

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### New Year's Greetings

Hail the New Year brightly dawning!

Future blessings it will bring;

Bright anticipations spawning

As we to the Saviour cling.

For the path is bright before us;

Onward, upward we will press,

As we swell the mighty chorus

Of our Saviour's righteousness.

Glancing back, we are reminded

Of the favors He has shown,

How to us who once were blinded

Precious treasures were made known.

Oh, His Kingdom, pow'r, and glory!

Oh, His mercy, peace, and love!

Ever new and wond'rous story

Of His advent from above.

From the manger to dark Calv'ry,

From the tomb to worlds on high,

He has wrought a mighty vict'ry,

He has brought His Kingdom nigh.

Through the faith of operation

We have resurrected been,

And the pow'r of His salvation

Helps us triumph over sin.

So our pathway bright is shining

More and more with ev'ry day,

Not in grief or sorrow pining,

But rejoicing on our way.

Soon the mists of earth will vanish,

Soon our Saviour will appear,

And the wicked will be banished,

While the faithful will draw near.

Let us greet the New Year's dawning

With great courage, zeal, and hope,

And the race with patience running

Ever on the upward slope.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### New Year's Treasure Box

There is a certain mystery about treasures or secrets. Just so, we find that the treasures and secrets of the Lord have a mystery.

Let us look into the Word of God and see where we find the treasures and hidden riches of the secrets. In Isa. 45:3 we read, "I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places. . . ." So we find that those "treasures" and "hidden riches of secrets" are found in darkness. Oh, my dear fellow travelers to that Celestial City, let us know that there are great things for us in those times of darkness or trouble. God has some precious secrets to reveal to us or some great treasure to give to us. All we need to do is to open up that great treasure box and take out those things that we need in time of trouble or sorrow. What do you think would be in that treasure box? There would be *faith*. We need faith to help us to be steady and to stand upon God's promises. We can take out *peace* and *rest* from that treasure box. These treasures are riches hidden from the world. Only those who are God's children can understand these secrets. The children of God revel in the precious treasures of God. Again, we reach into the treasure box in time of trouble when there is darkness all around us. We take out *joy* and think of the secret revealed to us from the Apostle James when he said, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing [some secrets] this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." James 1:2, 3. Oh, we do want patience! That sweet, gentle angel of patience is a desired companion. But what was the hidden secret revealed to us to be able to have patience? Let us be encouraged to know that God knows best and knows just how to help us. He teaches us the blessedness in waiting patiently. Much of our impatience is not necessary. Impatience never helps us, nor anyone, or anything else. Patience keeps us calm and inspires our faith and gives us rest. Longsuffering goes along with patience many times, and there is plenty of it in God's treasure box.

Oh, the precious jewel of *love* is another that we can take out of that treasure box. "Love covers a

multitude of sins." Love covers and commits all things to God. That deep love for God will take us through many hard things. It's one of the hidden riches for us when we get into the secret place that the world does not know about. The world says, "I would get even with that person if he did to me what he did to you." But the children of God let love cover the wrongs done to them, because they know the secrets of God. He said, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." So, they go right on loving their enemies, taking out of the treasure box a lot of kindness, gentleness, and forgiveness, and commit the wrong-doing to God. Oh, God's ways are best! His ways bring peace and rest to the soul. Praises be unto our God!

We are facing a new year if the Lord tarries. We do not know what it holds. Many things may touch our lives. Many joys, as well as many sorrows or strange and mysterious circumstances, might surround us. We need not be afraid, but we want to simply go on by faith. When we need any help, let us remember all that is in the treasure box of the Lord. We can freely take from it any needed help. There are hidden riches that are only found in the secret place with God.

One time I was in trouble, and it seemed that many things touched my life which were hard to understand. I was praying one morning a number of years ago, and the Lord blessed my soul with the thought that nothing touches my life unless it is to the glory of God, for my good or for the good of someone else. That thought really encouraged me, and it has been one of God's revealed secrets and a hidden treasure from His box that has been a help to me down through the years. Oh, to think that the "angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them," and to know that an angel has to step back to let something touch my life is a blessed secret revealed to me! I found it only in the "treasures of darkness." —Sis. Marie Miles

### God's Holy People

"And they shall call them, The holy people." Isa. 62:12. This prophecy was spoken about seven hundred years before Jesus was born, and about the same length of time after Moses had led the children of Israel out of Egypt and had given them the law.

It was said that the people of Israel were a holy people: "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God. . . ." Deut. 7:6. They were to be a people for God, separate from all other people, and conforming themselves to His law as spoken by Moses. They were to have a country of their own in which to dwell, a politico-religious system of worship, and costumes that were peculiar to them as a people. They were to diligently obey the Lord in all the things that He had commanded them to do. In this respect they were a holy people unto the Lord.

It is evident that God had not yet been able to have a people who would fully meet the standard of

holiness, and so we find one of His prophets declaring about seven centuries later of a people who would in some preeminent manner be called the holy people. These people did not exist in the days of this prophet—Isaiah—but their existence was spoken of by him as being yet future.

By further considering this special prophecy, we learn that this people would be so closely related to the Lord that it could be said they were married. "Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy god rejoice over thee." Isa. 62:4, 5.

**This prophecy fulfilled in Christ and His Church.**

We are not told the year when this prophecy would be fulfilled, but a few things stated in it enables us to correctly calculate when it came to pass. In verses one and two, we are told that righteousness going forth as brightness, and salvation as a burning lamp, would mark the fulfilment of this prophecy. "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." Verse 2. This gives us the time when true holiness would be manifested in the people of God, which time was when salvation through Jesus Christ was proclaimed to all nations, and the righteousness of God by faith in Christ was experienced and lived out in the lives of those who believed the gospel.

Christ and His people are represented as husband and wife, hence, married. "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Rom. 7:4. ". . . For I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." 2 Cor. 11:2. "For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. . . ." Eph. 5:23. He gave himself to sanctify and cleanse the church so that it should be without spot or wrinkle, or even a blemish—that it should be holy. Eph. 5:25-27.

Christians are called a "holy priesthood," in 1 Peter 2:5, 9. It is expected, therefore, that "As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy." 1 Pet. 1:15, 16. Christians are called saints, or more literally, "holy ones." Thus today the people of God are called in fulfilment of prophecy, the holy people. —J. C. Blaney

I am my brother's keeper, Lord,

And this I must confess;

My heart should have compassion for

My neighbor in distress.

—Edward M. Brandt

## "Go Ye Into All the World and Preach the Gospel."

This was Jesus' command to His followers before He went away, and we believe it holds good today and is just as imperative as it was the day He gave it. "Go ye"—a positive command. How often we consult our own flesh, or look at circumstances around us or at the conditions of the people, but the Word remains the same, the living, positive command—Go and preach, or give the Word of God. Jesus knew what the effect would be on the people, for He expected to accompany the Word by the Spirit. If we receive the living command from a living God and give it out by a *living faith*, Jesus will see that it is accompanied by the living Spirit, and surely it will be productive—bearing living fruit.

If we receive the call in a theoretical way and give it out in the same, it will only be productive of that kind of fruit. The Lord knew what effect the Word would have when given in the right way and He could safely say—"My word will not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I send it." He continues—"For ye shall go out with joy." When we go filled with the joy of the Word, it will attract others to the Word of God and produce a desire in their hearts to search into the same, and the Holy Spirit will apply it to the heart, and if it does not spring up at once, as it is watered, it will finally spring up, and bear fruit. How often we hear testimonies of those who have been given a tract or paper, or in times of sickness or distress have been told of the blessed Word of God and His power to save and to heal; and we rejoice in the result of the same. Should this not encourage us to "sow beside all waters"? Our neighbor may be nearer the kingdom than we think he is. Then "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good."

