do as much as God will help me. Matt. 5:32 reads, "But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery."

Fornication and adultery refer to the same act only under different conditions. Fornication is defined as "Sexual immorality between two people not married to each other." It applies to single people principally. Adultery is sexual immorality between two people of whom one or both are married but not to each other. Adam Clarke says at this place, "As fornication signifies no more than the unlawful connection of unmarried persons, it cannot be used here with propriety, when speaking of those who are married." He says, therefore that instead of "fornication" in this place, it should be translated, "on account of whoredom." Other translations of the New Testament agree with this. Rotherham translates it, "unfaithfulness." Moffatt renders it, "For any reason except unchastity." The New Testament in Basic English says, "For any other cause but the loss of her virtue." The Olaf N. Norlie Translation says, "For any reason other than adultery." All of these translations sum up to the same thing—sexual immorality. Matt. 19:9, where the same statement is made again, follows this same list of translations.

In 1 Cor. 5:9 Paul says, "I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators." Beck translates this, "Not to mix with those who live in sexual sin," and another translation says, "—stop associating with sexually immoral people." Paul says further in verse 11, "... if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, ... with such an one no not to eat." 1 Cor. 6:9, 10, makes it very clear that people in this classification—fornicators and adulterers; sexually immoral people—shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Eph. 5:3 spells it out that fornication should not even be mentioned among us as becometh saints. Heb. 13:4 pronounces the judgments of God against all sexually immoral people. 1 Cor. 6:18 says, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth

against his own body." 1 Cor. 6:19 says, "... your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost . . .," and 1 Cor. 3:17 says, "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." God is very severe against all types of sexual impurity.

1 Cor. 6:13 says, "... Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord . . ." True, God put within the human body the urge and desire for sexual fulfillment; but, according to this text, that is not to be used promiscuously. It is provided for the satisfaction, pleasure, and fulfillment of married partners, and when properly exercised between married partners and confined there, it is a beautiful and beneficial thing in nurturing and maintaining the love, harmony, and tenderness between the two people. There is nothing unclean, nor taboo, nor dishonorable about sexual contact between married partners, and we should never think of it as such. God's Word declares it to be honorable and undefiled (Heb. 13:4). 1 Cor. 7:2 says, "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband." God gave humankind this urge and appetite and then provided the proper place for its use—in marriage.

In this day in which we now live, there is such a broad scale permissiveness in this area that just any thing and every thing goes, and every type of moral perversion is so general and widespread that people pay less attention to it and are less shocked by it than in former times. As a result, this moral impurity gains more and more ascendancy, and as a result of this the moral standards of our society are disintegrating and the moral fabric of our society is "coming apart at the seams." Let us be certain that God's Word still stands and the Scriptures cannot be broken, and even now God's judgments are being poured out upon our nation to a considerable degree because of its moral degeneracy, and more judgment is to come. In the last great day of final judgment His wrath will be poured out without mixture upon a sin-ruined world. The promises in God's Word which have not been fulfilled yet are just as sure to come to pass as if they had already happened, and we can count on them with certainty. This is true whether they be of judgment and wrath, or blessings. So, I earnestly admonish every reader of this article to "flee fornication" (Flee from it just like you would from a venomous serpent) as well as all other types of moral impurity.

Homosexuals are staging demonstrations in divers places and clamoring for recognition and equal rights, and I will have to say they are getting too much recognition. They say that is just their preference and way of life, to which they have as much right as other people do to their preference and way of life. The sad fact is that many people who are not of that persuasion themselves are coming to look at it that way, too. What they fail to recognize is that if it were not for the mercy and longsuffering and forbearance of God in Christ, they would all be dead

as soon as they were discovered. That was a capital crime punishable by death in God's law (Lev. 20:13). Also the penalty for adultery and other forms of moral impurity was death (Lev. 20:10-16).

God has not changed His attitude toward these things in any measure. Mal. 3:6 says, "For I am the Lord, I change not; . . ." James says that there is no variableness; neither shadow of turning in Him (James 1:17). Numbers 23:19 says, "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" This all sums up to the fact that God's attitude is just the same now as then. But He has mercy, longsuffering, and forbearance in Christ today, so that the penalty is being delayed—a stay of execution. When this mercy period expires and Christ comes to judge the world, God's sentence of death (yea, even eternal death) shall be executed upon all who are partakers of these moral impurities.

## "Mystery Babylon"

This word "mystery" is found in various passages of Scripture. We find the "mystery of iniquity," the "mystery of godliness," the "mystery of Christ and His Church," and "Mystery Babylon."

The "mystery of sin Babel" is revealed in the fact that Satan, the author of confusion, does not reveal himself in his own person to work his deceptive powers. He does not traverse the foul atmosphere as a "fiery flying serpent" to transmit his lying wonders, nor does he show himself as a fiery monster of the bottomless pit with "fire, smoke, and brimstone" issuing out of his mouth. These are but figures to show the awfulness and ugliness of Satan who is a terror to those whose sins make him a terror. The truth of the matter is that he often is seen to appear as "an angel of light," and is able also to transform himself as a "minister of righteousness." In this manner by minute changes in the standard of divine measurement, he has been able through the pages of church history to soften and modify the strict demands of a pure gospel, and to prepare for careless souls a way of less resistance. Since the rigid rules of the cross of Christ crucify every natural inclination to want to dress and conform to a modern world, and to allow innovating foxes to creep in, Satan in his high bid for souls has been able to implement minds of clever seduction to bring about a lukewarm, careless concern of what God requires of a holy, sinless life.

