

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Lifted Up Above the Shadows

Many shadows now are lying
Darkly o'er our mortal tread:
Darkened valleys filled with sighing,
Gloomy depths with sorrow fed.

Weary tales of grief and sadness
From that darksome side of life
Oft are heard instead of gladness
That could soothe us in the strife.

But I feel a pow'r uplifting
And a comfort keen and strong,
Keeping me from downward drifting
While I soar on wings of song.

It's the Saviour ever bearing
In His arms my happy soul;
It's the fellowship I'm sharing
In His holy blest control.

Thus the shadows dark are fading,
And the sunlight breaketh clear,
As the love of Christ pervading
Sweeps away each doubt and fear.

Why should I in shadows tarry
When the light of life is here?
All my troubles I can bury,
Knowing He is ever near.

Praise the Lord, my burdens casting
All on Him who cares for me,
And the way that's everlasting
I will walk from sin set free.

As the eagle on her pinion
Rides the apex of the storm,
We can for the Lord continue
Leaning on His loving arm.

Weary soul down in the shadow:
Come up high and dwell with me,
In this peaceful rich green meadow—
Holy, happy, safe, and free!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Count It All Joy

There are many things connected with our Christian life which, unless understood, will hinder us in making it as useful as we should. The thought which burdens my heart just now is expressed in the following verse: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." James 1:2. James in writing to the brethren exhorted them to count all of the divers temptations joy. Paul also said: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Cor. 10:13.

If the saints of that time who had to pass through severe trials and temptations could count it all joy, surely the children of God living in the present age ought to be able to do so. Let us make a comparison. They were put in prison, threatened, whipped, mocked, stoned, driven from home and country, hunted as wild animals and often had to worship together in secret. We are laughed at, sometimes told that we are crazy and some few have gone through more severe things, but the laws of the land give us almost unlimited freedom of worship. In consideration of the given Scriptures and our privileges should we not rejoice instead of thinking that our trials are so heavy and we are having such a hard time?

Some might say, "Are we supposed to be joyful when passing through trials?" Yes; it is the only right way to go through trials, for God has made it possible for us to count it joy and He expects us to do so. If we feel our trials are, oh, so heavy and that we cannot bear them, let us go to God and ask Him to give us grace and patience that we may go through the trial counting it joy, for we read in 1 Pet. 1:7, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." How it pleases God for us to rejoice amidst temptations and adversities, as in this way we can manifest the life of Christ. Paul says, "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. It is easy to rejoice when everything is going smoothly and we are free from trials and temptations. But when reverses come and our trials are many and everything to us seems so dark, can we then count it joy? Yes; by the help of God we can, even in such circumstances, do so.

One might say, "When I make mistakes I can suffer for them and count it joy, but when I am wrongfully accused, should I count it joy?" Let us read 1 Pet. 2:19-21, "For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps." Through our rejoicing and being cheerful when we are passing through trials we manifest to those around us that the grace of God is sufficient to keep us sweet in our souls at all times. In this way we will cause others to see that salvation would be of value to them.

How it must grieve God when we are having some little trial, for us to go around with a long face and tell what a hard time we are having, instead of rejoicing when the very thing we are passing through is going to be a help to us in some way. "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 Pet. 4:12, 13.

Many times it is through trials and adversities that we learn some very precious lessons and these enable us to be a greater help to others.

Many precious souls are in need of help and are looking to us for it. But how can we help them if we are all taken up with our own little trials and perplexities? We are rather a discouragement when God has designed that we be an encouragement. While on the other hand, if we are cheerful and rejoicing when we come in contact with some precious souls who need encouragement we are able to give them the needed help. Many have been helped by just a cheering word or look.

Seeing then that it is so important for us to learn the secret of counting it all joy, let us forget our own trials and rejoice in all things and keep where we will be of more help to discouraged souls. God will then be pleased as He beholds our rejoicing when under the hand of trial or temptation.

By being perfectly submitted to God's will, we will have no trouble in counting all things joy, for we read in James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

—Mae Patterson

"One Heart and One Way"

"And I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them." Jer. 32:39.

Here the prophet Jeremiah tells what the Lord said to him, "I will give them one heart and one way," and furthermore says that it will be for their good, and their children's good also. Oh, we can truly see it manifested in God's Church today, how good it is to have one heart and one way. More can be accomplished where all go to the work with one heart, and all do it with one way. How sad it is to see so many trying to get to heaven so many different ways, when God says, only "one heart and one way." Indeed many people are not humble enough to take the way God has planned for us to take, but they choose rather to find some other way where they can partake of the worldliness and pride and yet claim to be in the narrow way. Would that more would take the Bible way to heaven. Stop and think for a moment: Is not the Bible only one book? Surely it is. Then if it is but one book and we say it is by it that we are preparing for heaven, then why not all measure up to its standard, and then would we not all have one heart and one way? It does not say, believe the way you think is best and you will get to heaven, but we must believe the Bible way, which is surely only *one* way. How could it be otherwise?

The reason there are so many ways in the world is that someone who was not led of God's Spirit started one way which he thought was pretty good, and soon another started by a different way which suited him better. So it has gone on until there are hundreds of ways and each claims that his way leads to heaven. But when we search the Bible, we see there is but one heart and *one* way.

Suppose we are going to a town five miles distant. We see there are several roads which lead toward that place and think that they must all lead there. We do not know which road to take, but we choose the one that looks the best to us. As long as they all lead there we can take the one which suits us. We travel on until about a mile from that town when we see the road leads in another direction. We have to travel back the whole distance and try to find the right one and it is nearly dark. By the time we find the right road it will be too late to enter, as the sun has set and the gates of the town are closed.

Do you see the comparison here to the Christian walk? The many roads represent the many ways that people are traveling, thinking they all lead to heaven, but when too late they find out that these ways only lead to destruction. The one road that led to the town represents the Bible road, the narrow way, the *only* way that leads to heaven.

"Enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction and many there be which go in thereat." Matt 7:13. Which way are we going? Let us search the Scriptures diligently and see if we are traveling the narrow way.

—Earl Lackore

Be Not Afraid!



I was visiting with my granddaughter and her husband recently. I made a remark that I was afraid that such and such would happen. They each made a comment. My two and a half year old great-grandson was playing nearby on the floor. Pretty soon he came by me pulling his toy and stopped. He looked up into my face with a serious expression and asked, "Great Grandma, are you afraid?" For a minute I had to stop and think what he was talking about. Then I remembered I had used the word "afraid" in my statement. Of course, I had not used it in the way that he was thinking, but as young as he was, he seemed to know what being afraid meant, at least one meaning.

Fear seems to be an inbred part of human nature. Life brings many problems that are perplexing. Thoughts will persist as to "How will this turn out?" or "What if this or that may happen?" In other words, we are afraid of the unknown.

Jesus walked with His disciples. They rested in His presence. If He was there, things would be all right. He fed the multitudes, used money that came from the fish's mouth, healed the sick, controlled the storm, resisted gainsayers, comforted the sad and lonely, and boldly exposed the evils of the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes. But now, Jesus was going away. What would they do? Jesus saw their wonderment and their fear of the future. He said to them, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27. Oh, what words of comfort! Are they not for us today? Jesus wants us to have peace. He wants us to rest in His presence. He wants to calm all of our fears and thoughts of anxiety. Peace, oh, what a word! But to have that peace from the Lord, deep down in our souls, is a blessing beyond expression. It will take away all of the anxiety and fear. When we put our life into His hands, He has control. We need not be troubled, nor be afraid of the future or the unknown. Jesus said that the world could not give this to us. It only comes from God, so let us seek rest, peace, faith, confidence, and trust from Him.

