

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Tribute to Sister Marie Miles



From this short life thou'rt gone away;
No more thy lovely smile we see:
Where once thy charming ways held sway
There lingers but a memory.

A life like thine so pure and true
Can't never really die nor cease,
For thou art ever near anew
To shed thy sweet incense of peace.

And always blooms the roses fair
That crowned thy pure and stainless life:
What thou so graciously didst share
With others in this vale of strife.

Each thing ye touched along life's way
Seems hallowed with endearing grace,
Yet shines a bright and holy ray
Around each step of thine we trace.

We would have held thee ever near,
The happy life continue on,
But God designed thy life of cheer
To brighten His eternal throne.

And holy saints from far and wide
Will bless the memory of thee,
To ponder counsel ye supplied
And cherish what ye gave so free.

We grasp the torch, the lamp of life
That thou didst bear so faithfully;
We'll hold it high amid the strife
Of earthly pride and vanity.

The years will pass, but we'll recall
Thy life of holy faith and love
Until the curtains 'round us fall,
And we shall meet in heaven above.

Some day we'll clasp thy hand again
In Heaven's grand reunion hall,
And through the ages ever reign
With Christ, who is our all in all.

—Leslie C. Busbee

AT REST FROM HER LABORS

Sister Anna Marie (Pruitt) Miles, the oldest daughter of Fred and Mary Pruitt and long-time worker at the Lord's Print Shop, was called to her eternal Home on July 29, 1981. (See the obituary on another page.)

Where Art Thou?



When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they made themselves aprons from fig leaves. They tried to hide from the presence of God among the trees of the garden. The Lord knew where they were, but He called out to Adam, "Where art thou?"

He is calling today:

"Preacher, where art thou?" Are you feeding your sheep sound, wholesome food? Are you preaching ALL the Bible—the full truth—that your congregation may grow in the Lord spiritually? Or are you feeding them a *little* truth mixed with error, letting them grow weak or even letting them die? The Bible says, "Feed my sheep." God wants them fed a balanced diet that they may flourish, and not have to go elsewhere to be fed properly.

"Evangelist, where art thou?" Are you busy spreading the gospel to the lost world? Is the burden for lost souls burning in your heart? Are you pointing sinners to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world? Are you going where God calls, or are you tied down by earthly cares and burdens? The Bible says the fields are white to harvest, but the laborers are few.

"Christian, where art thou?" Do you love God with all your heart? Do you show forth a bright, happy countenance on your face? Are you living a holy righteous life, making attractive the Christian way? Do you read the Bible and pray daily for lost souls? Do you visit the sick and do what you can to help them? Do you ever speak to people about their souls? Do you love to meet with God's children and put forth every effort to make it to meeting? Is your

conversation mainly concerned with eternal and heavenly things, or do you feast on talking of earthly things? Are you laying up treasure in heaven where thieves do not break through and steal, or are you putting it in mansions here on earth which will perish? Are you really looking forward to Christ's coming again?

"Backslider, where art thou?" Are you weary, tired, troubled, sad? Is your life a burden? Are you unforgiving and holding ill-will in your heart toward someone who has done you wrong? Come back to the Father. He will meet you with outstretched arms. You may eat at the Father's table where joy, love, peace, and happiness reign. He will grant you pardon and restore to you a beautiful life.

"Sinner, where art thou?" Do you really believe Christ is the Son of God and that He died on the cross to save you from your sins? Are you bound by chains of habit and enslaved to sin? Do you believe there is a hell to shun, and a heaven to gain? Do you quake with fear at the thought of death and eternity? You can come to God right now. Give Him yourself, your life, and your heart. He stands waiting for you. He will give you a new heart and a new life. Today is the day of salvation.

"Where art thou?" Wherever you are God knows. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

—Pearlene Whitson

Draw Nigh To God

The deepest desire of the Christian heart is to be more like the blessed Lord, to be more in touch with Him, and to feel more of His divine presence.

We are living in perilous times, when the enemy is doing all he can to draw precious souls away from God, and to cause them to become careless and indifferent. He knows that if he can get a soul into a state of carelessness it will not be hard to overthrow him. If a soul becomes negligent, and begins to lose interest in the things of God, he is on dangerous ground, for when discouragements and trials come, he will not be where he can easily draw the supply of grace he needs to carry him through. Knowing these things only helps us to realize the need of keeping close to our blessed Savior.

Many times the soul cries out, "Oh, for a closer walk with God." Thank God, it is our privilege to get nearer Him each day. In James 4:8, we read, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you." What a blessed privilege we have of drawing near to the dear Lord, of getting so close that we can nestle in His bosom and feel His strong arms of love and protection around us. As we draw nearer to Him and lean more heavily upon Him, He comes nearer to us and folds us more closely in His fond embrace. The nearer we come to Him, the more we love Him. The closer we get, the more distinctly we will see the perfection of His character, and the deeper conception

we will have of His holiness, and the more beauties we will see in His blessed Word. How we love the Word, and as we draw near Him, how our very souls reach out to drink in the precious truths. As we linger before Him and drink in the rich treasures of His Word, they fall like dew upon our souls, refreshing us, and our hearts become like a watered garden. Our lives become more fruitful and we realize a constant increase in our experience.

The nearer we draw to Him, the more clearly we see His greatness and the deeper consciousness we have of our nothingness. As we get where we can see the wondrous beauties in His nature, we can then see any imperfection there might be in our own lives. O dear ones, if we would be more like Him, let us take time to seek His face; take time to commune with Him.

Sometimes the enemy will put such a feeling of indifference over us that it seems we cannot pray, and the Lord seems so far away. But we should pray whether we feel like it or not. The clouds may hide His face from our view for a little while, but He is there just the same. He is bending over us; He is listening to the heart's faintest cry. Let us be very diligent and put forth every effort possible on our part to get near Him, and He will not fail us. Praise our God! The clouds will soon break, and we will see His lovely face and will have the consciousness of His approval upon us.

Then we realize His love and tender care. As we look up in His face, and behold Him watching over us so tenderly, planning for our welfare, we realize that He is ever mindful of us. Then as we feel assured of His loving care, we can drop ourselves and all our interests into His hands more fully than ever before, and rest securely on His promises. Thus the soul is lifted above the burdens that otherwise would crush it. We lose sight of the things around us, and feel such a consciousness of His presence that we become lost in His wondrous love.

We see Jesus, the one who loved us so much that He gave His life for us, looking down upon us, marking out our path step by step. As He looks upon us, He sees just what we need; He knows just what is needed to make us more like Him; knows just what will be for our good; so He marks out the way that He knows is best for us.

He has promised us sufficient grace, therefore, as He leads us on step by step, He will pour in all the grace we need (if we keep close enough to Him so that He can). But if we draw back, we get farther away from God, and although He has an abundance of grace for us, it does us no good; we are too far away. Let us walk closely by His side, gladly following wherever He leads, and then the needed grace will continually flow over our souls. Let us seek after more of God; seek for more of His companionship. It is the will of God for us to live so in touch with Him that His rich grace will be manifested in our lives as we pass through the hard places. He wants us to so live in His presence that when the dark days come

upon us we can go through with victory. If we but linger before Him, heavenly graces will fall upon us, and as these heavenly graces fall upon us from the presence of the Lord, they will be reflected by us upon those with whom we come in contact.

Let us live in the very presence of God—it is our privilege. Let us live where we can be conscious of His presence, and know that His smiles of approval rest upon us. Let us live so close to Him that we can hear His most gentle whispers as He makes His will known to us; or in tender accents pours His love out upon us.