Frequently we hesitate because we are not so full of the Spirit, hope, and courage as we should be, and we think it is of no use. Let us keep filled with the Spirit, and God will always talk through us when He has an opportunity. His words are living and will produce fruit.

What wonderful privileges we have in the Lord! To think we can be "ambassadors for Christ," and that we can "in Christ's stead" plead with the people "to be reconciled to God"! Truly we should always live in such a way that we are shining lights to the world to lead them to Jesus. Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. The world needs its Savior, and if we are the ones to show them their Savior, then surely it behooves us to be up and doing, and ready for every good word and work, having our "feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace." "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." —Jennie M. Byers

## Salvation Adapted to Every Need of the Soul

The infinite wisdom and actual divinity of the Holy Bible is wonderfully demonstrated in this fact. No other book on earth is both instructive, interesting, and never exhausted; both by ignorant and learned, by youth and mature minds. To such as love God and the truth, and especially to such as have been conformed to the image of His Son, be they profound and cultured, or the most illiterate and simple, the inspired volume is ever precious, unfolding new and rich mines of golden thought at every reading, even down to old age.

How marvelously the inspired volume is adapted to the wants of mankind as a **Book of Salvation!**

Throughout the whole world it has been a fact in human experience that a sacrifice was needed to atone for the sins of our race. Everywhere the impression rests upon the human heart that God's wrath has been provoked by sin in this world. In nearly all heathen lands, when the torch of heaven's truth was lifted there, it found men inflicting tortures of some kind upon themselves, or sacrificing in cruel death their own offspring, with a hope of satisfying offended justice. Oh, reader, is not the gospel of *God's salvation* glad tidings of great joy to all this sin-stricken world? Does it not exactly meet that deeply and universally felt want in the human breast of a sacrifice for our sins? How gracious the words of Him who knows and bears the sins and griefs of all our race! How wonderfully they anticipate our inward condition, and announce relief to the oppressed and struggling soul! "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Look at all this unhappy world. Are not the hearts of the children of men like the ever restless waters of the sea? Behold the Lamb of God who taketh away our sins; the Prince of peace who calms the sea of inward fear and guilt!

The infinite wisdom of God has placed this great salvation in reach of all. The wise of heart and understanding, if only humble minded, may enter there and find, not only a perfect redemption, but also the wonderful stores of wisdom for which he thirsts. The most simple and unlearned find no difficulty in grasping and appropriating the saving grace of God as soon as they become willing to learn of Him who is meek and lowly in heart.

The wonderful fact in the plan of redemption is this: it heals the malady of sin from the inmost core of our nature. It enters and changes the whole bent of our moral being. It purifies the very fountain of thought and action. It lifts up a perfect standard of holiness, and conforms our affections to the same. It demands a life of absolute freedom from sin, and creates that life in us. "The law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did."

(continued on page 12)

# 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)

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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.

## FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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# EDITORIALS

**A HAPPY NEW YEAR'S GREETING TO ALL OUR READERS**, and may this New Year of 1981 bring you abundant spiritual joy and prosperity in the service of the Lord!

This January issue of the new year goes to press and in the mail just prior to the beginning of the 74th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here in Guthrie. The services will begin at 10:30 a. m. on Dec. 26th and continue daily through January 4, 1981. A large attendance is expected if the weather continues favorable.

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Thank God for the progress that has been made and the definite victories that have been won during the past year in advancing the cause of Christ among men, and we look toward this new year of 1981 with strong confidence in our heavenly Father that He is abundantly able to take care of all things that we commit to His hand even as He has done in the past. With the prophet of old we gratefully acknowledge, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us," and He is still on the throne with all power in heaven and earth—"the same yesterday, and today, and forever." Praise the Lord!

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The outlook for mankind in general is dark because they have chosen to go the wrong direction—the way of least resistance which leads to destruction. Since man is a free moral agent, God has set before him life and death with the hope that he would choose life, but the sad note is that the majority of people have chosen the path that leads to death.

In contrast, the outlook and uplook to the child of God is always bright because he has chosen God's way through Christ and found the joy and peace of full salvation. This world is not his home. Here he is a pilgrim and a stranger, just journeying through this mortal vale. His conversation and citizenship are in heaven from whence he looks for His Saviour Jesus Christ who shall change his decaying body and fashion it like unto His glorious body to dwell with Him forevermore. That is the precious hope of the righteous which is an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast. Praise the Lord!

Dear reader, you who have chosen the wrong road, you can turn and choose life. If you will forsake sin, repent with godly sorrow, and by faith accept Christ's sacrificial atonement for your sin and believe His glorious resurrection for your justification, you can obtain this blessed assurance of salvation here and now. Jesus pleads and entreats you to come to Him just now and receive that abundant life. Why will ye reject Him and die in your sins?

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## Traveling Ministers on the Field . . .

Bro. Egbert Allen of Missouri and Brother Carl Shaffer of Oklahoma are traveling together in the gospel work. Recently they held services at Holly

Hill, S. C., Loranger, La., New Orleans, La., Goulds, Fla., and expected to be in services at Dayton and Akron, Ohio, on their way to Ontario, Canada, for more meetings. On a recent card from Brother Carl Shaffer he requested the Church to pray for them in the gospel work.

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#### Note of Appreciation From Veteran Ministers . . .

Brother Sam and Sister Armilda Abbott of the Church Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, Calif., desire to use this means to convey their many thanks for the prayers of the saints, and for the many cards and letters they have received. Though Bro. Abbott is up and around, he is not able to acknowledge all these letters personally. He helps to take care of Sister Abbott who is very frail and weak, not able to feed herself, write, or talk much. Please continue to pray much for this aged couple who have spent many years in the gospel ministry. Bro. Abbott will be 80 years of age on Dec. 24, 1980. Their address is 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, Calif. 91331.

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#### 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. Order NOW, as the supply is limited.

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"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!

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Bound volumes of the eleven issues of the Faith and Victory paper for 1980 are now available at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Also ready are the 1980 Beautiful Way books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 60c for postage and handling. Send your orders TODAY!

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

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Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for the year of 1981 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information, please send in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1981, so we can publish the entire list in the coming March issue.

The date of the next National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, is set for July 24 to August 2, 1981. Watch for other coming campmeeting dates in the March issue.

The next Okla. State campmeeting to be held here at Guthrie, Okla., is scheduled for May 22 to 31, 1981, Lord willing.

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By the blessings of the Lord, this writer, his wife Maybelle, and her sister Maude Hornbeck were privileged to drive to Loranger, La., to be with our son Byron and his wife Clarice, their daughter Genece and her husband, Nelson Doolittle, and their children Carlos and Christy, on Thanksgiving day and a few days thereafter. Enroute south we visited Brother Clifford and Sister Dorothy Wilson in Shreveport, La. While at Loranger we enjoyed being in services with the Church at the Oak Grove chapel on Sunday, November 30. Sister La Vern Manuel brought two very good messages of truth that day. Also, we visited the nice Way of Life Christian school in that congregation which just began last fall under the leadership of Bro. Bob Forbes. While shopping in Baton Rouge we had a pleasant short visit with Bro. and Sister Max Williamson who are the parents of Maxine who is married to our son Harvey. On our return to the office after being away about ten days, we found plenty of work on our desks to be done, and we are thankful for the strength to keep busy in the service of the Lord.

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"Faith in things we cannot see requires a child's simplicity."

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#### Dawning of the Second Century of "Evening Light"

According to Bible prophecy, the year of 1880 marked the end of the 350 years (3½ days) of the "cloudy day" of Protestantism (Zech. 14:6, 7; Jer. 50:6; Rev. 11:9) as well as the year marking the breaking forth of this glorious "evening light" which was foretold in Zechariah 14:7, "... but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light." Thus, we are now living in the "evening time" of the gospel day when the light of the morning Church is being restored to those who are willing to walk in the light.