Are you watching your son or daughter being led little by little into sinful things? How much you want to help them, but you can't. Ask God to help you to not be troubled. Place your children in God's hands. He loves them more than you do. Just pray and wait on the Lord. He may be working out something that you can't see. Is your husband or wife causing you trouble? Are things becoming complicated between you? When you have obeyed the Lord in all things, then just commit him (or her) into the Lord's hands. Let God take care of the problems. They are too big for you. Maybe your job is about to terminate and the bills will continue. Let not your heart be troubled, neither be afraid. Trust and rest in God. He will see you through. On and on, life will bring us problems. Jesus knows all of this, and He wants us to have faith in Him. He loves His children and will care for

them. Trust Him and see what He will do.

—Sis. Marie Miles

What Is a Burden?



We want to bring this out clearly so there will be no question in anyone's mind. We feel a burden to write about *burdens*.

Since there are many kinds of burdens, perhaps it could be defined several ways. However, basically all meanings are the same. A physical burden is something heavy enough that the carrier feels the weight. A burden of a spiritual nature would then be a feeling of responsibility. It is a God-given weight upon one's heart. One will experience deep anxiety of spirit. This will be a continuous lingering. It will not leave, but will demand duty to relieve the anxiety of spirit.

When James was killed and Peter was cast into prison (Acts 12), the Church did more than talk or write about getting a burden. Praise God, they had one! Verse 5 says, "... prayer was made **without ceasing** of the church unto God for him." What was the result? He was delivered!

To meet the requirements of being the Church of God, we must have completely dedicated lives and be "fervent in spirit." The Holy Spirit will then automatically lay a burden, or desire, on each soul to be used in some capacity. That's when things will start to happen.

In Acts 16:9 we read about a vision given to Paul to "come and help." This was certainly more than a common dream—it was the Holy Spirit dealing with his intellect and mind. We trust the reader will get the point here. **Any vision or burden of a spiritual nature must be given by the Holy Spirit** to one's mind until there is no question but that it is real. Prov. 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: ..." Unless there is given some room in our intellect for the Spirit to burden and give us a spiritual vision, we will perish. This has been true. A vision brings a burden, and a burden brings action for responsibility. Instead of "What can I do?" it will be "I'll do what I can." Jesus said in John 4:35, "... Lift up your eyes," (from your materialistic ambitions) "and look on the fields; for they are **white** already to harvest." Please read down to verse 38, then pray.

How far must we go to look? One must start at home. The biggest field is our hometown. The family, friends, and associates should be the first to testify of one's deeds.

We pray that everyone who reads this will ask himself a question: "How do I want to use the strength of my life?—for something materialistic, that is certain to perish? or will I 'lay up treasures in heaven?'" God help us to dedicate **everything**—our business, home, family, lives, and yes, even our reputations, which will not change our character. Then we'll know what it is to have a real burden for the cause of Christ.

—Paul Sorrell

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.

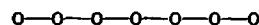
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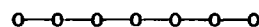
EDITORIALS



GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS: As in the past few years, this June issue is going to the press and in the mail just prior to the beginning of the Oklahoma State campmeeting here at Guthrie, so that our co-workers can be free to attend those services. The first service will start, Lord willing, at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 22. A large attendance is expected, and some no doubt will be coming for their first time. Our prayer is that the presence and power of God will be felt in every service, that the preaching of the Word will be accompanied by the convicting Spirit of God, and that many souls will respond to the gospel invitation. Jesus entreats with His hand outstretched, "Come unto me, all ye that labour 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. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30.



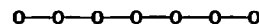
Congratulations to Chalmer and Doris Bowers of Wyandotte, Okla., on their 50th wedding anniversary which was observed on April 4, 1981. May the Lord give you many more years together.



Excellent Booklet Just Off the Press . . .

"God's Last Call To Planet Earth" by Hubert W. LaVelle, is the title of a small booklet with a very important and timely message for this day of "Babylon" confusion in which we live. The message is primarily addressed to God's people who, for one reason or another, find themselves affiliated with the creeds of men. Time is swiftly passing away, and it is very urgent that the Lord's people be contacted with this vital message of Bible truth which is God's last call!

The booklet contains 60 pages with a very impressive and attractive heavy paper cover printed in three colors. The price is \$1.20 each, plus 55c for postage and handling, or five copies for \$5.00, plus 75c for postage and handling. Order several copies to pass out to those who need this special message. Please send your order and remittance directly to Hubert W. LaVelle, 1721 Woodburn St., El Cajon, Calif. 92021.



The Basic Tenets of Humanism . . .

Why is the philosophy of Humanism so dangerous to all of mankind?

"In this world, there are two basic lines of reasoning that determine the morals, values, life-style and activities of mankind—the wisdom of man or the wisdom of God. . . . Today they take the form of atheistic humanism or Christianity. What this life is all about is the battle for your mind: whether you will live your life guided by man's wisdom (humanism) or God's wisdom (Christianity). Either one

will affect the way you live and where you will be in eternity.

"Most people today do not realize what humanism really is and how it is destroying our culture, families, country—and one day, the entire world. Most of the evils in the world today can be traced to humanism. . . .

"The Church of God is the last obstacle for the humanists to conquer. . . . Humanism is not only the world's greatest evil but, until recently, the most deceptive of all religious philosophies."

To comprehend any concept one must understand its basic principles. There are five basic tenets of Humanism being used in the battle for the minds of Americans. You will note that all are in direct conflict with Christianity.

(1) Humanists are atheists; they do not believe in God.

"First, humanism believes in a naturalistic metaphysics or attitude toward the universe that considers all forms of the supernatural as myth; and that regards Nature as the totality of being and as a constantly changing system of matter and energy which exists independently of any mind or consciousness."

(2) Humanists believe in the theory of evolution—that man is simply a higher animal, descended from higher primates, all tracing their origin from the one-celled amoeba. This faulty theory, never anything more than a hypothesis, is vital to Humanists to explain man's existence independent of God. Without it their whole philosophy falls.

(3) Humanists are amoral. "The humanistic doctrine of evolution has naturally led to the destruction of the moral foundation upon which this country was originally built. If you believe that man is an animal, you will naturally expect him to live like one. Consequently, almost every sexual law that is required in order to maintain a morally sane society has been struck down by the humanists, so that man may follow his animal appetites. . . ."

(4) Humanists believe in autonomous man, self-centered, a god himself, innately good and capable of solving his problems with no need for help from a Supreme Being. Such thinking has, throughout history, led, not to betterment of mankind, but to chaos and ultimate catastrophe.

(5) Humanists see government as the source of good. In an economic sense they are socialists; in a political sense, internationalists. Obviously, the two characteristics add up to "one-world socialism."

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The Pruitt Family Together on May 10 . . .

With the blessings of the Lord, the six children of Fred and Mary Ann Pruitt and some of their descendants (about 40) were privileged to meet together on Mother's Day afternoon in a family reunion here at Guthrie. The oldest, Andrew Pruitt, aged 72, with his wife Hope (Emby), came from Veneta, Oregon. Next in age is this writer and his wife Maybelle who live in Guthrie. Next is Anna Marie (Pruitt) Miles

who lives in Guthrie. Next is Mary Lola (Pruitt) Emby who came from El Cajon, California. Next is Frances (Pruitt) Murphey who lives in Guthrie with her husband, Willie C. Murphey. The youngest, the twin to Frances, is Frank Pruitt, aged 62, who came from Phoenix, Ariz. Our son Byron and his wife Clarice, with their daughter Genece and her husband, Nelson Doolittle, and their three children, came from Louisiana. This reunion was a joyous occasion, and we thank the Lord that He permitted us to be together again. Life is so uncertain that it is not likely that we will all be together again in this life. Thank the Lord for His precious economy of grace whereby we can be partakers of eternal life and dwell with Him forever when this fleeting life is past and time ends in eternity.

Our thanks go to our brother, Willie C. Murphey, who served very well as the master of ceremonies for the occasion, as well as to his son Willie Eugene who took many pictures of those in attendance.

On May 13, when Andrew and Hope were still here from Oregon, Hope reached the age of "three score and ten" years. Her birthday on May 13, and that of Maude Hornbeck, aged 72, on May 15, were observed on the evening of May 12.

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Our sincere sympathy is extended to the Busbee family, whom we have known many years, on the passing of the husband and father, Ray Busbee, aged 72, on May 12, 1981. May God speak the words of comfort to each one.