The true and successful Christian life is one of constant growth and development, but in order to grow, the soul must be fed. We cannot expect to make advancement in spiritual things unless we have proper nourishment. This nourishment comes through the precious Word, through prayer and quiet meditation. In Psalms 1:2, 3, we read, "Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Here we have the promise that if we delight ourselves in God's law and give ourselves to meditation and prayer, keep our minds and hearts centered upon Him, we shall prosper. Again we hear the Psalmist saying, "My soul followeth hard after thee."

Are we, as the children of God, putting forth as much effort as we should to draw nigh to our blessed Redeemer? Are we following hard after Him? Are we daily seeking more of His love and grace? Are we in touch with Him at all times? We can be. We can be so hid away under the shadow of the Almighty that His blessings will fall upon us, and as our souls are thus refreshed, we can be a blessing to those around us. "In him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28.

—E. Faith Stewart

Thoughts for Serious Minds

We are associated with two worlds—the spiritual, and the material. By our souls or spirits we are associated with the spiritual world, and through our natural material bodies we are associated with the natural and material world.

Our natural bodies must subsist on things belonging to the natural and material world, but these earthly things are in themselves unable to elevate the soul to spiritual attainments in the things of heaven, or the spiritual world. In order that our souls may be nourished with heavenly and spiritual food, God has given us His Word; hence, Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt. 4:4.

The spiritual world contains two classes of spiritual forces, one of good and the other evil; and from each class influences are emanated which are

directly opposite in their nature and effects from those of the other class. As the physical, mental, moral, and spiritual faculties of man are interwoven and naturally associated with each other, and all are associated with the spiritual world, we are, in the very nature of our make-up, susceptible to the influences of both good and evil.

Man being a free moral agent, he has the power to choose whether he shall be controlled by the power of good or of evil. Being the prince of the power of the air, and the god of this world, Satan wields a powerful influence over man, because man's heart is corrupted by sin. This fact makes it necessary for the sinner to seek God for help to break loose from sin and the power of the devil. His choice decides the balance of power either for or against him. The decision to forsake sin and to seek God with a penitent heart will bring to his aid the help and strength of Almighty God, the Savior. But his neglecting or refusing to make this decision is equivalent to choosing to do evil, rejecting Christ, and spurning His mercy. Such action on the part of the sinner leaves his soul bound with the fetters of sin. No one having heard the gospel needs to remain in sin any longer, unless he chooses to do so. The fact that men are sinners by choice makes them wholly responsible for being in sin.

The Christian is well aware of the evil nature of the forces that are arrayed against him, and often he experiences the shock of battle and contact with unseen forces that inhabit the realm of spirits. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. 6:12. In this conflict we need to be fully armed and equipped as soldiers of the cross. We should not be surprised or frightened if we come in such close contact that we feel the effects of the weapons of the enemy against our armors. We can be so well equipped with the complete armor of God that no evil will harm our souls. Be sure you are completely armed. "Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith that you may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Eph. 6:13-18. Herein is taught the secret of success in the Christian warfare. We can be fortified against the forces of evil. Praise God!

—J. C. Blaney

Perform each daily duty as in God's sight, conscious that He is present and is interested in every act you perform.

—C. E. Orr

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



CHRISTIAN GREETINGS TO OUR READERS:

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

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



Our co-workers are back from the campmeetings, and are again busy in their respective departments in the office and shop, printing and mailing out the gospel literature, except that Sister Sandra Whitson has taken a short leave of absence to help her brother in Alabama in a business matter for two or three months. She will be close to her mother and other relatives during that time.



Sister Marie Miles Called Home . . .

It is with humbled hearts that we submit to God's will in taking my sister Marie Miles unto Himself where she is forever free from pain and suffering. She departed this life on Wednesday, July 29, the day my wife Maybelle and I were called to come home from the National campmeeting at Neosho, Mo. It was indeed a shock to learn that she had gone about fifteen minutes before we arrived at her bedside. We had been holding on to God for her healing along with the Church in general and did not realize that she was so near the crossing, though she had not been able to be at the office for the past two months.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to Brother Leslie and Sister Sylvia Busbee, the pastors, who so faithfully prayed and cared for her day and night, as well as the help rendered by Sis. Sandra Whitson, Sister Irma Gayle Sallee, Sister Ruby Stover, and other members of the local congregation.

The funeral service was conducted at the Guthrie chapel of the Church of God on Sunday afternoon, August 2, with more than 400 people in attendance to pay their love and respects to her faithful Christian life. The many words of comfort, many nice cards, letters, and telegrams, and the many beautiful floral offerings are certainly appreciated in helping

to ease our aching hearts. It was also a comfort to have with us my sister Mary Embly of California and my two brothers, Andrew Pruitt of Oregon and Frank Pruitt of Arizona who flew in for the funeral. As many of you know, my sister Frances Murphey lives here in Guthrie. Marie is the first to leave the circle of six Pruitt children after reaching adulthood.

Our sincere thanks are also extended to those who sent offerings for the funeral expenses in lieu of flowers, as well as to those who made contributions to the Lord's Print Shop as a memorial to Sister Marie whose principal concern for many years had been this gospel publishing ministry. Nothing would have pleased her more.

Marie's place at her office desk is vacant, her typewriter on her desk is silent, and we are missing her more and more as time goes on. Now we are left to labor on a few days longer in order to obtain that coveted crown of eternal life. Pray for us and the Lord's gospel publishing work here that every temporal and spiritual need will be supplied for its continuance. We desire to be faithful at our post of duty and finish our course with victory.

Christian Schools Starting Another Year . . .

On August 17, the Christian Path of Life School here in Guthrie began its fourth year of operation with 27 students enrolled, and the pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee, as principal. Pray the Lord to continue His blessings upon this very worthy effort as well as upon the other Christian schools which will begin very soon at Shell Lake, Wisconsin, Springfield and Neosho, Mo., Lorange, La., and Goulds, Florida.

Microfilm of Gospel Trumpet Paper Procured . . .

Bro. Ed Johnston of Springfield, Mo., and other interested saints have recently purchased 35 m.m. roll microfilm of all the copies of the **Gospel Trumpet** paper from its beginning in 1881 to 1920. These brethren have deposited this film library here at the Lord's Print Shop for the purpose of making it available to readers and researchers. However, in order to view the pages of the paper we must secure or purchase a film reader which puts the pages on a screen for reading. That machine will cost between four and five hundred dollars. A fund has already been started toward purchasing this necessary item. If you are interested in this project, please send your freewill offering to this office and specify that it is for the film reader. Thank you!

Excellent Campmeetings in the Northwest . . .

Bro. Ostis Wilson, pastor at Jefferson, Oregon, gave a real glowing report of their campmeeting at Jefferson and the first campmeeting of the Church at Chilliwack, B. C., Canada. He wrote: "Our meeting in Jefferson was better attended and there was more altar work than for the past few years. It was just a real good meeting, and it is still going on in the hearts, minds, and lives of some. Also, the campmeeting at Chilliwack, Canada, was well attended,

and a good amount of altar work there. . . . Bro. George Schroeder came from Ontario, Canada, and just a whole troop of the saints from the States were there. And, of course, the saints from Prince George were there. Several of the townspeople and people from that area came in, and some of them are still attending the regular saints' services there in Chilliwack. All of the little band there are much encouraged and report that Bro. and Sis. Paul Sorrell are doing wonderful there and are wonderful people."

Bro. Paul Sorrell and family moved from Guthrie last June to Sumas, Washington, in answer to God's call for him to work with the little flock at Chilliwack which is a short distance across the border from where he lives. Let us continue to pray for and support Bro. and Sister Sorrell in this worthy endeavor, as this is a new field which requires outside support for which the Lord will bless you. The address is Paul Sorrell, 4419 Minaker Road, Sumas, Washington, with the zip code of 98295.

The Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers of California have recently produced a **No. 2 Stereo Song Record** of ten songs. This 33 rpm record is priced at \$6.50 each, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. It may be purchased either from this office, or from the publisher, Philip Matthews, 811 N. Ferger, in Fresno, Calif. 93728. Be sure to specify **No. 2 Harmonizer Record**.

Bro. Egbert Allen of Norwood, Mo., held a three-night meeting here at Guthrie from Aug. 17 to 19. The preached Word was rich and edifying to those in attendance.

This writer's wife Maybelle will have reached her 70th year on Sept. 14, 1981. Then on Nov. 15, 1981, this writer will have reached the "three score and ten" years. We were born in the year of 1911 in the Territory of New Mexico a hundred miles apart, and we did not meet until Maybelle came with her parents to the campmeeting in Oklahoma City in 1926. If the Lord spares us to each other, we will observe our 48th wedding anniversary on the 18th day of November, 1981.

Thank you, our readers, who have so faithfully prayed for and supported this gospel literature ministry throughout the summer. Your continued concern, prayers, and co-operation will be appreciated as we move forward under the Lord's leadership to get out much more gospel literature to this perishing world.
—Lawrence D. Pruitt

Be Clothed with Humility

"Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble." I Peter 5:5. "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering." Colossians 3:12.

In Memorial



Anna Marie (Pruitt) Miles was born to Fred and Mary Pruitt on February 8, 1914, at St. Vrain, New Mexico. In 1918, she moved with her family to Guthrie, Oklahoma, where she attended school, graduating from Guthrie High School with the Class of 1932. On August 8, 1936, she was united in marriage to Carl Miles in California where they made their home. To this union two sons were born. In 1954, she moved with her family to Guthrie, Okla., where she resided until her death. She passed from this life on July 29, 1981, at her home in Guthrie, Okla., at the age of 67 years, 5 months, and 21 days.

Sister Anna Marie Miles lived a beautiful and useful life. Being taught the love and fear of God by her godly parents, Brother and Sister Fred Pruitt, she yielded her life to Christ as a young girl, and endeavored to serve the Lord faithfully. She had a clear and direct call from God to the ministry of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and labored faithfully for the Lord the rest of her days. She was ordained by laying on of the hands of the ministry, and was pastor of the Church of God congregation in Pomona, California, from 1952 to 1954. She had also received a burden from the Lord to publish a children's paper, and began publishing it in 1949, remaining faithful as editor of the *Beautiful Way* paper until her death. She moved to Guthrie, in 1954 to assist her father, Brother Fred Pruitt, in the Faith Publishing House. Besides helping Brother Pruitt fill monthly appointments at Okeene, Bristow, and Enid, Okla., she was used of the Lord to write many articles for the *Faith and Victory* paper, many letters of counsel and en-

couragement, and was engaged in the ministry of the Word of God in campmeetings and various other congregations, giving counsel and comfort to many. She also wrote several books of spiritual value and edification to the Church. She also edited the quarterly *Bible Lessons* published by the Faith Publishing House. Hers was a life given entirely to others and to the service of God. Her last message was preached at Enid, Okla., on the fourth Sunday in March, 1981. Many lives have been touched and influenced for God through her life and labours. She gave a clear testimony that she was ready to meet her Lord. She will be greatly missed in the Church, the Faith Publishing House, the work of the Lord in general, in her family, and community.

She is survived by her husband, Carl Miles, Sr., of Mannford, Okla.; two sons: Vernon Miles of Guthrie, Okla., and Carl Miles, Jr., of Edmond, Okla.; three brothers: Andrew Pruitt of Veneta, Ore., Lawrence Pruitt, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and Frank Pruitt of Phoenix, Ariz.; two sisters: Mary Lola Embly of El Cajon, Calif., and Frances Murphey of Guthrie, Okla.; eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, besides a great host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon in the Saints' Chapel at Guthrie, Okla. Brother Leslie C. Busbee officiated, assisted by Brother Richard Madden. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Guthrie, Okla.

—Leslie Busbee

Note of Appreciation

Our grateful thanks and gratitude are extended to each and every one for their prayers and all expressions of love and concern during the illness and passing of our dear mother and sister.

—The Miles and Pruitt families

In Memorial to Sister Marie Miles

THE SILENT PEN

Her pen is silent now. I almost hesitate to pick up mine to write a fitting tribute to her. I have known Marie Miles since I was 19 years of age and I am nearing seventy. Not once did I ever see anything questionable in her life.

She spent many hours at her desk writing articles for the paper, also letters of encouragement to the weak and weary. Only eternity will tell the good she did. In her breast she bore a broken heart. She sang with her heart against a thorn. But because she suffered much, she was able to comfort others, as only one like her could. She attended some of our campmeetings at different times and brought us some uplifting messages. Once when I was on the verge of pneumonia, she laid her hands on me and prayed, and the Lord healed me instantly with no after effects. The children loved the stories in the *Beautiful Way* papers. I read them in my Sunday School class. I waited with interest for some of the continued stories she wrote for each quarter.

Someone else will have to pick up her silent pen. Her good influence will live on even though she has

left us. My grief is great, and I shall always miss her. I am looking forward to seeing her again in a better place than this. May God rest her soul in that land of bliss is my prayer.

Her pen is silent now, her work on earth is o'er;
She's left this world of suffering and will return
no more.

"But, Lord, can't someone take again the pen
That she has laid aside,
And bring us words of comfort
Across the swelling tide?
"Send help to those who labor there,
And fill the gap, we pray,
And be as true as she has been
"Till life had passed away."

—Sister Grace Jones, Jefferson, Ore.

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Gatha A. Nichols was born on Aug. 14, 1904, at Louin, Miss., and departed this life to be with the Lord at Loranger, La., on July 11, 1981, at the age of 76 years.

Bro. Nichols was saved many years ago in Mississippi. After World War II, Bro. and Sister Nichols established their home in the Loranger, La., community where they lived the remainder of their lives. His wife, Sister Malvina Nichols, preceded him in death in 1977. Bro. Nichols faithfully supported the gospel work with his prayers and means.

Survivors include: three daughters, Mrs. Douglas (Nyda) Hall, Mrs. Byron (Clarice) Pruitt, and Mrs. Charles (Joan) DePhillips, all of Loranger, La.; two half-brothers, J. T. Green and Billy Green; one half-sister, Mrs. Elma Graham; four grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, other relatives, and many friends and saints.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Richard Madden, assisted by Sister LaVerne Manuel and Bro. Bob Forbes, at the Harry McKneely and Son Funeral Home in Hammond, La. Interment was in the Oak Grove Cemetery near the Church of God Chapel, Loranger, La.

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Della Sarah Harrison was born on March 2, 1890, in Comanche County, Texas, and departed this life to be with the Lord on July 25, 1981, at Clinton, Okla., at the age of 91 years.

Sister Harrison was saved many years ago in the early days of the Church of God work in western Oklahoma. For a number of years she lived alone at Arapaho, Okla., where this writer, his wife, and other saints visited her many times. She was always rejoicing in the Lord and the precious Bible truths, often telling of miraculous healings and answers to prayer in her home over the years. In recent years, she suffered a stroke and was confined in a nursing home in Clinton, Okla. This writer with others visited her a few days before her Home-going and she was still rejoicing in the Lord.

Sister Harrison is survived by many relatives, including several sons and daughters, one of whom is Sister Nola Wells of Arapaho, Okla.