After 1880, Bro. D. S. Warner and other ministers who had a divine vision of the "evening light" restoration began calling God's people out of "Babylon"—the creeds and pens of sectism—to abide in the one Church that Jesus built in which salvation alone makes one a member. That is still God's message today, and it has been proclaimed by the Church of God for the past 100 years, and that message of freedom from "Babylon" will continue as long as time shall last. Now we are at the dawning of the second century of the "evening light" which is the last period of the gospel day. This is the last reformation or restoration of the Church. God's Word declares, "Thy sun shall no more go down." Isaiah 60:20. The sun-rays of this "evening time" will shine brighter and brighter as that of the light of truth

in the morning time Church; though many in darkness will comprehend it not.

The poet, Wm. G. Schell, expresses the onward march of victory of God's triumphant Church in this old-time chorus:

We welcome the evening light;  
The gospel so clear and bright  
Breaks forth as in days of yore;  
The mists are all cleared away,  
All hail the supernal day!  
The sun shall go down no more.

Hell never can destroy the Church  
Built by the Saviour's hands;  
Upon the Rock, the solid Rock,  
Christ Jesus, still she stands.

Despite of persecution's flood,  
And gates of hell, forsooth;  
She's still the kingdom of the Lord,  
The pillar of the truth.

Jesus told the Apostle Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. —L. D. Pruitt

## In Memorial

Tomasa Lara Maciel was born Dec. 21, 1930, in Salitre, Guanajuato, Mexico. She was called Home from weeks of suffering, on Nov. 17, 1980.

Tomasa gave her heart to the Lord about three years ago. There was a great change in her life. The Lord was dear to her, and one song she often sang was, "My Heart Says Amen."

She is survived by her five young children: Hermelinda, Jose Inez, Maria Elena, Elizabeth, and Ramon; three brothers, Paulino, Merced, and Alberto, and many friends and saints. —Edith Lara

## AT PRESS TIME . . .

Sister Lydia Hall of Myrtle, Mo., departed this life on Dec. 19, 1980.

Bro. Herbert Probst suffered a stroke on Dec. 14 and departed this life on Dec. 21, 1980, at his home at 210 Lohman, Apt. 104, Miami, Okla. 74354.

## Prayer Requests

Mo.—Remember in prayer Sis. Eva Lou Gaines who has a serious cancerous condition on her body.

Okla.—"I desire prayer for some afflictions on my body. My trust is in the Lord. He knows and cares."

—Sis. Dora Griffin Johnson

Okla.—"Please remember me in prayer as I am not well in body . . . The Lord is my Helper."

—Sis. Lydia Jantz

La.—Bro. G. A. Nichols is much afflicted and is fully trusting the Lord. Remember Him in prayer.

Okla.—Still remember Sis. Geneva Ray. She is very weak in body and afflicted, but her faith is strong in the Lord.

Okla.—Bro. Oscar Wall stepped into a hole and injured himself. Please remember him in prayer.

Okla.—Remember Sis. Maude Britt in prayer as she is much afflicted.

Ind.—Do pray for Betty Baker. She has spasms in the muscles of her neck. Her trust is in God.

As I sat at my typewriter writing the above prayer requests, I heard Maybelle, my sister-in-law, in the other room say, "Did God fail?" My first thought was to say, "No, He never fails." But I then knew that possibly someone in the room beyond her was asking the name of a certain tract which is entitled "Did God fail?" Dear ones, it is true, God never fails. He does love those who look to Him with faith. I can witness to that through my trusting Him most of the time from childhood. From the time I can remember, I saw God answer prayer, and I still see Him answering prayer. He may not answer in the way that we think He ought to, or at the time we think He should, but He answers our prayers of faith. The Lord has touched me instantly and healed me, and at other times I had a long seige of the affliction, but He did heal me. In times of problems I have prayed for God to work them out a certain way, but when I reached the place that I could say, "Not my will, but thine be done," He worked. At the time I could not see that it was for the best, but later I could understand it. I know now why my father liked the song, "Farther along we'll know all about it. Farther along we'll understand why. Cheer up, my brother, live in the sunshine; we'll understand it all by and by." It is so true in all the things that God works out in our lives. So be encouraged in the Lord, and trust His wisdom as well as His power. He does all things right if we are His submissive child. God will get glory out of our lives if we will let Him. —Sis. Marie Miles

## MEETING NOTICES AND REPORTS

### MISSION REPORT FROM MEXICO

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa. (Dec. 3)—Dear Brother Pruitt and Sister Miles: I greet you in the holy and precious name that is above every name, through whom we are redeemed—Jesus Christ Himself.

Appreciated brethren, I write you always with the same desire to greet you and to know you. Although I have not had opportunity to go to the United States, I am trusting in God that in the coming year I will be able to go and be with you. I have gotten the Form 13 back and it is easier to get a local passport. In all things I give thanks to God, because He always takes care of His children. He knows why He does each thing.

At this time I give thanks for His great blessings that He has poured out on the work here in Ojos Negros, because the brethren are really encouraged in the things of God. . . . We have had beautiful services, and God has manifested Himself to all. There have been many deaths, many problems, and necessities which have drawn us closer to God.

Pray much for us, please, that we will go forward, also for the congregation here in Ojos Negros, La Huerta, Chapultepec, and Valley of the Trinity, that they will have great desires to serve God.

We went to Patzcuaro to visit with Sister Edith Lara and the brethren. We had a good service there.

Brethren, many thanks for the offerings that you have sent. We have appreciated each one with all our hearts, and ask that God bless each one of the brethren who are supporting the work of God. Greetings to all the saints in the Church of God.

With much Christian love and prayers,

—Mayarino Escobar & family

#### LETTER FROM MEXICO MISSION

Ejido Patzcuaro, Mexico—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings of Christian love are sent your way this Thanksgiving evening. Here in Mexico it is no holiday. They have no day in which they give thanks to the Lord. I am so glad to be an American of American heritage and I am so glad to be a Christian of godly heritage. We have so much to thank God for, and we must not be ungrateful to Him for His tender mercies to all.

We are so glad that He has a divine plan in all He does, and we know that it is good. Sometimes it's hard to see the good, but He has a reason.

On November 17, the Lord called Tomasa (my husband's sister) Home to Himself. She had suffered a lot. . . . The doctors said the cancer was throughout her body, including her lungs, bones, and blood.

She hadn't slept during the day Sunday, nor did she sleep all Sunday night. I gave her some attention about 4 a.m., and she lay down again, but continued talking at times. The last coherent words I heard her say were, "Oh, Father, help me; please be with me. Don't leave me alone, Father." When I got the children up at 5:30 a.m. she was gone. She apparently went to sleep, and the Lord chose to take her in this way without a struggle. She had such a peaceful expression on her face.

At first the children seemed to nearly go wild with grief, but the Lord helped us find consoling words and thoughts, and He helped them bear it. The Lord has helped us all so very much.

Tomasa was concerned about her five children and asked us if we would adopt them as our own. They are left with no one to care for them. A grandmother who is very aged lives in southern Mexico. The father left them all to wherever destiny would take them. They don't know where he is. So, there was nothing else to do, but to adopt them. We have already gone to court about it and are awaiting the final papers. They have lived with us six years already, so it's nothing new for any of us. But now all the responsibility is ours, whereas before it was only a part. At times I shudder and tremble at the great responsibility in my hands with ten children, five of whom are my husband's. Oh, how I want to be a fit and responsible mother, one whose influence,

actions, deeds, and words might be godly and will in some way help each one. So, if you think of it, please talk to the Father about me. . . .

We want to thank you and each one who has helped us so faithfully and graciously. We appreciate it so much, and ask the Lord to bless each one.

—Edith (Cole) and Paulino Lara  
P. O. Box 1425 Calexico, Cal. 92231

#### MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Nov. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere in America: We send our greetings of Christian love to all of you in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of all.