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Sister Virginia Myers of Pennsylvania saw recently a bumper sticker on a car which read, "Wise Men Still Seek Him." If you are a wise person, you will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. He only can satisfy the soul of man.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

Missouri Church Changing Place for Worship

The saints at Springfield, Mo., have sold their chapel, and vacated from the 718 N. Kansas Expressway location. We are in the process of building a new chapel and school, and hope they will be completed by fall. We have a brush arbor on our new land, and plan to have services there as much as possible this summer. When weather doesn't permit, we will meet in homes. Our new location is on Evergreen Street in the northern part of town, just south of Interstate 44. From the west side of town, take Highway 13 (Kansas Expressway) to Kearney St., then east to Summit St., then north to Evergreen St., then one block west. From the east side of town, take Business Route 65 (Glenstone) to Kearney St., then west to Summit St.

Anyone interested in helping with our project, please contact Edward S. Johnston, 1745 W. Olive, Springfield, Mo. 65802, phone (417) 865-5668, or Leo W. Porter, 1410 W. Tampa, Springfield, Mo. 65802, phone (417) 866-1315.

—The saints at Springfield, Mo.

Campmeeting Dates for 1981

Following are the Church of God campmeeting dates for 1981, and a more complete announcement of each meeting will be printed in later issues:—

Oklahoma State Campmeeting at Guthrie, Okla. — May 22 to 31.

Holly Hill, South Carolina—June 5 to 14.

Tulsa, Oklahoma—June 5 to 14.

(Tulsa meeting will be a revival, and not a campmeeting.)

Jefferson, Oregon—June 12 to 21.

Oakland, California—June 19 to 28.

Chilliwack, B. C., Canada—June 22 to 28.

Hammond, Louisiana—Saturday, June 27 to July 5.

Ojos Negros, B. Cfa., Mexico—June 29 to July 5.

Fresno, California—July 3 to 12.

Green Bank, West Virginia—July 3 to 12.

Akron, Ohio—July 11 to 19.

National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri—July 24 to August 2.

Missouri State Campmeeting at Myrtle, Missouri — August 3 to 9.

Bakersfield, California—August 7 to 16.

Durham, N. Carolina—August 19 to 23.

Boley, Oklahoma—August 21 to 30.

California State Campmeeting at Pacoima, Calif. — August 28 to Sept. 6.

CAMPMEETING AT HOLLY HILL, S. C.

The annual Church of God campmeeting at Holly Hill, S. C., will be held, Lord willing, from June 5 to 14, 1981.

We invite all to come and be with us. The meeting will be supported on the basis of freewill offerings. Places to sleep and meals will be furnished. Come and hear the truth preached in all its fulness.

Pray the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing to help us. Ministers have been few in number for the past several years.

For further information, contact Bro. Hudson Crummie, Rt. 1, Box 42, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059, phone 803-496-5231.

JEFFERSON, OREGON, CAMPMEETING

The Jefferson, Oregon, campmeeting will be held this year, June 12 to 21, Lord willing, on the saints' campground on Skelton Road, Jefferson, Oregon. All saints will find a welcome at this meeting, and we especially urge all saints throughout the Pacific Northwest to attend this meeting as it is the only campmeeting of the Evening Light saints in that area. We are expecting the Lord to provide the meeting with sufficient Holy Ghost ministers to carry on the meeting efficiently and with sufficient Holy

Ghost wisdom to be able to counsel and help any who have spiritual problems and needs in their lives, and also to give forth the gospel message of salvation with power and demonstration of the Spirit. If you have problems in your life, be encouraged and come to the meeting expecting to get the help you need, because God has it all.

It is an advantage to us to know in advance who and how many are expecting to attend this meeting, as it helps us in our planning. As soon as you know what your plans are, please let us know. If you plan to come by plane, bus, or Amtrak, let us know so we can arrange to meet you. If you drive your own car, the campground is located on Skelton Road, one-half mile north of Marion Road in Jefferson.

You may contact O. B. Wilson, 6505 N.E. Sunset Drive, Albany, Oregon 97321, or phone (503) 928-7223. The phone at the chapel is (503) 327-9916.

—O. B. Wilson, Minister

Old-Fashioned Campmeeting at Chilliwack, B.C., Canada

The Church of God will hold, Lord willing, a campmeeting at Charis Camp from June 22 to June 28, 1981. There will be services daily at 10:30, 2:30 and 7:30. The young people will have the 2:30 service.

We extend a hearty welcome for all people to come and be with us. Bring bedding and extra food if possible. There is a \$1.50 per person per day charge by the camp. Otherwise, the meeting will be on the freewill offering basis.

Charis Camp is located about nine miles north of Chilliwack on Highway 1. Watch for signs.

The cabins are all supplied with bunks and mattresses, but no bedding is supplied. It will be necessary for every one coming to the meeting to provide his own sheets, pillows, and blankets. There are so few saints at Chilliwack that they cannot be expected to provide these things. So in order to be sure of having these necessary items, bring your own.

Much emphasis will be placed on prayer and the reformation truths. Pray much for this meeting.

For more information, contact Ron and Ann Walter, 576 Wellington Ave., Chilliwack, B.C., Canada V2P 2E9, phone (604) 792-5201.

—Tom Melot

GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMPMEETING

We would like to extend a very special invitation and welcome to the saints of God of all nations to come and be a part of our annual campmeeting, which will begin on Saturday, June 27, continuing through July 5, 1981. Our meeting will be held, as usual, on the General Southern Campgrounds of the Church of God, located in Hammond, Louisiana.

We are praying that God will send Holy Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing, that He can use in preaching the truth as it has been preached since the beginning of the Evening Light Reformation; having been taught and preached by our Lord Jesus Christ,

the disciples, apostles, and saints of the Morning Church. Come, let us worship the Lord together in the beauty of holiness!

Those traveling by auto should exit off I-12 at the Hammond-Ponchatoula exit, which is the first exit east of the I-12, I-55 junction. Turn north toward Hammond on Business 51, go to the third traffic light, turn left and go west on Phoenix Square approximately six blocks.

Transportation service to Hammond, La., may be obtained through the Greyhound Bus Line or the Illinois Central R.R.; also those coming in by airline can be met at either the New Orleans International Airport, or the Baton Rouge, Ryan Field Airport. Please let us know in advance as to your flight number and time of arrival.

Meeting expenses will be met on a freewill offering basis. Meals and lodging will be provided.

For additional information, contact Bro. Bob Forbes, phone (504) 748-4957, Bro. Nelson Doolittle, phone (504) 878-6111, or Bro. Salvatore DiDio, phone (504) 345-0419. If you wish to reserve special rooms or need lodging, please write to the Oak Grove Church of God, Rt. 1, Box 185, Loranger, La. 70446.

—Bro. Bob Forbes

FRESNO, CALIF., CAMPMEETING

The Fresno, California, campmeeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, July 3 through 12, at 388 N. First St., Fresno, California.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting. Provisions will be made to care for all who come. Motorhomes, campers, and trailers are welcomed. All meeting expenses will be met by freewill offerings. Come praying for a profitable meeting, that souls will be saved, believers sanctified, and bodies healed.

Directions to the grounds are as follows: Those coming on 99 from the north will take the Belmont exit, go east 3 miles to First St., turn right for 2 blocks to Grant. From the south, take Ventura exit, go east to First St., turn left and follow to Grant.

For further information, call the pastor, Bro. E. J. Trotter, 1543 E. Bremer, Fresno, Ca., phone (209) 441-1758, or Bro. Charles Parrish, 5970 E. Fedora, Fresno, California, phone (209) 291-9958. —Lavern Moles

MEXICO CAMPMEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mexico campmeeting in Ojos Negros, Baja California, Mexico will convene, Lord willing, June 29 through July 5. We trust that many from the States are praying about being in this meeting and how you can be a blessing as well as receive one.