The funeral service was held at the Stanley Funeral Home Chapel at Clinton, Okla., with Roy Dobbs of the Church of God as the officiating minister. Interment was in the Arapaho Cemetery, Arapaho, Okla.

—L. D. Pruitt

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Della Mae (Ivory) Harris was born on Aug. 17, 1892, in Pickins County, Ala., and went Home to be with the Lord on July 2, 1981, in Spencer, Okla., at the age of 88 years, 10 months, and 15 days.

Della Mae met and married Sam Baskim. To this union four children were born. Three children preceded her in death. In 1913, the family moved to Okemah, Okla. Mr. Baskim died in 1930. Later she met and married Ben Harris who also preceded her in death.

Sister Harris was born into the Church of God in 1952 where she remained a faithful and devout saint until her Home-going. She attended services at the Church of God chapel, 57th and N. Denver St., in Spencer, Okla., where Bro. Charles Chandler is the pastor.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her devoted daughter, Mrs. Icylee Tillman, Spencer, Okla.; one sister, Mrs. Rosa Gunter, Oklahoma City; 22 grandchildren; 75 great-grandchildren; 32 great-great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral service was held at the Church of God chapel in Spencer, Okla., with Bro. Charles Chandler officiating, assisted by others.

Memories of Sister Della Harris

by her daughter, Sister Tillman

Mother's request was always, "I want to live by every word that the Bible says." One day she looked over into eternity and said, "Oh, eternity!" This is a sweet memory of Mother. When I would sit at her bedside a precious song would come to me and I would sing to her. The night of her Home-going the atmosphere was so peaceful, and everybody there felt the Spirit of God. I have many sweet memories of the six months that I was at her bedside.

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Edna Velma (Childress) Daniels was born in Collinsville, Miss., on Feb. 24, 1893, one of 10 children of Abraham and Sarah Childress. She departed this life Aug. 5, 1981, in Wichita, Kansas, at the age of 88 years.

She grew up in Mississippi, and met and married Obie Pruitt. To this union three children were born. Her husband passed away while her children were quite young. She later married John A. Daniels, and to this union six children were born. One son, Leo, preceded her in death. The Daniels family moved from Mississippi to East St. Louis, Illinois, and later to Hennessey, Okla., where they resided for a number of years. In 1941, they moved to Wichita, Kansas, where her husband later passed away. She resided there until her death.

Around 1928, she sought and found the Lord through salvation, thereby being born into the Church

of God. The trials, tests, and sorrows of life were many, but by the grace of God she struggled and pressed on toward the goal of Heaven. She loved the Lord and often expressed her intention to get closer to the Lord and continue faithful unto the end. One of her favorite songs was, "I want to walk as close as I possibly can." She enjoyed being in service, and it was a trial to be hindered in her later years by her physical condition from attending the services as regularly as she desired.

She leaves behind her a multitude of survivors: one brother, Osbie Clayborn Childress of Milan, Tenn.; one sister, Alberta Nicholson of St. Louis, Mo.; five sons, Curtis A. Pruitt of Wichita Ks., Osbie T. Pruitt of Los Angeles, Calif., R. B. Daniels of San Antonio, Tex., Earl and Billy Daniels, both of Wichita, Ks.; three daughters, Velma L. Nave of St. Louis, Mo., Johnnie Gutierrez of Wichita, Ks., and Mildred Turner of Tuscon, Ariz.; 28 grandchildren; 50 great-grandchildren; 12 great-great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

The Lord blessed her years to be many,
And her offspring made numerous, too;
She found in it all many blessings,
For God gave her grace to go through.

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In Memory of Nettie Perkins

Born Aug. 1, 1880, and at Rest on Aug. 26, 1974

By her daughter, Grace Gill

Seven years you've been away;
I miss you just as much today.
You were special and were given
A ticket for the flight to heaven.

Your toiling ended, troubles o'er;
Trial and heartaches are no more.
You held a rose within your hand,
A symbol of a better land.

You gave love without a scar;
You remained my guiding star,
Guiding me on wings of prayer
Heaven's nearer since you're there.

There will never be another
To replace you, precious Mother.
Memory is a special joy
That even death cannot destroy.

When the Lord shall call my name,
Heaven's flight will be the same.
God's the pilot, so we'll be
United for eternity.

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IN APPRECIATION

The family of Canton E. Williams acknowledges with sincere appreciation to our friends, loved ones, and the saints for your prayers, loving expressions of kindness, and sympathy extended during the illness and departure of our loved one.

A goodly number of saints attended the funeral service. Some traveled a distance to be with us. Your

presence in the service was a great comfort to us in our sorrow.

Our brother Canton did much praying during his illness. He expressed the day before his passing that he was ready to meet God. Thank the Lord!

On Saturday morning, July 25, 1981, Canton quietly went to sleep.

We surely thank the Lord for His great love and mercy.
—Katherine Williams



MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

FRESNO, CALIF., CAMPMEETING REPORT

The Fresno, Calif., Church of God campmeeting for the 1981 season is past, but only eternity will reveal all the good received in the meeting.

The Word was preached with such anointing that many of the saints sought help to be more like Christ and consecrated to live true to God in this perverse generation.

Early in the meeting Bro. Trotter told of his burden for the saints to be more in unity and oneness, that we would be able to stand as one. He called for a fast day for the last Friday. The burden fell on many, and such a solemnity rested on the meeting and the grounds until others coming in felt and spoke of the solemnity and anointing of God's presence. Fast day was such a day of prayers and submitting to God that we are assured God heard. We are expecting to see the results of our prayers manifested as time goes on.

Some were saved, and we truly thank God for each soul. Just pray that all will continue with God and grow in Him. So many start, but alas, fall by the wayside.

The meeting closed with the saints expressing a desire to live close to God and endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Eph. 4:3.

—Lavern Moles

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REPORT OF 44th NATIONAL CAMPMEETING

The 44th annual National campmeeting of the Church of God at Neosho (Monark Springs), Mo., was held July 24 through Aug. 2, 1981. Saints from many states and Canada came to enjoy the Holy Spirit-led preaching, fellowship, and services.

An attitude of co-operation and harmony was evident throughout the meeting. Altar work began early and was consistent through most of the meeting. A number of souls were saved and believers sanctified according to Bible doctrines.

The large number of saved and consecrated young people was an encouragement to all. As the young people let their light shine, it encouraged others to turn their backs on the world and take the way of true salvation and happiness.

The success of the meeting is measured in the benefit to souls. We praise the Lord for another successful meeting at Monark this year. All of the miles traveled and money spent are much more than

repaid by the harvest of souls and the encouragement to the saints.

Expenses of the meeting were met entirely with freewill offerings. There is some reserve to cover maintenance and minor improvements through the winter.

The subjects of lots for more cabins and other development plans for the open areas owned by the campground were discussed in the business meeting. A newsletter requesting direct response on land use plans is to be circulated to the saints soon.

The scheduled time for the National campmeeting next year is July 23 through August 1, 1982.

Please continue to pray for the National campground work at Monark Springs.

—Jim Wall, Business Manager

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MISSOURI STATE CAMPMEETING REPORT

It is with joy that we report that the Missouri State Campmeeting held at Myrtle, Mo., Aug. 3 to 9, closed with a great blaze of glory and high note of victory. The King of kings and Lord of lords has prevailed and conquered once again. Many have made remarks to the effect that this was one of the most outstanding campmeetings they ever attended. It was a hot battle indeed. It seemed that all the powers of hell were arrayed against the meeting. But through persevering prayer, the Lord came down with mighty power, broke the spell, and sent sweeping conviction over the assembly. The strongholds of the devil were broken in the lives of many and they came falling at the altar of prayer, calling on God for mercy. It was a time of great rejoicing. There were many shouts and praises to God as sinners came and washed in the all-cleansing fountain of Jesus' blood and arose from the altar with the peace of God flooding their souls. This will be a meeting long remembered by all who attended.