Thank you very much for your letter dated Nov. 4, and the enclosures were noted with real heartfelt gratitude. We appreciate very much the help of the saints, and may the Lord richly bless all that had a part in this support for the work in India.

The church activities are going on very well by the grace of God. On November 8, all the ministers assembled at Nadukkunnu for a one-day effort in that place. After prayer in the chapel, the ministers divided into groups and visited all the homes of Hindus, Catholics, etc., and contacted all the people of that locality, talking to them about Christ with His free salvation and other Bible truths. We were satisfied with the good results of that effort in that area. We continue this effort once every month in each place. As Christ said to His disciples, "My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages. . . ." (John 4:34-36) Praise the Lord! The new works at Chirattakonam and Athani are progressing better now.

We are now getting ready for our 15th annual general campmeeting at Karikkom Bethel ground. We plan to print 500 copies of songbooks for the use of those in attendance. May God supply the needs and expenses of these services in January. Please co-operate with us in prayer for better results from this campmeeting and other gospel efforts.

We heard that you got a new president for the United States. May God give him special grace and understanding to rule and lead your nation to a better spiritual atmosphere.

We continue to hold you up in our prayers. Let us exchange prayers.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

#### Field Report From Canada

Prince George, B. C.—Dear saints: We want to praise the Lord for all His goodness to us, and for bringing us into fellowship with the saints.

We thank the Lord how He has been our strength during the loss of our son, Sid, this past April. Thank



God, he was ready with his lamp trimmed and burning brightly. Our hearts swell with thanksgiving when we think of how the saints stood by us with their prayers, phone calls, gifts, cards, letters, and flowers. Many were from those we had not known before. We thank God for Sheri Rich in California, who stayed with us on a long distance call praying and encouraging us to trust and pray, during Sid's last moments.

We thank God for Bro. Tom Melot who had made flight arrangements to be with Sid during this trying time, but arrived the day after Sid's heavenward flight. He was here to comfort the family, conduct the funeral, and hold some meetings.

We thank God for Bro. Jim Reynolds who arrived the next day with a van loaded with saints. What a blessing they all were, coming all the way from Corning, Calif., driving night and day! They took over the kitchen food supply and all. We had never experienced anything like it. Oh, such unforgettable love!

We thank God for each of you who came out to the campmeeting this past summer. The facilities were poor and the rain was bad, but the love made the time rich and precious.

Thank God for a saint in Edmonton, Can., who sent a gift of \$500 for the campmeeting. It was surely a much needed gift from God, as the family had just depleted their accounts to purchase a camp site, in memory of Sid's dedication to the work of the saints. Praise God for those who are sensitive to His leadings.

Now we are facing another concern. We have the grounds, but need a chapel in which to worship. In answer to prayer, we were given legal consent to build a chapel, which had previously been denied. At present, we are holding Bible studies in home with Bro. Charles Reynolds, and also morning worship services. Bro. Tom Melot and daughter are holding special services this weekend. We are wondering if some of the saints in other parts of Canada or the U.S. would like to come up here and help build or contribute. We thought a suitable time would be right after the Chilliwack, B. C., campmeeting, or before the Jefferson, Ore., campmeeting. For further information please write: Sis. Daisy Rabel, R. R. 7, Buckhorn Rd., Prince George, B. C., Canada V2N 2J5. If you can help in any way or if you have any suggestions for a suitable time, please let us know so that a definite date can be established soon. Thank you.

Sister Daisy Rabel

#### SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Dear Ones: Greetings of Christian love in Jesus' dear name! Anyone who is laboring in any channel of the vineyard of the Lord, at times, is told by the enemy of souls that he might as well quit as nothing is being accomplished. Since I've been caring for my aged (91 year old) mother three of the four weeks of each month and have only been able to send out

literature and work on the machines one week a month, the enemy has done as I spoke of above. I would tell the Lord, "I know I can't do much, but I want to be faithful anyway." Recently, through a letter received, the enemy has shown himself a liar again. A young man wrote that he, his two brothers, a sister, and "many people" have gotten saved there on the ranch, Peguero in Guanajuato, Mex. Two or three visits have been made to this ranch, and since the writer's visit there, Spanish literature has been sent out regularly to them. How we do thank the Lord for saving precious souls there! This boy's mother was the only one saved on the entire ranch when we were there. Pray for these new converts as they strive to live a life pleasing unto the Lord.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one for carrying their part of the burden for souls in Mexico, by their prayers and support of the Spanish Literature work this past year. May the Lord bless you, is my prayer.

Yours for souls in Mexico, —Sis. Opal Kelly

#### REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

The saints at Bakersfield, Calif., extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 13 through Sunday night, Feb. 21, 1981. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at one o'clock on week days, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday.

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

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Mays, 421 So. Brown St., phone 325-2730, or Bro. Z. E. Francisco, 305 So Owens St., phone 325-0747. All area codes are 805.

#### From the Mailbox . . .

Ala.—Dear ones: How times does fly! it seems such a short time ago when the days were long and hot, and now what a relief it is to have the nice cool breezes of autumn! Just as quickly, we may be facing hard, frozen roads and snow, but it is so wonderful how the Lord provides the different seasons for planting, growth, and harvest, but as a blessing to us as well. Before we get too bored or depressed with a monotonous day after day sameness, God brings in one of His perfect changes and it brings a refreshing to our physical beings. It is also a reminder that God does love us and that His whole creation is for our well-being and happiness. Praise His name!

Yours in Christ, —Leora Frink

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

Calif.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the name of Jesus! I am happy to be able to write this letter this year. Last year in October, I had a heart attack while on vacation in Vermont. . . . I had many



praying for me. God answered prayer and I was able to fly home before long. At seventy years old, my heart isn't perfect, but I don't have chest pains anymore; neither do I have an irregular heartbeat. Praise the Lord!

I am sending this gift to be used wherever it is needed in memory of my mother and father, Bro. and Sis. Stubblefield, who were members of the Guthrie congregation in the early 1900's. I went to Sunday school and church there as a small girl. I am so grateful for that early, strict Christian training. False teachers don't disturb me at all. Praise the Lord! . . .

—Moslette Kern

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

La.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of love in Jesus' name! We are thankful for salvation and all its benefits. I love the Lord for giving Himself for me. I feel unworthy of His love. It is so wonderful to be set free from a life of sin and from the ways of the world. I guess the people of the world look on us with pity and wonder what we get out of life. If only we could tell them in the language they could understand, I'm sure they wouldn't wait any longer to exchange their old life of sin for the victorious life of a Christian. When we have the great God of heaven in our hearts, the gods of this world have to crumble. There isn't any desire for those things anymore. Our desires and satisfaction are completely taken care of. . . .

I miss my mother [Katie (Marler) Gibson] very much, but the memories I have of her will be with me always. I will always thank the Lord for giving me a mother like He did. . . . —Virgie & Kenneth Flynn

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

Calif.—Dear Sis. Marie: Greetings of Christian love on this Pearl Harbor Day and also my 63rd birthday. I appreciate all of God's dealings with me over the years.

The *Faith and Victory* paper is a blessing to me and I enjoy it. I give it to other people and pray that it will benefit others. . . . —Edith Reavis

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

Iowa—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus' dear name: I am thankful for what the Lord has done for me through prayers and fasting down through the years. I have given up all for the Lord's will to be done in our family. We want to be true to Him, obey His Word, and keep His commandments, for His Word is true. I mean to go right on and trust in Him for all things in prayer and feasting upon His Word. He has healed many times, for which I am thankful. He will deliver us from this life and take us to heaven. Praise His dear name! . . . —Bro. & Sis. Charles W. Mason

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

Canada—Dear Sister Miles: I was so deeply touched by the testimonies written by Wilma Meek and Maxine Busbee regarding their daughters, Colleen and Janice. These testimonies truly bring honor and glory to God! That tragic accident makes us realize again the importance of living close to God at all times. How comforting it is to know that these young ladies are with their Lord whom they loved

and served. The enclosed gift is for the Lord's work in their memory—to be used wherever you feel is best—youth ministry or gospel literature, etc.