For those going for the first time, stay on Calif. Interstate 5 until you reach the line at Tijuana. After getting through customs, watch for a sign within the next block pointing to Ensenada Cuota (Toll-road). Follow these signs, paying the required tolls until you reach Ensenada (about 65 mi.). Take La Vigia through Ensenada until you come to the

statue of Benito Juarez. Take highway 11 east, which changes to 16 and follow this road all the way (about 29 miles) to a "Y." Take left of "Y" to Ojos Negros (about 2 miles). The chapel (built of concrete blocks) is about six blocks north and one block east of the end of the pavement, showing a brush arbor on the west side of the building.

Accommodations do not equal those of the States, but everyone who goes will be provided for. This campmeeting is run on the freewill offering plan as all others. Interpreters will be on hand for English spoken messages. Please come praying that God will have His way and new souls will be born into the kingdom.

For more information write to: Sis. Opal Kelly, 1002 N.W. 90, Okla. City, Okla. 73114.

—Yours for souls of the Spanish speaking people,
—Sis. Opal Kelly

AKRON, OHIO, CAMPMEETING

The gathering for the Akron, Ohio, campmeeting will convene, according to the Lord's will, on Saturday, July 11, and continue through Sunday, July 19.

We extend a hearty welcome to all, especially to lovers of the truth in the northeastern section of the country. Come praying that the Lord will bless in the campmeeting effort this year.

For additional information, contact Bro. Waymon Parmer, 553 Glendora Ave., Akron, Ohio, phone (216) 836-1907, Bro. Keith Fuller, 244 Storer Ave., Akron, Ohio, phone (216) 864-1128, or The Church of God, 421 W. Thornton St., Akron, Ohio, phone (216) 762-2286. In Christian love,
—Keith Fuller

FORTY-FOURTH NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

A cordial invitation is extended to everyone to attend the coming 44th National Campmeeting of the Church of God in this "evening time" of the gospel day. It will be held, Lord willing, on July 24 to Aug. 2, 1981, at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri.

This is the beginning of the second century of the Church of God Reformation which began about 1880 under the labors of D. S. Warner and other reformers, bringing the light on the one true Church that Jesus built. During this national gathering of God's people we should remember with grateful hearts the rich heritage of Bible truth that has been brought down to us by the faithfulness of those pioneer ministers of the first thirty years of this reformation, and all those ministers and saints who remained true to the faith during the past seventy years to the present. Come to this national campmeeting and observe a people who are still teaching and practicing the Bible truths that brought forth this glorious "evening light" reformation. Ministers from across the nation will preach the Word under the direction and anointing of the Holy Spirit who is the Executive Officer. No instrumental music will be used in the services. Men and women of God will be dressed in modest

apparel as becometh saints. (However, remember that everyone who comes on the grounds or attends the services is not a saint, but we want everyone to come so he can hear and believe the gospel.)

The campgrounds are located approximately five miles east of Neosho, Missouri, on Highway 86, the exact location being one mile east and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of the intersection of Highway 86, and of Alternate 71 Highway. Those coming by public transportation, such as bus or train, will need to come to Neosho and take a taxi to the grounds, or call Granby, Missouri, phone number 472-6427 to arrange for someone to meet you and bring you to the grounds.

Meals will be served in the dining hall on a free-will offering basis as well as the lodging in dormitories and tents. We do trust that no one will stay away because of a lack of finances, as we are confident that God will supply for the needs as they arise. Dormitory space and tents will be available on a first-come first-serve basis. Motels in the area are available, but it would be advisable to make advance reservations. In addition, there are parking areas on the grounds for trailers, campers, and motor homes. Electricity, water, and sewer hook-ups are available at the trailer spaces.

Bro. and Sis. Austin McMillian will be working to assist in finding accommodations for sleeping. All correspondence regarding tent orders, dormitory space, etc., should be addressed to them at Rt. 7, Box 351, Neosho, Mo. 64850.

The work days to prepare for this meeting are scheduled for Saturday, June 27, July 4, and each weekend thereafter until the meeting starts. All that have a burden for this work are encouraged to come and help prepare the grounds and buildings for the meeting. If you are not able to come, please pray for the workers and that the Lord will bless us with a successful meeting this year.

Please send your contribution to the meeting or request for further information to the business manager, Bro. Jim Wall, 5825 E. 64th St., Tulsa, Okla. 74136.

The caretakers of the grounds are Bro. and Sister Dale Doolittle, R. 7, Box 415A, Neosho, Mo. 64850, phone 451-2542.

Come praying for the salvation of sinners, the sanctification of believers, and the divine physical healing of the sick and afflicted. —Editor

CAMPMEETING AT GREEN BANK, W. VA.



The Church of God campmeeting at Green Bank, W. Va., will be held in the tent from July 3 to 12, 1981. Two services daily—10:30 and 7:30. Everyone is welcome, especially the isolated saints and lovers of the truth. All will be cared for. Bring coats for cool weather.

Green Bank is 57 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, and 50 miles south of Elkins on Route 92.

For further information, contact Bro. and Sister Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944, phone (304) 456-4469.

MEETING NOTICES AND REPORTS

TULSA, OKLA., REVIVAL MEETING

The revival meeting in Tulsa, Okla., will be held June 5 to 14, 1981, in the chapel on the corner of North Norfolk and East Pine Place. The chapel phone number is (918) 584-8438.

A warm welcome is extended to all nations. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord." Isa. 1:18. There will be two services daily—at 12 noon, and nightly at 7:30. All-day services will be held on both Sundays. Provision will be arranged for all who would like to camp.

Although the meeting this year will be an old-fashioned revival instead of a campmeeting, we are praying and looking forward to it with happy anticipation, believing the Lord will work in it as much as He would in a campmeeting.

We are praying the Lord to send ministers, gospel workers, and saints of His own choice to help fight in the battle against sin. Come praying that the Lord will give a Holy Spirit-filled meeting where sinners will be convicted of their sins and saved to the glory of God.

—Katherine Williams

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REPORT OF BOLEY, OKLA., SPRING REVIVAL

The Lord surely did work in the Boley, Okla., meeting held April 26 to May 3. We thank the Lord for the ministers, workers, and saints that attended the meeting to help make it a success. The attendance was good. God was faithful to anoint His Word and the vessels He chose to use. Our hearts were encouraged from the Word. We thank the Lord for the few souls that sought Him at the altar of prayer.

May the dear Lord reward each one for his "labour of love" which ye have shown toward His name."

—Katherine Williams

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MEXICO CAMPMEETING REPORT

Ejido Patzcuaro, Baja Calif., Mexico, (April 30)—Dear Sister Marie: . . . I have been feeling so much better, with hardly any pain now for more than a month. I am so very grateful to the Lord that I went through the whole campmeeting feeling fine.

We had such a good campmeeting the week prior to Easter! This will be our last campmeeting in this place, but it was certainly blessed of the Lord. There was better attendance from the people in the village. Bro. Mayarino and family, Bro. Pedro Rosas and Sis. Antonia Rosas came from Ojos Negros and stayed the whole week. At the last part of the meeting Bro. James Huskey and family, Esther Hightower and her three younger children, and Sis. Roberta Hightower came, and also Bro. and Sis. Robert Sherman, Bro. Jim Kutra, Bro. Carnel Montgomery, Wanda Leuhning, and Lidia Hernandez. They were all a real blessing and inspiration to all of us. The services were blessed of the Lord from the very first one and including the last one. There was some altar work, but not nearly as much as we had hoped for,

although we were grateful for what was done. Those that came had the opportunity to hear the gospel one more time. Our two younger girls, Maria Elena and Elizabeth, gave their hearts to the Lord. Now all five of our girls are saved, and our next to the youngest boy, Israel, is saved. Oh, how I wish our other boys would see their need of a Savior and seek Him!

There were some who went to the altar for help and the Lord blessed them. One who came to the altar was Bro. Pedro Rosas. He and his wife are from the Valle de Trinidad where Bro. Mendoza lived. Sis. Rosas was saved under his ministry, but her husband was saved in the campmeeting in Ojos Negros, last year. He is nearly 81 years of age. He was so happy during the meeting and was much encouragement to all of us. We feel a real refreshment in our souls for the good meeting the Lord blessed us with.