The meeting was well attended from many different states. On Thursday, the New Testament ordinances of feet-washing and the Lord's Supper were observed. On Saturday, a goodly number followed the Lord in baptism. After the meeting closed on Sunday night, four others went down to the river and were baptized. During the meeting the altar was lined time and again. We trust each one will maintain the help he received. We praise God for giving us such a wonderful meeting!

Business and Financial Report

The business meeting was held on Friday afternoon, Aug. 7. Discussion was made concerning building more cabin units to accommodate the increasing attendance. It was decided to sell the existing eight units to individuals among the saints in order to raise money for the new project. Each of the existing units will be sold for \$1500.00. We want to start the building of the new units soon. They will be built on top of the existing eight units. There will be nine units on this upper story, and they will each be sold for approximately \$2000.00. All interested per-

sons should contact Bro. Joe Sorrell, Myrtle, Mo. 65778, phone (417)938-4458.

Discussion was made concerning a lack of accommodations in the ladies' dormitory. It was decided to build bunk beds. An offering was taken for this project. A sum of \$760.00 was received.

At the beginning of the campmeeting the indebtedness on the tabernacle was \$2000.00. Eleven hundred dollars was received for this fund, which reduces the indebtedness to \$900.00.

All campmeeting expenses were met by free-will offerings. We appreciate how God provides for His own cause.

Those having any of the Lord's money which they wish to contribute to any of these projects may send their offering directly to the treasurer, Sis. Carol Sorrell, Myrtle, Mo. 65778.

—Harlan Sorrell

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REPORT OF TENT MEETING IN PENNSYLVANIA

Penn.—Thanks to our gracious heavenly Father and the dear saints of the Most High, for the good tent meeting held here in Pennsylvania for the first time from June 17 to 24, 1981. It was all the Lord's doing, and He found six precious souls.

I thank each one who sacrificed so much to come. I know much money, time, and labors were spent. We trust the Lord will repay each one, as we would not be able to do so.

Pray for us as we endeavor to get a work started in this area. We are looking to the Lord to bring or send consecrated workers to help.

Yours for Jesus,

—Virginia Myers

Rt. 2 Box 1033, Duncannon, Pa. 17020

Phone 717-834-4595

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AUTUMN SINGING AND ALL-DAY SERVICES AT MYRTLE, MO.

Lord willing, the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo., will have its annual gospel singing on Saturday night, Oct. 3, 1981, followed by all-day services the next day.

We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and be with us. We are looking forward to a rich time in the Lord on this weekend and the fellowship of His saints. May you come to get a blessing and to be a blessing.

—Harlan Sorrell

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Special Notice to Subscribers

In recent months we have converted our publication mailing list to a computerized system in order to simplify and expedite the preparation of our monthly and quarterly publications for mailing. With each month we found it more and more difficult to keep our ever growing mailing list up to date. The changeover to a computer has greatly eased this burden and should prove a real blessing and asset to the work in the months and years to come.

For the subscribers' convenience, we are including the expiration date of their subscription on each mailing label. You will find it in a column of information at the extreme right hand side of the label. Explanation is as follows:

EXP — EXPIRATION DATE

0981 — NINTH MONTH OF 1981 (Sept., 1981)

1 — NUMBER OF COPIES SENT

#F&V# — TITLE OF PUBLICATION BEING SENT (Faith and Victory)

As an added convenience and reminder to our subscribers, we will send a subscription remittance envelope with the publication in the month it expires.

Should you find an error in any of the information on the mailing label, please let us know so we can correct our records. —Editor

Prayer Requests

Fla.—As most young people about my age have their minds on the world and its pleasures, my heart pants after God and all His righteousness. Pray for me that the Lord will keep me from evil, and that I will be willing and submissive to let Him work His will out in my life, and that I will continually have a mind and determination to follow Jesus all the way.

—Terry Jo Speights

Pray for Bro. Floyd Hines and all the infirm and afflicted saints at the Golden Rule home at Shawnee, Okla., and at the Sunset Guest Home in Pacoima, Calif.

La.—Pray for Bro. Salvatore DiDio who has heart trouble. The Lord has helped him, but he needs complete healing to labor in the gospel work.

Kansas—Pray for Bro. Floyd Kennedy who is sorely afflicted and needs a special healing touch.

Ok.—Pray earnestly for Bro. Norman Simpson's wife who is bedfast with a dead kidney and suffers much. They have ten children to care for. These responsibilities prevent him from going out to work to meet their living expenses. Now is the time for the saints to step in and help them. The address is Norman Simpson, 1333 East 8th St., Tulsa, Okla. 74120.

Divine physical healing is certainly a Bible doctrine just as much as the doctrine of salvation and healing for sin-sick souls. The devil is doing his utmost to destroy faith in God and stop the practice of divine healing. Let us ever hold up the shield of faith and stand against the impositions of the enemy.

—Lawrence Pruitt

Love will grow by being exercised, but some may not understand how to exercise love. We can exercise love by not allowing anything in our hearts but love. Meditating upon the goodness of God will warm the love of the heart. Make God a real person to you, a real Father, for such is He. When you awaken in the morning, think of God's having been present with you through the night, keeping watch over you. This will enkindle the flame of love in your heart.

—C. E. Orr

FOREIGN FIELD REPORTS

MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Baja Cfa., Mexico (July 24)—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Maybelle: We greet you in the dear name of Jesus.

I have just talked by phone to the secretary of Congressman Jerry Lewis of California, from whom we have asked help to get our five adopted children immigrated to the U. S. A. It is a big problem, but she assured me that they are endeavoring to help us. They granted parole entry to the U. S. for the two older children, but up to now they have not given permission for the three younger children. Now we have to go through the adoption board in California. Several forms have been filled out and sent in. Now we are waiting for the "home study."

Something must be done soon, as school starts within a month. Since our village has been sold to the Mexican government, the majority of the people have moved away and others are leaving; therefore, there will be no classes in the school here. That means that if we can't get the children across the border, we will have to take the children to school every day or move to another village in Mexico where there are schools. The government has not told us to leave yet, but the people expect it any day. There are just a few of us left. The people in this village have gone to towns and villages in different directions. For the present, we don't know where to build or locate a mission chapel. Money from the present chapel is invested in a bank in Mexico. We feel it best to wait until everyone is settled, and see where there is the most interest in the things of the Lord, then buy land there and build a chapel. We are hoping the government will let us tear down these buildings and use what we can salvage from them.

Thank you for your letter and the offering from the Missionary Fund. We appreciate it so very much, and ask the Lord to bless each one who had a part in it.

Our campmeeting in Ojos Negros, Mexico, was a real blessing for us all. We felt that spiritual good was accomplished though not much altar work was done.

Yours for souls, —Edith (Cole) Lara

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MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

Kerala, South India (July 20)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints everywhere: Greetings again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, perfect God and perfect Man. As man, He slept in the boat; as God, He calmed the waves. As man, He wept; as God, He commanded, "Lazarus, come forth." As man, He was laid in the tomb; as God, He arose!

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated July 2, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. Surely we have come to a perilous time as Peter said, "But the end of things is at hand." We

have a great missionary responsibility. Paul asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" We should ask the same question, and I believe we will get the following four answers:

1. **Lift up your eyes and look.** John 4:35. As we look on the fields of Latin America, Europe, Africa, India, Far East, Pacific Islands, and North America, they are white already to harvest.