Christian love, —Martha McMorran

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence: It is so wonderful to serve a living and a loving God who supplies all our needs for soul and body!

Another year has swiftly come and nearly gone, and the end of time drawing nearer and nearer. Oh, that souls would heed God's warning and get saved!

It is with joy that we press the battle on. Life is rich and happy when living for the Lord.

I am still praying for you, my brother, that God will undertake for your healing.

Please pray for me and my unsaved loved ones.

Brotherly love, —Jim Kutra

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

La.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the name of Jesus from the New Orleans (area) saints. We're thankful to God for the work that you all are doing and would like to express our appreciation for the tracts and *Faith and Victory* papers.

We went to the meeting at Goulds, Florida, and just recently returned. The meeting was a success. We were very impressed with the Christian school and gospel work there.

May God fill you with the blessings of the Holy Spirit this season and throughout the coming New Year.

Your Brother in Christ, —John Clement

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

## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Nebraska—Dear Brother Pruitt: We do hope you are better. We are praying that God will see fit to heal your body and reward you for your faithfulness. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which you have shewed toward His name, in that you ministered to the saints and do minister. Heb. 6:10.

God has been good to me. I have had some kind of affliction all of my life. I wondered at times if I would reach the age of twenty-five, but God has touched my body through faith several times. God has blessed me and added years to my life. I was 87 my last birthday. I have never regretted giving my heart to God when I was fourteen years of age. I do want to be faithful to the end, and receive the crown of life the Lord has promised to them that love Him; and I do love Him.

Your Sister in Christ, —Mrs. Sarah Feters

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

Kansas—Dear saints: I want to give thanks unto the Lord for how He healed me after prayer. One night during our recent meeting, something happened to me that I could hardly breathe or speak. Bro. Lewis Williams, Sister Katherine Williams, and other saints prayed for me until I could breathe again. I have been doing better and better ever since. Thank the Lord!

My husband, Brother Fred Ballard, had three heart attacks in the past year and another sickness also. Thank the Lord for His blessings to him. Please pray that he will have faith and get help in his body, as at times, he passes out. We appreciate the prayers of everyone that prays for us.

—Sis. Ardelia (McCray) Ballard

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

Wash.—Dear Sis. Marie: We are thankful for Jesus' shed blood that washes whiter than snow.

On October 11, I was in a car accident. My car was demolished and the other car totaled out. I was alone in my car. I got my collar bone on the right side fractured, but had no cuts, only several bad bruises. My husband, son, and son-in-law saw the car and said that it was a miracle that I got out alive. There were three or four people in the other car and none were hurt seriously. I was surely thankful for that. The Lord surely did bless me during the time my shoulder was healing up. All the saints at Jefferson and Gladstone, Oregon, were praying for my healing. I certainly do thank the Lord for everyone's prayers. I didn't get to go to the Assembly meeting in Jefferson, partly because of the accident and because my brother passed away and I went to his funeral.

We pray for all of you there to have a blessed Christmas and new year.

Christian love,

—Sister Violet Thomas

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

La.—We surely do thank the dear Lord for all He has done for us concerning the birth of our son, Bryan. I won't go into detail, but I had a problem with high blood pressure which seemed to be rising fairly high toward the ending of the pregnancy. The doctor told me of several complications that could happen which would result in the need of a Caesarean section. This was a real concern to us, but we thank the Lord that He took care of my blood pressure and caused it to drop when it was nearing the most serious time. The Lord gave us a wonderfully normal birth with no complications, and a precious, healthy little son. We thank the Lord for answering prayer!

We also want to thank everyone for your prayers, love, and concern shown to us. I know a lot of saints were praying.

We certainly owe our whole lives, our all, to the Lord. Please pray that we'll bring up our child, that the Lord gave us, in the right way.

—Ferlin, Kathy, and Bryan Palmer

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

La.—I had a growth on the back of my hand that started over twenty years ago as just a very small spot. It began to get larger, and formed a thick scab or growth over a part of it. At times it would run and itch. That thick part has been gone for over a year, I believe, and has quit running. It has healed so nicely. There is still one little place that doesn't look like the rest of it, but I feel the Lord would have me write about what He has done. I have thanked Him over and over for healing my hand. I can press on it and I

don't feel any soreness whatsoever. Praise the good Lord! He has done so much for me. Oh, I want to love Him more!

I am 73 years old and get around well most of the time. My trust is in God. I'm sure that some would have had the growth taken off their hand, but how glad I am that I waited on the Lord! Isaiah 40:32 says, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." Praise God! I want to always wait on Him who has loved us so much.

We may think it takes a long time to get what we ask for, but let us continue to beg for all our needs and for our loved ones that need the Lord so much. I'm glad we can call upon Him for everything we need. I have loved ones that are not saved, but I am still praying for them. Oh, how terrible for one soul to be lost! There are so many who just go on and on until too late.

I want to tell about my right arm. It was so lame a few months ago and would hurt when I tried to use it in some ways. I can now use it without pain, for which I'm thankful.

Please pray for my loved ones, and pray for me that I may keep myself in the will of the dear Lord.

—Leona Green

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

Kansas—Dear saints: As this year is swiftly drawing to a close, we find ourselves reflecting back over the year to see how successful we have been in our endeavors to live more carefully and be a better example of a true Christian. We find that there were some weak places, as well as places where we were victorious and real overcomers. Mostly, we thank the Lord for keeping us saved and encouraged throughout the year and without having any desire to give up any time during the year. Instead, we deepened our determination to be sure to be one of those who endure to the end.

We feel our courage and faith have increased, as well as our love. We know that God is well able to take us on through with victory all the way to heaven. What is even more precious, however, is the fact that God loves us with an everlasting love and wants to get us to heaven to live with Him forever. Therefore, He will put forth great effort to get us there, so we should gladly and submissively follow Him all the way with the joyful assurance that we will have a safe and successful trip.

I do thank and praise God for my salvation and for the glory and beauty of the whole plan. I am satisfied with the ways of God and my heart's desire is to obey His Word, keep His commandments, and be pleasing in His sight. He has been so faithful to me, and I desire to be faithful to Him. Praise God for the abundant life!

May God bless all the workers there at the Publishing House and grant you abundant peace, grace, strength, and everything you need. We appreciate your labors, and want to encourage you that God will

richly repay each one because the reaping is multiplied above what is sown. We wish you all the blessings of the Christmas season, and trust that you will welcome the new year as a further opportunity to meet the great challenge of holding up the truth and standing firm. May God bless each one.

—Shirley Knight

## Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** We often hear it said that it does not matter what people believe if they are sincere in it. Is this so? Would you give some comments on this?

**Answer:** No, it is not true, and it is possible for people to be just as sincere in error as to be sincere in truth. God's Word says, "... God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth." 2 Thess. 2:13. We see here that "belief of the truth" is an essential part of the way and plan God has for us obtaining salvation. 2 Thess. 2:9-12 says, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Note: In this passage we see a class of people who did not love the truth, and consequently did not believe it. Because they did not love and believe the truth, God permitted them to believe a lie and be damned. This passage also makes it clear that the reason these people did not love and believe the truth was because they had "pleasure in unrighteousness." Now if a person loves unrighteousness, it is easy for him not to believe the truth which is contrary to that particular kind of unrighteousness which he loves and to believe a lie that will support it. 2 Tim. 4:3, 4 says, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." We are certainly in that time now when sound doctrine is not countenanced among the masses of modern Christendom, but they are listening to fables and doctrines of men in which is no salvation, spiritual blessings nor strength. Some of these people are just as sincere and zealous and devoted to their belief as people who are believing the truth are.