I think I have told you about our village being bought by others. Some have already bought lots; others bought lots with houses already on them, but we haven't done anything yet. We are waiting to see if we can go with the people who own land in the village. If they sell us a lot, then maybe it would be some cheaper. But for right now we are doing nothing. We are still working on the immigration papers to the U. S. for the children. The two older children have been denied because they are over 14 years of age. The Dept. of Immigration says it has done all it can for us, and we are going through Congressman Jerry Lewis, Rep. of Calif. in the House of Representatives in Washington D. C. So far things seem favorable. Surely God knows what the future holds for us, but it doesn't prove a happy situation where the family is separated. . . .

Remember us in prayer, for we want to stay in the center of God's will. —Sis. Edith (Cole) Lara

Prayer Requests

Mich.—“My mother needs a healing touch to her ear and the sores on her face and feet. We are waiting for the Lord's healing touch.” —Sis. Olive Gettersson

Okla.—Still remember Sis. Essie Moore who is in the battle of affliction. She stays encouraged, but needs healing.

Okla.—Remember Sis. Lottie Porter, as she has not been well this spring. She has had one cold after another, and other afflictions. It hurts us to see her failing.

Okla.—Sis. Maude Britt is not able to be out to services. She needs a healing touch. She is standing on the Word and waiting on God's healing to come.

Ohio—“Pray for my sister who is crippled from falling. . . . I have an urgent unspoken request.”

—Mrs. Vernon Fetzer

I do appreciate the family of God. Since I have been in the battle of affliction, many have sent get-well cards to let me know that they were praying for me. I will take this means of acknowledging the cards, as my strength is limited. Your card meant so

much to me. I am expecting healing. Nothing is impossible with my God. He has healed me many times down through the years, and my faith is in Him. Continue to pray with me for victory. The devil is a defeated foe. —Sis. Marie Miles

FOREIGN FIELD REPORTS

NATIVE PASTOR REPORTS FROM NIGERIA

River State, Nigeria (April 27)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the saints everywhere: We send loving greetings in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour by whom we have received grace and apostleship, for the obedience to the faith among all nations.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated April 1, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. We are thankful for the many sacrifices that you undertake for us and the Church in Nigeria. May God bless you abundantly in soul and body.

I thank the Lord that He has given me more grace and strength to preach His Word in answer to prayer. Much good is being done here in the Tombia congregation. The Lord is adding more souls to His Church and the sick are being healed. Praise the Lord!

My thought today is from Mark 8:38 where Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

We are still moving forward by the help of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The best Friend to have is Jesus. He will never fail those who believe and put their faith and trust in Him. Jesus said, “All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” John 6:37.

Continue to pray for us as we do for you.

Yours in Christ, —B. Ben Taylor

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MISSION REPORT FROM PHILIPPINES

Mindanao, Philippines (April 25)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings of peace and joy in the name of our Redeemer who never leaves us nor forsakes us. God has been so good to us. We are now with Bro. Cel Candelas and family.

Bro. Tangunan and I started from San Jose City on the morning of April 20, and arrived here in Butuan City on the afternoon of April 23. We took bus transportation from Manila down through the islands to Leyte Island, which is as far as we could go. Then we took a boat to Cebu and went out to see Bro. Encabo on April 22. We found Bro. Encabo and family well and encouraged in the Lord. After we left his home the same day, we did not know how we would locate Bro. Cel Candelas as we had left his letter of directions at Bro. Tangunan's home. But as the boat was docking, there was Bro. Candelas waving to us. The Lord surely watched over us. . . .

We had a good service in Bro. Candelas' home last night. They do not have a place of worship except in their home. A young brother, who is a co-worker with Bro. Candelas, has a congregation on an island near Suragao. We will go there today and stay overnight, and return tomorrow for services here again. . . .

Bro. Tangunan will take a boat tonight for Cebu, and then on to Manila on his way home. But I will remain here for another week or two, then spend a week and a half with Bro. Encabo, and then return to Manila where Bro. Tangunan will meet me. The brethren seem to be getting more understanding of the Bible truth. . . .

Much could be done in helping the brethren to get chapels or buildings in which to hold their worship services. I believe the Lord will fill these needs in His own time.

It will probably be three or four weeks before I get back to San Jose City, but Bro. Tangunan will forward my mail.

May the Lord bless and keep all of you.

In Christian love, —Bro. George Hammond
(You may address your mail to him in care of
M. S. Tangunan, Stall 26, Bldg. A, Public
Market, San Jose City, N.E., Philippines 2331.)

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NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (April 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints of God everywhere: Greetings in the consoling name of Jesus . . . who rings in our heart His victory bell of salvation from sin and Satan. It is much more valuable than gold to know that our sins are all forgiven and we are on our way to dwell on High with Him.

Thank you for your letters dated March 3 and April 1, 1981, contents of which were noted. Our mail movement is still of snail speed. . . .

Our desire to accept the invitations to come over to the U. S. this summer for participation in the campmeetings of 1981 with the saints of the holy family has been shelved of the Lord, whose voice is supreme to be obeyed. Our hands are tied to the gospel duties of utmost urgency. More than seven towns have been mentioned to us of the Lord for full scale evangelization. We will comply, beginning with Ilesha, a populous town in Oyo State of Nigeria.

Praise God again for the expansion of His Church. A new station of the Church of God has been opened at Umuolu, a commercial town on the bank of River Niger. Bro. Edward Mwawuzo, assisted by Bro. Emmanuel Amifor, has been charged with feeding the flock of the young congregation. The Lord is trusted to supply all the needs of Bro. Mwawuzo who is a full time gospel worker.

Your fellow laborer in Christ,

—Titus U. E. Enu

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PRAYER REQUEST—Pray earnestly for Sister Leona Green in Louisiana, as she is seriously afflicted.

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

Kerala State, S. India (April 15)—Dear Bro. Pruitt, the saints there and everywhere: Greetings of Christian love to all of you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ who "was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation." Heb. 9:28.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated April 1, and the enclosures were noted with much gratitude. May God bless each donor to the fund which supports the gospel work going on in India through the Church of God, the spiritual Body of Christ.

Our local special meetings at Chalakudy and Chirallakkonam were really good and blessed of the Lord, as well as the monthly meeting at Kalayapuram. At Koottarvila we plan to conduct a four-day campmeeting along with the opening service of the new chapel there. More members are being added to the Church in this place. Your prayers are not in vain. We see the results here.

I was glad to note that there is progress in the fund for the van. Surely we badly need a van for transportation.

Yes, truly these are perilous times. As Jeremiah said, "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" Jer. 5:30, 31. "Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors." Proverbs 8:34.

Let us see through the eyes of prayer always. With love and prayers, especially praying for your healing.

Yours in Christ,

—John Varghese

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From the Mailbox . . .

Ohio—Dear friends in Christ: . . . Would you please send me the book entitled *The Secret of Salvation?* . . . I would appreciate a few tracts entitled "Water Baptism," by Brother Fred Pruitt. I know many people who do not practice this baptism. I asked one of them why they didn't. He said: "We feel when we get the Holy Ghost, that it's so much greater that we don't need the water baptism." Notice he said, "*We feel.*" Too many are going by feeling, and are not taking God's holy Word on these matters. Why, oh, why can't they see it as we do and as the Word teaches us? Praise God, I was taught the Bible way from childhood.

My daddy was a minister when I was young, and was he strict! We thought he was the meanest dad in the world. He was the strictest in our whole neighborhood. Years later, I was saved and Jesus came in and flooded my soul with His great love. Then I knew why my daddy wouldn't let us go to picture shows and dances. He loved us so much that he didn't want us lost. He's gone on now, and guess what? I'm 100%

like he was about all worldly pleasures. The things I once loved, I now hate.

May God bless all of you there.