2. **Lift up your heart and pray.** Matt. 9:36-38. When William Carey came to India, he said, "I will descend and dig, but you at home must hold the ropes." Many missionaries have failed because the people at home failed to "hold the ropes."

3. **Lift up our hands and give.** 2 Cor. 9:6,7. It costs money for missionary or gospel work. Many things are needed. Much money is spent on recreation and vacations, but not much for home and foreign missions.

4. **Lift up our feet and go.** Mark 16:15. Jesus gave us the Great Commission at least five times in the New Testament. He calls the sinner to come, and commands the Christian to go. May we respond as Isaiah did, "Here am I, send me."

Our monthly meeting commences next Saturday, July 25, at Karikkom Bethel chapel. It still rains here, but not heavy. We earnestly pray for you and other dear afflicted saints. Good memories come to us of the National Campmeeting last year at Neosho, Missouri.

With love and prayers, I am yours in His service,
—John Varghese

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NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (July 23)—Dear Bro. Pruitt: Greetings in the most powerful name of Jesus. Praise God for saints of comprehensive faith in the blood of Jesus who can subdue the plans of the wicked.

Thanks for your encouraging letter dated July 2, 1981, with its enclosure of the donation to aid in the construction of the chapel here at Kwale. It was joyous to get the hint that others will soon respond to the appeal. Love indisputable is gaining momentum in Zion.

Thirty-five of us from Kwale sailed a distance on the Niger River on July 11, for the baptism of the converted brethren at Umuolu. Happily, Kate Enu (our baby), aged 15, was among the jubilant candidates who followed the Lord in water baptism at Umuolu. Open air meeting or preaching was held at the market square which was largely attended by the inhabitants of this riverine community. Great was the victory of God's people at Umuolu. Bro. Edward Mavaurizo is the pastor of this congregation.

The Kwale brethren are continuing to contribute liberally to the chapel project to accelerate the work of its construction and possess a place in due time to assemble freely and worship God. The filling of the chapel floor with sand to the required elevation has been completed.

We are living unto God and doing our best. The triumph and final achievement of fidelity is to do our

best and be at our best when no eye save God's is watching. Our motto is "not fame, but faithfulness."

Lord willing, I shall leave Kwale for the Rivers State on July 25, for the dedication of the Church of God chapel at Port Harcourt on Sunday, July 26.

The Lord is aware of our earnestness in prayer for the complete healing of your body, and we do believe He is doing something. . . .

A finely polished mirror designed to reflect the image of her Great Creator—this is Sister Marie Miles.

Yours in Him,

—Titus U. E. Enu

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MISSION TO CENTRAL AMERICA

Florida (June 30)—Dear Brother Lawrence and saints: Greetings in the name of Jesus. We are still shouting the victor's song!

We thank the Lord for a safe trip going to and coming from Honduras, Central America. On June 15, Bro. Jackie Riley, Sis. Lydia Bennett, Sis. Judy Allen, her brother and sister, with Bro. and Sis. Herschell Hargrave, left Goulds, Fla., for the island of Roatan. Upon arrival, we were greeted by Sis. Laurie Sanders, who had left the States on the third of June. What a happy greeting! After leaving the airport, we traveled to the home of Sis. George Jet Whitiker, where we were graciously received. That evening we held service on the lower floor of her house. Attendance and interest were very good.

From Flowers Bay, where Sis. Whitiker lives, we traveled to Coxen Hole, which is the capitol of Roatan. We witnessed and gave out Spanish and American tracts. On another evening we held an open-air meeting in the local park. There was good interest in this service also. In fact, everywhere the Lord blessed for service, the interest was very encouraging.

We traveled to West End, a section of the island, and visited with a sister who was in need of prayer for her family. As we went further on the West End, we met a brother and his family, who took us in for service in his home after he found out we were Church of God. He also made arrangements for a service to be held on the weekend in a school house. This was a well-attended service with some encouraging testimonies from the local saints.

We traveled the next day to Politility Bight, a little settlement on the island. The countryside is very, very beautiful and some of the views are breathtaking. Here we met some precious saints, prayed for some sick, and held a yard service.

We moved on that day to Camp Bay, wanting our labour to be clearly for the Lord. We were hunting and fishing for hungry souls, and those who recognized and loved the truth. We were received at Camp Bay where a prosperous service was held that night. It seemed that most of the community turned out to this meeting, which was held outside under a 75-year-old cashew tree. We spent the night and visited, talking and singing. The next morning we started back to Flowers Bay. We stopped and visited

at Oak Ridge, another settlement, visiting in the home of a dear sister who warmly received us and comforted us very much.

Back at Flowers Bay we held more meetings. Along the roadside the Lord would bless for spontaneous service with those we met. The people would gather to hear the gospel. The week went by very rapidly, and we feel that much more time would be very profitable working for the Lord in this field.

We left Roatan from the Coxen Hole Airport on June 21, heading for the mainland. We were really in for an adventure riding the buses to our destination in the city of La Ceiba. In the city we visited, sang and prayed for a sick relative of Sister Bennett. We noticed the mainland is more developed than the island. I think the island holds the beauty. As evening came, we were on the bus again and more adventure. When darkness fell, we had arrived in the city of Tela. Again, a warm welcome was extended at the home of the sister of Sister Bennett. We were in the house a short while when we were invited to meeting in one of the local churches. I spoke by way of an interpreter, and found the dear people under a delusion of the enemy. We endeavored to instruct them in the truth. After service we visited with the pastor, but found no place for the truth. We pray the Lord will send the truth to Tela.

June 22 found us making preparation to fly back to the U. S. A. Another bus ride, our last adventure, proved to be eventful. The Lord intervened for the flight, which at times we thought we would not make. It is true all things work together for our good.

We were able to have talks with some of the brethren, making ourselves better acquainted. Let us pray together that the Lord will make a way for His work in this place. Also pray that the political climate will remain favorable. Amen.

Love to all the saints,

—Brother and Sister Hargrave and company
22345 S. W. 117 Place, Goulds, Fla. 33170

From the Mailbox. . .

Ohio—Dear friends in Christ: I am still able to care for myself, for which I thank God who has been so good to me. I know He hears and answers prayer. I still ask an interest in your prayers.

We surely don't have many people today who go to God for their afflictions, but most depend on the arm of flesh. When that fails, they turn to God for help. They take the medicine and if they get better, they say God blessed the pills or whatever. I would rather take my needs to God, the Great Physician, who is above all earthly help. . . .

Love and prayers, —Carrie Ross

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Ind.—To the family and loved ones of Sister Marie Miles: It was such a shock to learn that Sister Marie was taken Home. I pray that the Lord will be very close to each one of you. I feel a very great loss myself, as also I'm sure many of the saints do,

especially those who, like myself, are isolated. I remember last winter or early spring, when I was so bad off physically and just felt I could not endure any longer, her words of encouragement over the phone were really a God-sent blessing to me. I am sure many could relate similar instances. Now she is no longer with us, and although no one can take her place, perhaps each one of us should remember her encouraging ways and try to strengthen those about us who are in need of help. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." Be encouraged!

In the love of Christ, —Betty Baker

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Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle: I am thinking of you and all the family, and praying that God will comfort you at this time of sorrow.

Sis. Marie's writings were an encouragement and blessing to me. Not long ago I received a nice, personal letter from her. It was a sad shock to me when I heard she had passed away. My sadness is mixed with gladness because I know she is at rest now. She would say to all of us, "Carry on faithfully." May God bless and comfort all of you!