We have a clear example of this in 2 Cor. 11:1 and 4. In verse 1 Paul is pleading for them to bear with him in his teaching them the way of salvation, and said, "Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me." Then in verse 4 he said, "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye

receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." Again Paul said in Gal. 1:8, 9, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." This is certainly strong language, and whatever else it may teach, it certainly teaches that what the Christian believes must be well based and rooted in truth, and that it must be circumscribed by truth and must never go beyond truth nor accept any false thing.

In 2 Cor. 1:12 Paul speaks of his "simplicity and godly sincerity." A person may be as sincere as he will in any belief or project or undertaking; but it is only godly sincerity that is going to bring him salvation and establish him in God. Paul himself was an outstanding example of this. He mentions as one of the things that he had in which to glory in the flesh was that in the Jewish religion he was very zealous for the traditions of the Jewish fathers, and being so, he persecuted the Church of God and wasted it. Phil. 3:4 and 6; Gal. 1:13, 14. In Acts 26:9 and 10, Paul said, "I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did..." Surely, no one could possibly question Paul's sincerity in doing this, but with all of his sincerity he would surely have missed salvation if he had not submitted to Christ and believed in Him when he met Him face to face on the Damascus road. I do not consider Paul to have been one bit more sincere for the truth and his Christian faith than he had formerly been in his Jewish religion and for the traditions of his fathers. It was the same Paul with his characteristic zeal and sincerity, but it was a change of allegiance. Without question, there are some people today who are just as sincere and zealous and would make just as great sacrifices in gross errors which actually deny some of the basic essentials of salvation, as true Christians are for Christ and truth. Remember, it is not just sincerity, but godly sincerity that counts.

Also let us consider that if every man's belief of whatever kind or in whatever thing was valid and acceptable for him just as long as he was sincere in it, this would set up any number of standards to live by, but God only has one standard and calls all men to come to it. Eph. 4:5 says there is "One Faith." God is calling all believers to the "unity of the Faith" and has made provision for bringing us all to this if we will all believe the faithful teaching of God's Word.—Eph. 4:11-13. Also read 1 Cor. 1:10.

There are some things a person MUST believe in order to be saved at all. There are other things that a person might be saved without knowing and believing, but which would certainly be a great enrichment to his life if he did know and believe them. One cannot possibly be saved if he does not believe in the

virgin birth of Christ. Why? First, because the Bible declares it to be true, and we must believe God's Word to receive the benefits of it. Second, because if Jesus were born by natural means and had an earthly father, He would have been a partaker of the sinful nature which all of Adam's posterity received from him. In such a case, He could never have made an acceptable sacrifice for sin because it was required that the sin offering be perfect without spot or blemish. A large percentage in modern Christendom does not believe this. Consequently, they have no salvation, no matter how sincere they may be.

One must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, the Redeemer and "that prophet" in order to be saved at all. In John 8:24 Jesus said, "... if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." In order for a person to be saved he must believe that he is a sinner and needs to be saved and that Jesus Christ can save him and He is the only One who can save him. Acts 4:12 says there is salvation in no other. We must believe that Christ became our substitute at Calvary, dying in our stead, and died for our sins according to the gospel—1 Cor. 15:3; Rom. 10:9; Rom. 4:25. We must also believe that Christ arose from the dead. 1 Cor. 15:17. Many do not believe this today, and consequently cannot be saved.

## Salvation Adapted . . .

(continued from page 3)

"The blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh"—rendered persons outwardly and legally pure. But, "How much more shall—yea, doth—the blood of Christ, who, through the eternal Spirit, offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God." Heb. 9:13, 14. Namely, the blood of the new covenant purges our very nature and produces an inward consciousness of purity and moral soundness.

Such a salvation was needed by our fallen race. After King David had been led by the tempter to tarnish his beautiful life with one dark spot of sin, in his humiliation he was led to deeply scrutinize the human heart, and the hidden causes of those outcroppings of sin, that are so opposite to the general character and principles of righteousness. And, behold! he discovered that he was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did his mother conceive him. By the sin of our first parents a vein of evil nature has been transmitted down through all our race. This he felt the need of having removed. "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts." To insure a pure stream, the fountain must be cleansed. And he through the Spirit predicted such a thorough cure for sin in the following prayer: "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalms 51:5-10.

Time moves on. The Son of God appears to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself; and in response

to the heart of man that longs for inward purity we hear Him say, "I will, be thou clean," "and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," and "all unrighteousness," which includes inbred unrighteousness.

Some ancient philosophers discovered and taught very pure and perfect ethics. But they confessed themselves unable to live up to their own standard, much less impart an ability to their pupils to do so. Jesus our Lord and Saviour so far exceeded all other moral philosophers, that He taught the only perfect law ever delivered to man, exemplified it in His life, and has power to raise all His disciples to the same standard. He enables us not only to walk in a perfect way before God, but to do it easily and naturally. Outward holiness is just as spontaneous in the life where perfect holiness reigns within, as good fruit naturally adorns a good tree. Oh, how shall we thank God for this new creating salvation in Jesus our Lord! Let the vilest come to Him and realize an entire revolution from sin unto holiness.

Another beautiful fact in the adaptation of salvation to our needs is this: It not only imparts that grace and fortitude by which men can readily resist all temptations to evil, but its own inward happiness utterly weans the mind and heart from all sinful indulgences. The ransomed soul is so perfectly satiated with its own heavenly feast of love and holy delight, that the allurements of this world become utterly distasteful. All evil is repelled by the surpassing delight of that which is holy and good. How can the base mud-cakes of sinful pleasure, "the bread of wickedness," excite desire in a soul that is accustomed to eat "angel's food"? Thus did Nehemiah testify: "The joy of the Lord is your strength." 8:10. The joys of salvation invest the soul with boldness to reject all offered pleasures of sin. Behold the presence of God is with His people. And, "In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11. "Therefore . . . everlasting joy shall be unto them." Isaiah 61:7. The human heart, it is true, was created for and ardently thirsts after happiness. Salvation fills that desire, and abundantly satiates that thirst. FULL SALVATION, and nothing else will do it. "And in this mountain—of his holiness—shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined." "For in this mountain shall the hand of the Lord rest. . . ." Isaiah 25:6, 10.

Oh, if poor sinners but knew that the love of God imparts a "fulness of joy," a perfect delight in all the will of God; and raises us above all relish for the miserable pleasures they are acquainted with in the life of sin, then would they gladly exchange sin for salvation, and the drudgery of Satan for the peaceful service of God.

Again, salvation is adapted to the wants of the human soul in its perfect keeping power. The death of Christ atones for our transgressions, His resurrection gives us victory over death, and His life is a pledge of

our preservation in Him. "Because he liveth, we shall live also."

Hence, the apostle Jude had the pleasure of writing a letter "to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ; and called." And Peter testifies that we "are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet. 1:5.

Many poor souls hesitate to give themselves to God for fear they will not be able to endure unto the end. Oh, cast such fears to the winds! God's salvation provides for our eternal preservation from sin, and no child of God ever needs to have the sad experience of a backslider. The cure of sin is both a thorough and a permanent success.

In fact, the "salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory," fully and forever provides for every want of the human soul, creating us every whit whole, satisfying all our desires, and preserving us triumphant over sin, and blameless in the sight of God. And the great remedy is so miraculously adapted to man that the most feeble in mind can appreciate its blessings as well as the wise. All responsible men and women, of all nations, and under all circumstances may come to Christ and be saved, and everlastingly preserved in Him, if they will hear His voice and obey. —D. S. Warner

### There Is a Saviour



Have you met with disappointment?  
 Along life's way, friend, can it be,  
 You have failed to find sweet safety  
 On the bridge o'er life's troubled sea?