—Sis. N. Beckwith

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Illinois—Dear Christian friends: We would like for you to send us the books I have marked. Use the rest of the money any way needed most.

The Lord has surely been good to us, so we decided to help you dear people out as much as we can. May God bless each one of you at the Print Shop, and may you be able to keep up the good work for Him until He calls you Home to a well-deserved reward.

—Fairl F. Blanchard

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Okla.—Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour. He does bless us here from day to day.

We had the privilege of being in the meeting on Sunday, May 3, at the Four Corners chapel, north of Vinita, with Bro. O. C. Porter bringing the message and opening up the Scriptures to our enlightenment and blessing. It was so good to meet with the saints at the Four Corners chapel.

We observed a wonderful 50th wedding anniversary day on April 5, 1981.

We hope the campmeeting will be one of the best ever. I just hope I can be there a day or two. If not, we will be praying that souls will be reached and saved.

Let us be encouraged to press on and draw closer to the Lord, for soon this battle of our short life here will be over.

Love and prayers,

—Doris Bowers

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



Mo.—Dear saints: Greetings of love to each one! I want to thank each one again for your prayers for me. I have felt the presence of your prayers. A few days ago, I felt such an assurance in my heart that the Lord had healed me. I felt so happy, and started thanking the Lord for my healing. The affliction was still there. I began to think upon this to see if it was according to God's Word. II Cor. 5:7 reads: "For we walk by faith and not by sight." Also, it came to me what Bro. Murphy Allen had said one time about the Israelites marching around the walls of Jericho. On the seventh day they were to compass the city seven times, the priests were to blow the trumpets, and the people were to shout, for the Lord had given them the city. He said that when the people shouted the victory, the walls fell flat. Then I came across the tract, "The Christian Confession." Heb. 4:14: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession." (R.V., hold fast our *confession*). God's Word says, "... with his stripes we are healed." The tract brought out that I am to confess what God says about my sickness, and hold fast to

this confession. I am to recognize the absolute truthfulness of these words in advance of any visible change. I am to act on these words and thank God for the fact that He laid my sicknesses on Christ, the same as He did my sins. Healing is always in response to faith's testimony.

By faith, I am claiming my healing. I thank the Lord for my healing! Pray for me that I will live close to Him.

—Eva Lou Gaines

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Okla.—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am still saved and encouraged to press onward toward the heavenly prize of eternal life.

I have so much to thank God for. As I look back over the years, the words of song No. 300 are very real to me: "I can see far down the mountain where I wandered weary years, often hindered in my journey by the ghosts of doubts and fears; broken vows and disappointments thickly sprinkled all the way, but the Spirit led, unerring, to the land I hold today." Surely if we will allow the Spirit to lead us, we'll not go astray.

Another song which has been so dear to me in these last days is, "The Bride of Christ." Praise God! "She leans upon an arm of love, no sin her garments taints; they're made of linen wov'n above—the righteousness of saints. The marriage of the Lamb has come, His bride all ready stands; the bridegroom soon will take her home to dwell in heav'nly lands."

Surely, the Church is beautiful. The purity, lowliness, and holiness of Christ must be in each of us. My desire is to possess such a life. Pray for me that I will ever be all that God would have me to be.

In Christian love,

—Sis. Frances Chandler

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Pa.—Dear Sister Marie: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. He is so good to me. I can feel His hand leading and guiding in the small things as well as bigger things. What a mighty God we serve!

I am sure God helped me to get this apartment. I prayed, "God, let me have an apartment, if you want me to have one. You see my future; if not, Thy will be done." . . . I have witnessed to some, so they seem to respect me. I play hymns on my stereo, and have religious programs on my radio. I can read and pray when I want to, and it is a great comfort and brings real peace to my soul to know that I am His and He is mine. . . .

Your Sister in Christ,

—Sis. Eva Cox

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Calif.—Dear Sister Marie and all saints: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Praise the Lord for all of His wonderful blessings. I am thanking Him every day for salvation and for the privilege of witnessing for Him in this tract ministry. My heart is burdened for these poor, lost souls. My prayer is for them to understand the way of truth and be saved before it is too late.

Pray for me and my lost loved ones. I am continually praying for you there, and for Bro. Pruitt's healing. . . .

—Sis. Ruth S. Donnelly

Florida—Dear Sis. Marie and saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. I feel like I should testify that the Lord has brought me out of a situation, and that I am saved today.

Remember me in prayer. I have been having headaches lately, and not feeling very well. Also, pray that the Lord will help me find a job, as I have two teen-age boys to support. I have many burdens. I need the Lord to work out some things. I have much confidence in the prayers of the saints. . . .

—Barbara Thomas

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

(This is Part 2, concluding the answer to the question in the May issue.)

The question is: "Who was Melchisedek? Was he the Son of God in flesh, and did the Son of God appear in the flesh at any time in the Old Testament?"

In Part 1 of this discussion last month, we dealt with the identity of Melchisedek, showing that he was not the Son of God in human flesh. Also that, so far as I know, the Son of God was not manifested in human flesh anywhere in the Old Testament. At the close of last month's article we were just entering into a discussion of Heb. 7:3 where some things are said concerning Melchisedek and his priesthood which are quite baffling.

Now let us go on from there. From the things which were said in the last paragraph of Part 1 last month, we conclude that the priesthood of Melchisedek never continued on. If it had, there would not have been any need nor any place for the Levitical priesthood of the family of Aaron which was established under the law. Actually, this man only appears this one time in the Old Testament Scriptures and passes right on out of the picture at this point and no more is known of him. Neither is there any reference to any priesthood existing between this time and the anointing of Aaron and his sons to the priesthood 422 years later. I will say, however, that his name is mentioned one more time in the Old Testament (Psalms 110:4), but this is not in connection with any thing he did or with his person, but it is in a prophetic sense connecting him up with Christ and His priesthood. In fact, I feel we may safely conclude that God injected this little episode in the Scripture for the express purpose of establishing a fitting type of Christ and His priesthood and that Melchisedek was a type of Christ.

Further, in Heb. 7:3 the sacred writer makes other statements about this man that shrouds him in deeper mystery and makes him more controversial. He says, "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God." This would certainly seem to identify him as an eternal being such as Christ Himself.

Now in discussing this part of the Scriptures concerning him, I would first point out the fact that not one of the things mentioned here concerning him is mentioned in Gen. 14:18-20 where he is introduced for the first and only time in the Scriptures. Not one other thing by way of description is said about him in the Scriptures other than he was the King of Salem and Priest of the most high God. Then where did Paul get this information he inserted here?

First, let us realize that the principal subject in the seventh chapter of Hebrews is the priesthood and here he is speaking more specifically of Melchisedek's priesthood rather than the man himself. Therefore we conclude that the things said here are not to be interpreted as meaning that the man himself was not born and did not die and that he had no father nor mother literally; but this is all said concerning his priesthood. Adam Clarke in his comments on Heb. 7:3 refers to one Suidas who recorded concerning Melchisedek that, "After he had reigned in Salem for 113 years, he died being a righteous man and a bachelor." I do not know who Suidas was, but I feel that a man of Adam Clarke's stature would have made no reference to him had he not been a noteworthy historian.

Then let us realize that between Melchisedek and Christ much has happened and that in the interim the law has been given and with it a priesthood established of the tribe of Levi and of the family of Aaron. Also, let us realize that the requirements for the priesthood were very strict and that any man with a physical defect or flaw in his record or background was not eligible for the office. Therefore the Jews kept a very close record and strict genealogy on every man in the line of Aaron. Whenever it was necessary to appoint a new priest, they searched the records diligently to see if the person being considered was eligible to be appointed—who his parents were and if there was anything in his background to render him unfit.

Melchisedek had none of these. He had no genealogy (descent), no father nor mother nor lineage through which he inherited his priesthood. "He was the priest of the most high God"—Gen. 14:18—divinely appointed and ordained of God. Since there was no genealogy on him, there was no record of his birth or death. Therefore, he was without beginning of days or ending of life according to the common method of establishing these things by established records. Melchisedek was without any formal or legal credentials at all to qualify him as a priest, but was just appointed and ordained as a priest by God Himself.