Christian love, —Edith Reavis

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Penn.—Dear saints: I greet you today as a blood-washed one who loves the Lord with all of my heart. Since my recent illness, I find Him more precious every day. I thought I was going, but God, in His mercy, let me stay. He must have something more for me to do. I pray I will be able, by His grace, to do it. I learned many lessons, and I want to hold His hand and let Him lead and guide me each hour of the day. I pray I may help someone to find this peace, which only He can give.

When I see the wickedness here around me each day, it makes me shudder to think of their meeting God at the Judgment without Him in their heart. They are seeking their pleasure in this world, which is fleeting. With the world and people running to and fro, seeking something to satisfy that longing for God, it behooves us to live soberly and carefully before Him, for we know not what day nor hour He will come or call for us.

May God bless all who work there. I know this is vacation month for some at the office, and I hope that they enjoyed the different meetings. May souls be saved and find peace, is my earnest prayer.

Your Sister in Him, —Eva Cox

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N. Mex.—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, and dear saints at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I trust that all is well with each of you, even though we miss our dear Sis. Marie. Life must go on. She is so very happy where she is with Jesus. Praise God! She was so dear. I loved her much.

We have been having lots of rain. I am very thankful for it, but it's good now to see the sun

shining. Thank God! He is so good! Without Him, we can do nothing. . . .

May the dear Lord bless you every one in every way. I continue to pray for you, Bro. Lawrence, that you be completely healed.

Christian love, —Sis. Ruth Doolittle

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Mo.—Dear Bro. Lawrence, Sis. Maybelle, and workers: Greetings in the Lord. We trust God is blessing you in every needed way. Although we had not written, our prayers were for you and the family of dear Sis. Marie.

Last Sunday we returned from the Myrtle, Mo., campmeeting, which was greatly blessed of the Lord. I don't know of ever hearing such anointed sermons in every service as we've heard this summer. The many that went to the altar proved that the messages were very moving and touched many hearts to make a start for God. . . .

I am keeping the last letter we received from Sis. Marie of June 9th. Her works will continue to bless souls. It just doesn't seem possible, . . . but we keep trusting. His ways are best.

The enclosed offering may be used someway as a memorial to Sis. Marie or however you feel best. I think this is what she would desire.

May the dear Lord help you. We surely prayed for you as you left the campgrounds at Monark, and we continue to remember you folk.

—Louie and Evodna Marler

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Mo.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I just wanted to write a note to let you know we appreciated your little visit a few days ago, and I appreciate you and the work you are doing. I'm sure that the Lord has a purpose in everything that He has permitted to come your way. Maybe it is hard to see and understand at this time, but it will all come out right in the end if we keep faithful.

I would like to add my testimony to the paper and tell how the Lord has blessed recently. The Lord has so wonderfully blessed in our lives since He has seen fit to lay affliction on our bodies. Dora, my wife, is sorely afflicted with arthritis and God hasn't seen fit to heal it, but He has come on the scene many times when the pain was so bad. We know that He still heals.

Also, with the muscular dystrophy on my body, I see the muscles deteriorating and see other folks with well bodies and good use of their limbs. Of course, I would like to have a normal body and I am holding on for it if the Lord sees fit. But until then, the Lord still daily loads us with benefits enough to prove that He is still looking on and will not forsake us.

Just three days ago, on Aug. 11, I was on the tractor mowing a small pasture. I was feeling pretty good and had my day planned for what I wanted to try to get done. About 9:00 a.m., I finished mowing and was going to another pasture. I got off the

tractor to let down an electric wire. As I bent over to unhook it, I felt a terrible pain in my back. It felt like the backbone had pulled apart. My strength just left me, but I was able to grab hold of the tractor. Then I had to get down on the ground as it seemed like my back was apart. Dora and Sandy came, but we could not figure how I was to get to the house. Finally, I was able to get on my hands and knees and I crawled to the house, which was a pretty rough ordeal considering these Missouri rocks. I finally got to bed, but really suffered through the day. That evening the saints came and anointed me and had prayer. I got on a hospital bed where I could change positions. I really suffered through the night, and also with the prospects of what might be ahead. But about daylight I had it committed to Him who does all things well. We called around for prayer, also to Guthrie for prayer on their fast day. By about 8:00 a.m., my back started improving so that by evening I was able to move around some. Now it is to the place that I can get out of bed and walk a little. I'm still confidently looking to the Lord to completely heal it if it be His will. He has never failed us and we have the determination like Job that though He slay me, yet I will trust Him. It isn't hard to trust the Lord through these dark places if our mind is fully made up. But if we are double minded or put a time limit on God that if "He doesn't work by a certain time I'm going to do something else," then we can't expect God to have freedom to work out things like He wants to.

It seems like some of us are put in the furnace of affliction for our good or maybe for the good of others looking on. If I be one, I want to do my part and prove that God can even bring us through this and out into a wealthy place.

Pray for us, as we do for all the saints, that we fulfill God's purpose in our lives.

Christian love, —Dale Doolittle

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Okla.—Dear saints: We truly give God the praise for all His love to our family. He has been so good to us. He proves His love for us in so many ways.

We thank God for the miracle of sparing our oldest son, Travis, when he was two years old. One evening in May, I had gone over to my parents' home to pick up something, and hadn't intended to let Travis get out of the car. While I was in the house my mother got Travis out of the passenger side and didn't close the door enough to latch it. When I came out, I put Travis in from the driver's side, assuming his door was still locked. I backed up to turn the car around, and as I pulled forward his door swung open and he fell out. The instant I realized the door had opened, I put on the brakes and put the car in park. I jumped out, and there Travis lay with his left arm pinned under the rear wheel. His head lay next to the tire and his eyes were looking up at me so pitifully. My father saw it all happen from the house. He ran out and knelt down next to Travis, and told me to get back in the car, put it in reverse and back up so we

could get his arm out from under the tire. We praise God there wasn't even a broken bone—only a few scratches that barely broke the skin. The Lord immediately stopped the car with no skidding in the gravel. Only a few more inches and the tire would have crushed his little chest.

In God's Word it says "Before we call He will answer." Before we could call on the Lord He answered and spared Travis' life. Glory to His name! Surely it pays to serve God. We praise Him for our Christian home.

Christian love,

—Pat and Jane Sallee, and boys

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

Mo.—Dear saints: We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers and the love shown to us. The Lord has surely blessed and been merciful to me.

About two years ago I was diagnosed to have internal cancer. It seemed really serious, and the doctors told me there was no hope unless I would go to Columbia, Mo., for treatments. I didn't want that, of course, but desired to trust the Lord. I went home and called the saints at Neosho, Mo., to be in prayer for me. They planned to come to my home and have a special prayer meeting with me, but I decided I would go to the regular prayer meeting if I could possibly do so. There they anointed me with oil and prayed for me. I was healed immediately, and have had no recurrence of it since that time. I'm so grateful to the Lord.

This past November, once more I became in real need of God's help. I had my teeth pulled to get dentures and couldn't seem to get over it. I was so weak and could not eat. I got worse and worse until I could not be up at all. My stomach developed bleeding ulcers. I was surely in a miserable condition. My family had to continue on the best they could, and I did feel I needed to help them so much. Different ones of the saints came regularly to help with the work and kept things going for me.

On May 2, 1981, we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. Many of the saints gathered to be with us, but I was too weak to be up. They had prayer for me that day and the Lord did really bless me. He continued to strengthen me until I am doing much better. Now I am up and able to work around the house some. I can at least keep my family going.

God has been so good to me and helped me so much. It's truly impossible to praise Him enough. I want to thank each one of you who prayed for me. God is always a help in time of need, and He gives us love one to another.