Is your mind filled with confusion,  
 The tempter saying, "Come this way!"  
 In these muddy waters rolling,  
 Where all is night, there is no day?

There's no earthly friend to guide you,  
 No Saviour there that you can see;  
 Troubled waters all around you;  
 All is now lost, or seems to be.

Looking upward through the darkness,  
 You see a bridge outlined above;  
 Standing there with tender mercy  
 Is Christ the Saviour filled with love.

Reaching down His hand to help you,  
 He leads you safely to the shore.  
 Oh, how blessed is this feeling,  
 "He'll keep me safe forevermore!"

Still, ahead there is no pathway;  
 Few earthly friends have come this way.  
 Darkness presses in around you  
 But Christ is there, He'll guide the way.

Light is shining dimly, brighter;  
 What peace and joy I cannot tell!  
 Oh, what comfort, what assurance,  
 Our Saviour's leading, "All is well."

—Mary Hope Flynn

### Victory In Today's Test or Trial

In the life and experience of a person endeavoring to live as a completely forthright and honest Christian should, there are always opportunities presented in which victory over evil can be achieved. And, yet, too often, one can find himself (or herself) beginning to tire of the conflict, to dread facing up to the task as each day presents itself. This is a state of affairs that presents itself to every Christian, no doubt. The Christian who has lived to wonderful and blessed old age, the middle-aged Christian who (Lord willing) is looking forward to yet many more prosperous years in the service of the Lord, the young Christian full of vigor and strength—all of these, at some time or another, may find that the conflict is beginning to tell on them, in terms of their ability to quickly spring back from devastating blows Satan can deal. It is at times such as this that the Christian must realize that God has "plenteous" grace and strength for us. At times like this when, very possibly, our greatest personal victory to date in the Lord can be had, the devil can almost wrest away one's resolve to continue. In this little article, by God's help, we want to examine the victory that can be had—the triumph that can be enjoyed—the experience that can be a source of encouragement and strength to all (including yourself) who witness it.

For example, let's look at Elijah, the great prophet of God, and at how the foe almost managed to snatch from him the resolute faith in God that he had to have in order to be true to his mission for God. In the eighth chapter of 1 Kings, events are described in which God's power was visibly, powerfully manifested to Israel's false prophets, her people and to their evil king Ahab. Read the complete chapter and notice how strongly the resolve and faith of Elijah showed themselves. He faced the false prophets boldly, trusting God to show Himself even greater than the god Baal, whom the false prophets preached. God did just that, manifesting Himself in the form of fire, descending powerfully to destroy not only wood and flammable material, but water and offering on the altar that Elijah set up. This series of events, witnessed by Ahab, and taking place in a locale where the Israelites generally witnessed it, no doubt encouraged Elijah greatly. His mission was to call a backslidden nation back to God, to step forward and by example direct a wayward people back to the true God. To accomplish this, he needed more than a message to utter, more than a plan to unfold, more than a powerful set of lungs and a strong, resolute will. He also, above all, needed God and a corresponding FAITH in God that assured him that "God's way is best. . ."

Sure enough, God came when Elijah prayed, manifested Himself greatly, and Elijah's heart, no doubt, was magnified and joyful. He conversed with Ahab, informing him that rain was on its way. After this, he ran before Ahab's chariot into the city. Yes, Elijah was encouraged and somehow convinced that

God's power had had its effect on Jezebel. After all, look at the effect it had had on Ahab. Ahab was so taken aback and amazed by what he had witnessed, that upon reaching home he quickly told of all that Elijah had done. He told all of this to Jezebel, his wife. He did not neglect to leave out the fact that at Elijah's word the people had rid Israel of the multitude of false prophets. He (Ahab) realized what power and influence this man of God now had with the people, and he wanted Jezebel to know, too. This man of God had, by faith in God and simple availing prayer, done what God wanted done in a matter of a short period of time. In the process, the power and influence of the reign of Ahab and Jezebel were being destroyed. So, Ahab related to Jezebel what was done.

Meanwhile, Elijah was encouraged, of this we are sure. After all, aren't we encouraged when God miraculously comes to our aid when the foe is surrounding us? When the enemy's forces seem to be having their way in our home, and the Lord suddenly intervenes and restores matters right away—isn't this encouraging? When that complex problem that seemed unresolvable is suddenly resolved, leaving us with a shout of joy and amazement at how it was Divinely resolved—isn't that inspiring? When that backslidden son or daughter suddenly realizes that he (or she) needs to come back to God—doesn't this inspire hope for even greater and further blessings? Sure, it does! So often we fail to realize that yesterday's blessing(s) will not carry the day today! We need to realize that *daily* we must "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in every time of need. . ." Heb. 4:16.

Looking back to Elijah, observe how quickly his resolve faded. His willingness to press forward wilted when Jezebel stated emphatically that she would kill him, in spite of all he did in the name of his God. Elijah must have thought that surely Jezebel would now see the light and would concede that the God he served far exceeded what she advocated and worshipped. Instead, it seemed her resolve was stronger than ever to destroy him and all he stood for. This was too much for Elijah to take. So it is for us today, if we allow ourselves to fall into the same pattern of thinking.

We must realize that yesterday's victories and accomplishments offer no reason at all for us to stand by and expect to see the enemy fold, and humbly pack it in, admitting that "God's way is best." He won't do it! If anything, his thrusts will double, triple, and steadily heighten in intensity. He's not just a foe, he's the enemy of your soul! Anything around you that can discourage you from pressing on for God, the devil will use to his advantage and to your disadvantage.

God is still saving souls today. This is all part of His plan. But, remember that a soul saved yesterday is a potential backslidden soul today, if he fails to keep watchful today. Yesterday's victory will be followed by Satan's backlash today. It may come in

various ways—only time will tell. What our purpose is now, however, is to put on our minds that we must be victorious through the backlash that the enemy brings.

Elijah wanted to die when Jezebel mounted her counter-offensive. He said: ". . . It is enough; now, oh Lord, take away my life, for I am not better than my fathers . . ." Who said it was enough, besides Elijah himself? Who was he to compare himself with his fathers? These are two insights into why discouragement dealt such a mighty blow to Elijah. Elijah was in God's service; he wasn't in business for himself. So, why do we find him in the position of telling God, "I've had enough"? Perhaps, he figured God had dealt Jezebel His best blow when He manifested Himself in the previous chapter's events. It was his opinion, perhaps, that there was no way he could be a part of seeing her overthrown, if those events didn't faze her.

How often do we fade into that way of thinking today. Maybe we'll see a son or daughter who's rapidly sinking into horrible depths of evil, and when it reaches a point we say: ". . . Lord, I've had enough . . ." And, we more or less make the decision that, "I can't take anymore." It is at times like this that we must see that victory is all the more vital now! ". . . My grace is sufficient for thee . . ." Do we take this to heart? Where would you be today if Christ had said: ". . . Pilate, I've had enough . . ." What if Christ had said that? We would be devoid of hope; all hope of any relief from the grip of sin would have been wiped out! Yet, He said: ". . . Not my will, but thine . . ."

Let's take hope for our children, our lost loved ones and friends, as well as for all the world. Let's not try to determine how much suffering we'll do for the sake of God's work. That's His business—His determination to make. Let's not try to sit back and compare our lives with our fathers' lives. This is not what we are called to do. We are told in God's Word to "consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your own minds. . ." Heb. 4:3. He obtained victory at a time when the counter-offensive mounted by Satan was calculated to have effects reaching on down to us today. He obtained this victory by yielding His will to His Father's, and staying obedient, "even to the death of the cross."