I am often reminded of a statement which Sister Leila Joiner made years ago in a prayer meeting, concerning the devil's shifty ways. She said, "He never sleeps a wink; he even knows what we think." Considering this, we should not put a low estimate on his caliber and firing power. "Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment."

Of late I have been made to see that "man rule" is the worst opponent of the Church of God, because



it tries to stand up and dictate in the place of the Holy Spirit. We have seen spiritual movements, once well regulated and balanced in doctrine and holy living, fall from the highest plane of truth to the lowest depths of compromise, only to end up in the wreckage yards of sin and the dumping grounds of Babylon. One of the greatest catastrophies that has hit this earthly globe was when some ministers that had men's persons in admiration because of advantage began to tamper with the truth by introducing worldly apparel and musical instruments in worship which had been vehemently taught against. Previously, they agreed it was Jesus' design for His New Testament Church to worship God in spirit and in truth. Now they have their musical instruments of wood and of brass as they fall down to worship the golden image which the devil, the king of Babylon, has set up.

We are all nearing the end of life's mortal year, and this world's allotted time is soon to run out. Here we are nearing the close of 1980, and from here on we may expect events to take place which will mark the pages of history with blood and tears. With Babylon in turmoil, the political world in perplexities, and the soon coming of Christ, let us all "stand fast in one Spirit, striving together for the faith of the gospel."

We are burdened for honest souls displaced in the cages of "Mystery Babylon." Let us gather in the few that are left. We appreciate the faithfulness of the saints, their stand for the truth, and the unadulterated gospel literature they put out. May God ever bless the work of the *Faith and Victory*, is my prayer.

—Salvatore DiDio

## A Consecration for Sanctification

The first depth the Lord wants to bring His children to after justification is a consecration. There is a consecration in justification, but there is a deeper consecration needed in order for God's people to be wholly sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit. It is first a willingness to allow God freedom in all His will for us; a willingness to obey every command; a complete sacrifice. It is giving over every earthly possession, every desire or spiritual possession—our wills—which means what we desire or expect out of life, our goals, ambitions, talents, time and thoughts. Everything we know and everything we don't know are given to the complete usage of God. Every member of our body is to be no longer used to please ourselves (the flesh), but are all used to the glory of God. Our life's meat and drink is to do His will! It means willingness to suffer for the cause of God, such as ridicule, persecution, rejection, slander, illness, or anything else He permits to come our way.

Some may feel, "I have done all of this and yet I don't have the joy that is supposed to accompany it." The next thing is a depth of love. We hear about our debt of love, but this is a depth of love. We remember the Lord Jesus' asking Peter, "Lovest thou me more than these?" It is doing service from the heart of

love. It doesn't mean doing because I have to, or I'm supposed to, or others are expecting it of me (reputation), or because I've been taught to. It is doing for love's sake. The Lord showed me there are some that are self-inflicting martyrs. They want to die to end their suffering. In Communist countries they don't like martyrs. They say that's too easy. They want to see how long you will suffer for the cause. There are those like in 1 Cor. 13—martyrs willing to give their bodies to be burned, but not for love's sake. This love is the divine love of God in one's heart, mind, and soul. Charity is what the Scriptures call it. When a person does something he feels is required of him, something that is sort of forced upon him, and it's not done for love's sake, as soon as the pressure is lifted he immediately starts trying to find ways of changing. This is especially true with those whose fear of God is taught by the precepts of men (Isa. 29:13). As humans, we generally seem to want others to suffer what we suffer. If we are doing things for fear of man's rejection, we tend to look at others who aren't under that and expect them to do it, too. It's sort of a bondage. But the bondage of love makes us perfectly free! We don't have to make others do as we do. Others are persuaded by the joy, freedom, and liberty that we have in obeying the commands of the Word. The song say, "With thy love in us abiding, 'tis delightful to obey." This love can stand the test when others forsake us, when our faith seems to waver, and we're hoping against hope. Fervent charity never faileth. Charity can be longsuffering because it doesn't keep count of all the unkindness or injustice, little or big, that are done to it. It is not envious or revengeful. It vaunteth not itself. It doesn't brag or boast of all its accomplishments in behalf of others. It doesn't say, "I'm really suffering. Look at how I've gone out of my way; I even took that." "I'm trying to be patient and longsuffering. I almost put them in their place." It beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, and endureth all things. It is possible to have all faith—meaning without any doubt—able to remove mountains, and not have charity. Then we are still nothing because Jesus reduces all we do down to love. Charity is the greatest. The Lord wants us to have ALL faith with charity. This love doesn't mix or mingle with anything but other fruits of the Spirit. It rejoiceth not in iniquity. There are some under a delusion that believe love just loves every and any thing. Romans 1:32 says of them, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." Charity rejoiceth only in the truth. Love will obey the truth as well as hear. This is the more excellent way. This is what the old-timers called perfect love—the infilling of the Holy Ghost. It takes out all seeds of sinful imperfection, leaving the vessel cleansed and endued with power, fit to do anything God sends them to do—sanctified and meet for the Master's use. We can't do this ourselves, for that is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Your Sister in Christ,

—Alida Riley