Please continue to remember us in your prayers. We still need God every day to guide and protect us.

In Christian love, —Mrs. Beulah Peterson

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

Calif.—Dear saints: We are praying for each of you in the office, as we know you will miss our dear Sister Marie. We will all miss her, but we have a hope of meeting her and all the dear saints

of God in our future home in Heaven. That will be a most glorious day for each of us. Then we will have an eternity of joy and peace. Heaven will be cheap at any price we have to pay.

I want to thank and praise the Lord for His goodness to me. I had a very serious affliction on my body and through the prayers of the saints, our Lord healed me. It was a miracle that He performed. I cannot praise Him enough for the touch of our Master's hand.

Brothers and sisters, may God help us to dig down deeper in the Rock, Christ Jesus. The deeper we go, the sweeter grows the narrow way. I realize I can never do enough for the Lord, but in my little way, I want to fill my place in His kingdom here. Time is swiftly passing away. May God send such fire in the camp that His children will see their needs as well as the sinners. Holy Spirit fire moves God on His throne to perform miracles physically and spiritually. The miracle that God performed on my body has made me realize what our God can do for us when we have an urgent need, if we keep measured up and prayed up. I am seeking for a closer walk with Jesus every day. Brothers and sisters, pray for me that I will be faithful to the end of my journey.

Christian love,

—Letha Reece

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Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Would you please comment on Luke 16:8-9?

Answer: Luke 16:9, was the subject of a previous question and was discussed at an earlier time in this column so I will not take time and space to rehearse it here again. But I will comment to the best of my ability and understanding on Luke 16:8, which reads thus: "And the Lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

Now it must be evident unto all that any Scripture must be interpreted and discussed within the scope of its setting and context in order to be properly understood. Jesus is by no means teaching here that the children of light should take the world's management of its affairs, business, and manner of life as a pattern of their own just because the world's wisdom exceeds that of the saints. The last half of the first chapter of 1 Cor. draws a clear distinction between the wisdom of God and the wisdom of men of the world. I will insert a few verses here. "For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not

God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; . . . For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; . . ." 1 Cor. 1:19-27. And 1 Cor. 1:30, says that Christ, "is made unto us wisdom." He is the source of all true wisdom.

And again, James draws a striking comparison between the wisdom of the world and the wisdom of God in James 3:13-17. Verses 14 and 15 say, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish." Verse 17 says, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

The book of Psalms opens with this statement, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly." There may be intellectual giants in the world, and there most certainly are, but some of them are ungodly men and their counsel would not do to follow. 1 Cor 2:14, says, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The "natural man" is the fleshly, carnal, unregenerate man and Paul says in Rom. 8:5, "They that are of the flesh do mind the things of the flesh." They are of the flesh and they think and speak in terms of the flesh which corresponds to the wisdom which James describes in James 3:15, as being "earthly, sensual, devilish." These people are very versed in worldly matters and the things of this present life and are able to give good counsel in this area, but as to the things and course in life which will lead to peace with God and bring His blessings into your life and eternal life in the end, they know very little or maybe nothing. They may give good advice in things pertaining to the world and this present life, but confront them with some of the plain wisdom of God in the Scriptures and they will guffaw at you and tell you that in this enlightened age we are smarter than that and have better ways of handling these matters and that those things just simply do not work out to the best advantage.

In 2 Tim. 3:15, Paul says that the holy Scriptures "are able to make thee wise unto salvation." This should be the desire and purpose of heart of every humble child of God—to be made wise unto salvation. In verses 16 and 17 we are told that in the holy Scriptures is every thing necessary to perfect us in Christ and throughly furnish us unto every good work. The child of God has the Scriptures to instruct

him and the Holy Spirit to guide him and teach him and that is the place I would advise him to go for all of his instructions in all his affairs of life. God has placed in the Church certain God-called, God-gifted, God-qualified, Spirit filled men (ministers and established saints) who are skilled in interpreting Scriptures and scriptural principles which would apply to any situation in life. My advice would be to all the saints to seek to this source to be directed in your affairs of life (any or all of them) rather than seeking guidance from worldly wise men.

The apostle Paul urged this idea in rather strong language in the 6th chapter of 1 Cor. This was in regard to saints going to law with saints. In verses 5 and 6 he says, "I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers." In other words, they were using the world's method instead of God's method of settling differences. While this particular case involves the matter of going to law to settle disputes, the principle would cover any case where counsel and guidance are needed. In James 1:5, we read, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

This all points to the fact that God has His own provisions for all the affairs in the lives of the saints. The Church of God is self-contained and every provision for regulating the lives and affairs of the saints is in it. The Psalmist said concerning Zion, "All my springs are in thee." (Psa. 87:7) I promise that all who will observe this principle of truth will prosper more spiritually, materially, and physically.

Now, let's return to the text presented in the question. Referring to the premise we've already laid down that a text must be interpreted and discussed within the scope of its setting and context, let us go on from here. The verses leading up to this statement Jesus made in Luke 16:8, were regarding a steward who was being dismissed from his stewardship because he had wasted his master's goods. When he learned he was to be dismissed, he called in his master's debtors and discounted every man's bill. His objective was to lay a foundation and prepare the way from these men to favor him and take care of him when he was put out of his stewardship. Jesus commended him because he had done wisely. He did not commend him for being unjust and dishonest. He did not commend him for his embezzlement. It is such absurdities as these we run into when we try to extend a Scripture beyond its proper use or to interpret a text totally in every detail that is being used for a specific purpose and to illustrate a particular point such as this text is. What Jesus commended this man for was that he looked ahead and made provisions for his future. The lesson He is teaching us here and which is brought out in a few verses following this one, is that while we are living

in this life we should be looking ahead to the end of life and so ordering all of our affairs in every phase and area of our lives so as to make our calling and election sure with God and secure us a place in the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The lesson of this particular text is for us to follow this man's pattern in so managing all of our affairs to assure us a place in God's heavenly kingdom and nothing else.

The Ark and the Church

The ark that Noah built and the Church that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, built are very similar in construction and the purpose for which they were built.

God's decisions: Genesis 6:11-13, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." Acts 17:30,31, "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

We find that among all the ungodly people on the earth in his day, only Noah found grace in the eyes of God. He was a just man and perfect in his generation. Gen. 6:8,9. To this just and perfect man God said, "Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it." Gen. 6:14-16.

This was how Noah was instructed to build what was to be his way of surviving God's destruction of the earth and all that lived thereon. Note that God told Noah to use only one kind of wood (gopher), and also the ark was to be pitched within and without. How similar this was to the Church that God's Son built. Jesus said, "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. Again we read in John 14:2-3, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

Of what was His Church built? 1 Peter 2:3-5, "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious. Ye also as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." Rev. 7:13-15, "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them."

The ark was of gopher wood only; the Church of lively stones. The ark was pitched within and without. We, the Church, must be the same within and without, or we have become only whited sepulchers.

God decided who would be in the ark. "But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy son's wives with thee." Gen. 6:18. God, not man, decides who will be in the Church that Jesus built. Acts 2:47, "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." 1 Cor. 12:18, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."

There was only one ark that endured the flood. There will be only one church that will transport us into God's new heaven and earth. 2 Peter 3:13, "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Jesus is the head of the Church. Col. 1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." By being the head of the body, the Church, He keeps His promise. Matt. 28:20, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

How great was the desire of God's Son that we dwell in the Church He built? Listen to His prayer: "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21.

What will happen in that day of Judgement if we have not let God set us in the body and our name is not written in the Lamb's book of life? Rev. 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

—Elias McCart

If you would have great blessings from God do your good deeds as secretly as possible.—C. E. Orr