Now, as already mentioned, he was a type of Christ and these things being said concerning his priesthood were necessary to qualify him as a true type of Christ's perpetual priesthood. It has already been established that the priesthood of Melchisedek could not have continued on perpetually and for reasons already given in Part 1. But because there is no record of his birth or death, it is said that he had no end of life; that is, so far as record was concerned.

This leaves a kind of open end there, which would seem to indicate his priesthood continued on perpetually. This is the way Christ's priesthood actually was, and this picture further identifies Melchisedek's priesthood as a true type of Christ's priesthood.

In Psalms 110:4 we read, "The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedek." This is a prophecy concerning Christ and His priesthood and links Him clearly with Melchisedek's priesthood. Again in Heb. 7:11 we read, "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" This is another link between the priesthoods of Melchisedek and Christ. And in the mouth of two witnesses shall every word be established. There are several more Scriptures witnessing to this in the Hebrew Epistle also. Also in this text (Heb. 7:11) two orders of priesthoods are mentioned, "After the order of Melchisedek" and "After the order of Aaron." One of these, "The order of Aaron," was made under the law of a carnal commandment (Heb. 7:16). The other which pertains to Christ which would of certainty be a higher order of priesthood "after the order of Melchisedek" was by the power of an endless life (Heb. 7:16) which was directly appointed and ordained by God Himself.

Christ being come of the tribe of Judah and not of the lineage of Aaron and of the tribe of Levi, renders Him ineligible for the priesthood according to the law and casts Him in the same category with what is said of Melchisedek's priesthood—"Without father, without mother, without descent." He was not of the lineage of Aaron to be qualified as a priest under the law. He was after the order of Melchisedek receiving His priesthood by divine appointment and ordination direct from God. Therefore it is said in Heb. 7:12, "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." What he is saying here is that the law under which the Levitical priesthood was established had to be abolished and taken away that the second (New) covenant might be established under which Christ serves in a perpetual priesthood—"a priest FOREVER after the order of Melchisedek." Note: This does not speak of Melchisedek's priesthood and it being forever. But it speaks of Christ's priesthood and it being FOREVER; and that it was after the ORDER of Melchisedek in contra-distinction to it being after the ORDER of Aaron.

You can't beat the Lord in giving;
I have found this to be true.

The more you give to Him,
The more He'll give to you.

—Effie Miller

"There are no losers with Jesus Christ and no winners with the devil!" —Edward M. Brandt

"The Dead in Christ Shall Rise First"

By Earl Langley

I am dismayed! And I say this for want of a more appropriate term to express my sense of amazement. For, of late, the air waves have been thick and crowded with a rash of millennial preaching, much of the abuse centered on the Scripture found in 1 Thess. 4:16 and 17, inferring ever, by these texts, that there are to be two resurrections separated by one thousand years.

The Scriptural phrase, "The dead in Christ shall rise first," has been falsified and wrested from its Scriptural setting and, in this misrepresentation, has been flaunted and stereotyped before the public time and time again—all this right in the face of the fact that this great and worthy dissertation by the great Apostle, dealing with an urgent need of correction in the Thessalonian church regarding their misleading attitudes toward their beloved and sainted dead, has been adequately commented on, written about and explained by no lesser personages than such Bible scholars as Adam Clarke whose noted commentaries have circled the globe finding respect and approval by outstanding Bible students for years past; Oswald T. Allison, professor at Princeton University, author of such books as *Prophecy and the Church*; Russell Byrum, author of *Christian Theology*; Philip Mauro, United States attorney, author and Christian gentleman; F. G. Smith, author of such books as *The Revelation Explained*, etc.; and many more names could be added. I am aware, however, that names alone do not prove the merit of a matter in dispute, for names can be listed on any side of an issue. The foregoing names, however, represent men of known good reputation and Christian integrity.

Let me add one more thought in respect to my grievance. It stems, principally, from the fact that precious souls are being deceived by the trumpery and artfulness of these prophets of confusion, and the sacred Word continues to suffer violence. Sadly enough, we apparently have not, in this generation, fostered a people with the quickness of intellectual apprehension as were the Bereaans to whom Paul preached and who "searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Now let us have a few words in review of the fourth chapter of 1 Thess., which needs no special treatment of interpretation, for there is nothing obscure in the text. We shall not start with the 16th and 17th verses as do most millennial teachers, but with verse 13 where Paul introduces his subject. He begins: "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." Ah, Paul would not have these new converts to the faith to be ignorant of the truth. They must no longer walk in spiritual darkness, for they are now children of light, for says Paul, "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (1 Thess. 5:5) They must no longer revert

to their former pagan customs and practices in respect to their departed dead, nor are they to go into excessive mourning nor put on a show of feverish anxiety as though the case of their Christian dead were hopeless. Surely, Paul tells them, it is far from that: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him."

Therefore, relax. Nothing has been lost, and those to whom He has promised "eternal life" shall never perish. This is, in fact, the entire substance of Paul's message. Mr. Clarke comments thus: "Christ's resurrection included in itself, provisionally and potentially, the resurrection of all those who are 'in him,' which is sure to be realized at the proper time."

Verse 15, "This we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent [shall not ascend before the righteous dead are raised] them which are asleep."

This verse seems to be plain enough. But we need to take special note of the fact that Paul believes that what he is here teaching comes as a special revelation from the Lord, and he would have them know that this is not conjecture or theory. He is speaking by spiritual inspiration, and he wishes the Thessalonians to be confident of that.

Verse 16—"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first [shall rise before the living saints ascend]." Note that the wicked dead are not under consideration in the above quoted texts.

Take courage, brethren, for the dead in Christ shall not always remain in their graves. For, just as the angel on the Mount of Olives declared: "... this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) His coming in the clouds will usher in the universal resurrection of the dead for, "... every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him ..." (Rev. 1:7), which shows that both classes of the human family shall be raised at the same time. This fact is abundantly proved in numerous Scriptures throughout the entire Bible (Sorry space doesn't permit a more elaborate discussion of His second coming. Our purpose is to comment only on the text before us.)

The question before us is in Paul's attempt to allay the fears of these Thessalonians concerning the matter of their sainted dead, that we (Christians) who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede, or go before, those who have fallen asleep (died). What we do need to take note of in this verse is its ending. It is closed with a colon, a punctuation mark denoting that the sentence is not complete without that which follows, namely: Verse 17—"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

This seems to be plain enough, too. But what a wonderful climax to a beautiful sermon! And for you and me, too, who wait for His coming: "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13)

The whole substance of the matter is this: The dead in Christ shall arise before the ascension of the living saints is made. Then all shall ascend together to meet our blessed Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Not one single word in the entire discourse is about the righteous dead arising a thousand years before the wicked dead. In fact, the state of the wicked dead has not been under consideration at any time, and not one hint of the message has referred to them. Certainly, it is easily to be seen that the subject matter is not about a thousand years' reign or a millennium.

"Yet Will I Not Forget Thee"

I felt led to write a little of the Word of the Lord to those who are carrying afflictions, and I trust it will be an encouragement to each one. The Lord impressed me with a portion of Scripture in Isaiah 49:13-16: "Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted. But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

Do you notice in verse 13, the Lord calls you *His* afflicted? It seems to me that He is emphasizing special notice to *His* afflicted. Then in verse 16, He says, "thy walls are *continually* before me." You are continually before the Lord. He sees, He knows and understands, and is always regarding you. The Lord has a good purpose for all He does, and your afflictions are working toward His will being accomplished. I know the pain and suffering must surely be hard to bear at times, and my heart goes up in prayer to God to deliver His people from these things, but maybe it's for the good of some soul looking on and seeing your faithfulness; or maybe we all as saints need to be made to see the need of a greater burden; or maybe it's for your own spiritual good; but whatever His purpose, I know it will work to His glory if you just continue faithful.