It is victory for the Christian when he (or she) can take on the strength and resolve to press on obediently while being pressed hard and fast by the enemy. Many of us—too many, I'm afraid—are like Elijah was in this instance. We rejoice to see the magnificent display of God's power in the fire, and we haven't yet learned much about the God who speaks in a "still, small voice." In the nineteenth chapter of 1 Kings, God taught Elijah that He communicates by means other than fire, earthquakes, and strong winds. In like manner, we need to realize that even with the earthquakes in divers places occurring now, hurricanes and typhoons happening



periodically, and other disasters, God still strives to talk to the heart of man. He can, and will, talk to you, urging you on in one aspect, slowing you down in another, broadening your love, your graces in every way. But, He can't do this very well if the very events He allows to occur, only serve to make you rebellious and unwilling to continue.

Learn to submit—to retain a victorious experience with the Lord; this you must do. Victory in Christ depends largely upon how you react to today's tests and trials, no matter how or why they come, or who or what brings them. “. . . Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. . .” 1 Peter 4:19.

Your fellow worker in Christ,

—Ronald E. Hattley

## Be Patient in Suffering

“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.” 1 Peter 4:12,13. The apostle had been tried and knew the benefits of a trial, when he was bound and put into prison. He thought it not strange, but humbly submitted himself to God, and waited the Lord's time for deliverance. When the angel came to deliver him, Peter was not on his face lamenting his sad misfortune, complaining of his burdens, and threatening to give up if help did not soon come. He was so reconciled to his condition and so free from self-pity that when the angel came he found Peter asleep. When the angel awakened him and led him out of his trouble Peter did not realize the fact, but thought he only saw a vision, when in reality he was being delivered from the power of the enemy. So we see by Peter's example that it pays to humbly wait on God. When we are being tried, we must not get impatient and think we are having more than our share, for nothing will happen to us but what is common to man; and God who is faithful and will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able to bear. Thank God!

“Wherein ye greatly rejoice, . . . that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold . . . might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet. 1:6, 7. Worldly men rejoice in earthly gold and treasures because with them they can purchase to themselves a good standing in society. If the worldly men can rejoice on account of temporal blessings, why should we not rejoice in our eternal riches? “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” 2 Cor. 4:17. Know ye not that it is appointed unto us to suffer? “All that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.” Thank God! “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.” Matt. 10:22.

A missionary going to a foreign field was suffering much from seasickness. Being too sick to remain in his cabin with his wife and children (where he could read and sing and pray), he was compelled to go on deck.

Sometimes he could lie down in the cabin on a soft seat; at other times he was compelled to take a hard seat on deck for his bed. In this condition, he was meditating on his first missionary experience. At first it was not so encouraging, but when he remembered how Paul was shipwrecked, was for a day and night in the deep, was bitten by a serpent, and suffered many other things, the missionary lost sight of his seasickness and exclaimed, “Oh, Lord, I am having such a good time.” In another place an apostle says, “Count it *all* joy when you fall into divers temptations,” with this assurance, “Knowing that the trying of your faith worketh patience.” And how could we get along in the Christian life without this grace? “In your patience possess ye your souls.” Luke 21:19.

Once when every ray of hope was darkened and no light shone on his pathway, a brother thinking his burdens almost more than he could bear, yet struggled on, under the burden, sympathizing with himself, and at times almost giving up. Fortunately, one day, he read 1 Cor. 4:11-13, “Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwelling place; . . . being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: being defamed, we intreat.” Upon reading these lines and considering how the same apostle afterward rejoiced in the hope of finishing his course with joy, and keeping the faith, this brother began to see that after all his lot was no harder or more grievous than was that of the apostle. Light began to dawn on his way, his heart began to be encouraged, new zeal inspired his faith to a firmer hold on the promises of God, by which he was enabled to overcome the trial in the name and strength of the Lord. Ever since his life has been one of victory.

Nor did Paul's trials cease with these mentioned, for we read in 2 Cor. 4:8-10, “We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.” “Giving no offence,” says he in 2 Cor. 6:3, “but in all things approving ourselves . . . in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings,” and yet he testifies that “none of these things move me.” What an example! Who has trials of any kind, worthy of notice, when compared to the trials of the apostle Paul? He continues in the same chapter saying, “By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; as sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” And the climax of his trials and suffering is yet to be told. In 2 Cor. 11:24, he says, “Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”



After this dear, humble man of God had suffered so many things he was, as history relates, brought to look upon the place of execution, where his own head would soon be severed from his body. His testimony was, "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith," and in this hour of deepest trial, he encourages his soul by saying, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also, who love his appearing." How encouraging to think of such wonderful sacrifices and such complete victory even over death. Despondent soul, where is your faith, your trust, your hope? Where is your deliverer? In the name and strength of the Lord, be strong. Be encouraged. Consider how the patriarchs and prophets of old suffered for the Lord. Think of Gideon, Barak, Samson, of David also, and Samuel, who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire; escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong. See how they triumphed, and the wonderful results, and it will help you on to victory.

*"O my soul, press on to glory,  
Worlds of bliss invite thee on."*

"And he said . . . many shall be purified, and made white, and tried." Dan. 12. "And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried; they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, the Lord is my God." Let those who are in trial say with the Psalmist, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God: . . . who is the health of my countenance and my God."

—E. N. Reedy

## Parents' Duty to Their Children

How sad and deplorable is the condition of many a home in our land because of the lack of government! Discipline, when properly executed, is the prime factor that makes the home a blessing to every member. Discipline means much to the home. Love is the foundation upon which is built the noble structure of discipline. Solomon says in Prov. 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." There was a time when a child who did not get the proper reproof and discipline at home would get it at school; but, sad to say, that is almost a thing of the past. Today much more rests upon the home than in the past.

The sad mistake many parents make is that much of the teaching in the first two or three years of the child's life is what will have to be whipped out of it in the next ten years to follow. Many parents know the right thing for children to do, but fail to carry it into effect. Why? They lack decision and the child soon knows it. Many times have parents told children not to do so and so and if they did it they would get punished, but with all that, those children went right

contrary to their parents' commands and the parents passed it along just about as if they had obeyed. Why? They lacked decision. What is the result of such government? Disrespect first for the parents and then for everybody else. If the child is allowed to break the laws of the home it will be an easier matter for him to break the laws of the land and of God.

The term has been general, and applied to all homes, but what does it mean to us who are saved and living in obedience to God's law? Now we know if we disobey His law we are sure to receive the punishment that He has promised in His Word. God requires of us the same carefulness and decision to our children that He extends to us. The same love that shows mercy to us from God ought to be the prevailing power in our homes. First, parents must love one another and love God above everything else; for if they do not, they will lift one another's judgments, making an idol of their children, thus spoiling the children and blasting the home. Even grandparents will sometimes lift the judgment of the parents and let the child become an idol to them. True judgment in the home (also in the church) is the foundation principle of unity and love. Oh, how sweet the home where unity and love are like twin sisters, walking hand in hand through the entire home!

In many instances, where you spare your child in punishment, you will wake up and find he has stolen between you and God and become an idol to you. How much better you will feel and how much better the child will feel toward you if you will break the charm, get clear before God, and do your duty to your child. Sometimes parents will lift their own judgment and pet it all away. Here is a place that requires firmness clothed with love. When you once thoroughly convince your child that you are firm and will stand by your decision, you will find you have accomplished much in your home. How can we convince the world of this wonderful salvation when our children run the home, and are heady, highminded, disobedient, and do just as they please? All good and godlike principles are almost always moulded in the home. May God make our homes what they ought to be.

—H. W. Heckler

## TAKE TIME TO PRAY

Take time to pray;  
Give God words of praise  
For His ever loving care,  
And adding length of days.

Take time to pray;  
Thank God for His Son  
Who gave His life for us,  
And rising, victory won!

Take time to pray;  
Thank God for His grace  
That always gives us peace of mind,  
No matter what we face.

—Edward M. Brandt