Let me add a word here to loved ones and family looking on: Please don't question God. I know we don't understand all things, and I also know it's hard to see loved ones suffer, but who are we to question One who knows all things and is working for the good of all? We need to trust His wisdom as well as His power. The Lord cannot fail, so we know He will not fail those who trust Him. The Lord cannot forget that which is continually before His eyes and that which He has graven upon the palms of His own hands. Be encouraged!

—Sis. Lana Johnson

Thoughts for Young People

My thoughts right now are directed to our dear young people. Do you know that God would be pleased if you would come to Him now in your youth, or even in childhood?

My heart goes out for our youth of today. You will be the leaders of our country in a few short years. Also, you will be the leaders in the Church in a few years. We older ones pray much for you and desire to be good examples before you. We want to encourage you to be sober minded and truthful. We want you to be kind and forgiving. Jesus said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God." Children have a forgiving spirit. They may have little fusses, get their feelings hurt, but they soon forget and forgive and begin playing together again as if nothing had happened. Seek God for the spirit of forgiveness.

The Bible says, "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth." Won't you come to Him, while your life is yet tender, not tainted with deep sin, and before you get so set in your own ways? The Bible tells us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all the things we need shall be added unto us. He wants your youthful strength to serve and glorify Him. The Lord would have you seek Him early in life, that He might lead you in your decisions, and give you wisdom before you get yourself into hard situations. He wants you to seek His will in choosing a companion. There are so many people who get married and then are divorced in a few months or a few short years. God's plan for marriage is for a lifetime. You do want to be happy and God wants you too, also. If you give your life completely into His hands, He can help you in choosing the right one that will be a real help meet for you.

We should start at a very young age reading and studying the Bible. There are some things the Bible tells us to do if we want to have a long, happy life. Ephesians 6:1-3 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." The Bible teaches us not to take the Lord's name in vain and not to swear. It teaches us to obey the laws of the land as long as they do not conflict with God's laws. We should never cheat on anything—at school, on our jobs, on income tax, etc. We should always obey the driving rules. God sees and knows all things. We should always be truthful, that people may have confidence in us.

Dear young readers, being born again into the Kingdom of God and filled with the Holy Spirit is the most important thing in this life. Col. 3:1, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:8-10) "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy,

filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."

God wants us to take care of our body, as well as our soul, for it is the temple of God. He says if we defile the temple of God He will destroy it. He will dwell in nothing short of a holy temple. He desires us to adorn our bodies in a plain and modest way. He does not want us to abuse our bodies, but to do what we can to keep them healthy. We should try to eat things good for our bodies, not indulging in strong drink or tobacco, which harm the body. We should also get regular sleep for the good of our body and mind.

Young people, God wants your service. In return He will supply your needs in this life and reserve you a place in heaven. Remember, He loves you and wants what is best for your life. We read in Psalm 84:11, "No good thing will he [God] withhold from them that walk uprightly." —Pearlene Whitson

The Absolute Musts

The word "must" appears many times in the Word of God, and in most cases in a command nature. Let us consider the three that have a profound effect on our lives.

Jesus used this word as a youth of twelve when talking with Joseph and Mary. "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I *must* be about my Father's business?" Luke 2:49.

Here Jesus states the reason for His being on earth was to be about His Father's business, which was and still is, reconciling man to God. Doing His Father's business was going to require fasting, prayer, being misunderstood, scorned, ridiculed and rejected. In spite of the scorn, ridicule and rejection, the lame were made to walk, the blind to see, and there was the release of many who were prisoners of sin and a harsh and false religion.

His methods, His motives were going to be questioned by religious leaders, scribes, lawyers, and all who had much to lose if this "doing my Father's business" became popular. His teaching destroyed not the law, but the false interpretations that they had made of the law. "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." Love thy neighbor as thyself: Consider the man who fell victim of thieves going from Jerusalem to Jericho. Those who should have helped, passed by on the other side. (It is often the same today: "I don't want to be involved.") Yet a man, an alien, stopped, helped, and provided care for the man, with the promise that if more expenses were incurred he would gladly pay when he came again.

They said (regarding Jesus): "This imposter lies. He claims to forgive sin; only God can do that." They were so blinded by their own teaching that they could not see that a new and better way was being offered them.

He overturned the tables, emptied the cages, and drove the money-changers from the temple, saying: "Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves." It sounds familiar: "We have our creed, and that we will abide by." Anything different has to be wrong. The religious leaders of that day were not teaching their children as God had told them to upon their deliverance from Egypt. They had perverted the law, trying to prove that what they were doing was "good and acceptable to God." They then, as well as many today, had forgotten or chosen to ignore, "I am the Lord thy God which changeth not."

Yes, doing Father's business was creating problems. Steadfastness in purpose was the watchword of Jesus: "I *must* go to Jerusalem." "I *must* be offered up." "I *must* go to my Father."

They mocked Him, scourged Him, and nailed Him to a cross to die. The irony of it was: While they thought they could destroy Him, they were helping Him to do his Father's business. The shedding of the innocent blood of the Lamb of God which would wash away the sins of man was the Father's business.

Then He said: "It is finished." This was the *must* for Jesus, the Son of God.

There are also two *musts* for man. He cannot avoid making a decision. "Choose you this day." It is something that will not go away because we try to ignore it.

There came to Jesus a man named Nicodemus, inquiring what he *must* do to inherit eternal life. He was advised by Jesus that if he ever expected to see the Kingdom of God, he *must* be born again. This brought forth the question, how could this be? Jesus explained how that which is born of the flesh is flesh and that born of the spirit is spiritual.

The new birth is necessary so that the new child of God may have the spiritual nature of God. He is a new creature; old things are passed away, and all things become new.

John wrote: "He that is born of God does not commit sin." Paul said: "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid; for how shall we that are dead to sin live any longer therein?"

This new birth, or being born again, is optional. You don't have to do it. But if you don't, you cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. You cannot be a child of God and a joint heir with Christ in heavenly things. It is your decision. You must decide; no one can make you. You are on your own. You have made your choice. I hope it was the right one, for there is another *must* in which all will take part.

"For we *must* all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor. 5:10. Paul said: "All *must* appear." Not just some, not the unforgiven sinner, but every one. There are no exceptions, notwithstanding what some well known television preacher says: That he will not have to go to the Judgment. He will be there to account for his life and his teaching.

Blessed is that man whose sins precede him to the Judgment, as they are blotted out by the shed blood of Christ, and will be remembered against him no more. But that man who takes his sins to the Judgment has problems.

They will come, as in the days He walked on the shores of the sea, in the streets of the villages, and argue with Him: "Have we not preached in thy name? and in thy name cast out devils?" Then He will say, "I never knew you: depart from me, . . ." Matt. 7:21-23. Why? Because they brought their sins with them. Many preach that man must sin, and they practice what they preach. Others lay burdens on the people that are impossible to bear, but they never try to lighten the burdens. Yet Jesus said: "Come unto me, all ye that labour 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. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11:28-30.

As Jesus said about the publican whose prayer was: "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner," that he went down justified. In seeking justification we humbly approach the throne of grace, repenting of our sins, confessing them to God, not man, and ask God through Jesus Christ to have mercy on us.

Self-justification, self-evaluation of worthy deeds do not bring peace to the soul and freedom from sin that we may approach the Judgment unafraid.

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath, and make me pure."

—Elias McCart

GOD CARES FOR HIS OWN

Have you mountains you can't climb?
Are there rivers you can't cross?
Have you worries you can't live with?
Does your life seem total loss?

Are you worried, tired, troubled?
Is your heart filled with despair?
Does it make your life all sadness,
Knowing no one seems to care?

Does your soul cry out for comfort?
When you feel lost and all alone?
Take your burdens to the Father,
He is mindful of His own.

God cares, and knows our every need,
He watches over us through storm and strife.
He'll open wide the door of blessings,
That will make the difference in our life.

Remember, friend, you're not alone,
God is concerned with all we do.
Cast your cares upon the Lord,
He'll stand by you and see you through!
—Edward M. Brandt