

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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The Kingdom of God's Dear Son

The kingdom of our God's dear Son
Is found in souls made white:
The realm of holy goodness won
By those who seek the right.

His kingdom is the sweet control
Of God Almighty's love,
Subduing heart and mind and soul
To better things above;

A kingdom that cannot be moved,
Of Heaven's golden rule:
A life of better treasures proved
With Holy Spirit fuel.

It is a kingdom righteous bound
With laws of holiness,
Influenced by the joyful sound
Of Jesus' righteousness.

It is a kingdom only seen
By people Spirit-born:
A way of life that's pure and clean,
The spirit to adorn.

The subjects of this kingdom great
Are victors over sin;
They tread on Satan's vile estate,
The battle on to win.

This is a kingdom spiritual
Of peace within the soul;
It is good will and grace to all
Who would be perfect, whole.

This kingdom oft throughout the years
Has suffered violence,
But through great effort, toil, and tears
Men press their pathway hence.

Oh, souls, today come, enter in:
Be saved in Christ, the Way;
Share in His triumph over sin
In this His glorious day!

—Leslie C. Busbee

True Saints in Christ's Kingdom

God's people are called "saints" about one hundred times in the Bible; the name "Christian" occurs three times. Some would have us believe that Christians do not become saints until after death, because they have been taught that Christians commit sin, and that the saints do not; hence, the expression, "My sainted mother," or, "My sainted father," when referring to those who died in the faith. David knew differently, and said, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalms 116:15. He also speaks of "saints that are in the earth." Psalms 16:3. Paul wrote letters to the saints at Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, etc. The definition of "saint" is, "A holy or godly person," and this accords with the Bible. Isaiah 62:12. Any one knows that the person who sins is not holy.

I have met with some who call themselves saints, who admit that they are sinners, and actually teach that all Christians commit sins, "because our flesh is corrupt and sinful, and we cannot help sinning." They evidently do not understand that Christ came in the likeness of sinful flesh, and as a sacrifice for sin, condemned sin in the flesh. Romans 8:3. He came to destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8. Genuine saints abstain from every form of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22), while these latter-day nominals take to sinning as a duck takes to water, or a pig to rooting in the dirt, because it is natural; natural because they are "in the flesh," and the flesh is corrupt and sinful.

The apostle John writes that whosoever is born of God cannot sin (1 John 3:9), and gives the reason for it. It is natural for the Christian to do right, because he has the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), and it is natural for the unsaved to sin because he has the fleshly, or carnal nature. Romans 8:5-8. In God's plan of salvation, the blood of Christ cleanseth from all sin. 1 John 1:7, 9; Revelation 1:5.

There is a difference between the mortal body and the fleshly mind. Salvation cleanses the first and destroys the second. Paul had crucified the flesh, or the sinful passions and lusts, and yet he lived in the

mortal flesh. See Gal. 5:24. Crucifixion is sure death. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." 1 Thess. 5:23, 24. To be in the flesh means being subject to the fleshly, or sinful mind. But the Christian is not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Rom. 8:9. And according to this verse, none who sin belong to God; whether he professes or not, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh." Gal. 5:16. "And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Gal. 5:24

How strange that sinful men should go out as preachers and missionaries. Psalms 50:16. Saints have purified their souls (1 Pet. 1:22), and their bodies are washed (Heb. 10:22). Their consciences are purged (Heb. 9:14; John 15:3). "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" 1 Cor. 6:19. "The temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." 1 Cor. 3:17. "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof." Rom. 6:12. Let us praise the Lord for deliverance from the dominion of sin in this world, and let us pray that so-called "Christians" who live in sin may "awake to righteousness, and sin not." 1 Cor. 15:34.

—John E. Roberts

Some Truths About Sanctification

IT IS GOD'S PREVENTIVE TO BACKSLIDING

Sanctification is unquestionably the "standing grace" that we read of in Rom. 5:2, where we can truly rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, because the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. In Heb. 6:1, R. V., the apostle writes, "Wherefore, leaving the doctrine of the first principles of Christ, let us press on unto perfection; not laying a foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God." The following verses in the chapter indicate that it is the object of the writer to these brethren to help them get into a spiritual condition where they become established in their experience. This is the same desire that every New Testament minister has for all the saints. The Hebrew saints had not made the spiritual growth and become teachers themselves, but they had need of being taught the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God. Chapter 5:12.

It is as impossible for any of us to stand very long without the sanctifying grace as it was for the apostles themselves. They were commanded to tarry at Jerusalem for the endowment of power which was the heart-purifying and Spirit-filling grace. Acts 15:8, 9. This was their sanctification. They must have it to be able to go out into the world as lambs among wolves. The grace of justification is wonderful. It has its important place in

the experience of every believer, but it alone, is not sufficient. As long as there yet remains the inborn depravity there is a weakness that gives the enemy an advantage over us. It takes the second grace to perfect us in the plan of God's redemption, where we have the heart purified from the sinful nature and the Holy Spirit enthroned within. The first grace is good and satisfactory in that for which it is designed of God, namely, to wash us from our sins in the blood of Christ and make us a child of God, but it requires the second grace to help us keep the first. The second grace is called the seal (Eph. 1:13), which produces the keeping effect in our experiences. It seals us against the power of the enemy. It is God's official protection that He places upon us, which every one of us needs.

One great reason why so many saints fail to stand against sin is because they fail in getting sanctified, or if they have been, they do not keep in the condition to maintain this experience. We are not saved nor sanctified against our will, neither are we going to backslide against our will. We may be tempted and tried but in every case of actually backsliding, there is the act of the will in the matter. One may feel that he has been overcome, and has done wrong, but it requires the consent of the will to fully backslide.

Without the grace of sanctification, the power of resistance against sin is not sufficient, but with this grace there is abundance of power for every thing we meet, if we but appropriate the same. We can see a number of instances in the apostles where they manifested carnality and selfish ambitions before their Pentecostal experience, which disappeared after Pentecost. Jesus knew what they needed and provided for it. How glad we can be that this was not for the apostles alone, but for all that believe on Jesus through their word.

This second grace does not destroy in us the power to sin if we will, but it gives us the power not to sin. It greatly reduces the liability to sin and therefore, it is a wonderful preventive to backsliding. It is a characteristic of every one who is living in this grace to be steadfast and faithful. It is our normal condition in which we can grow and become strong in the grace of God, with power to live victorious over all sin. Our life becomes a blessed satisfaction to ourselves and an inspiration to others. Where one has lived long in the Christian experience without this second grace, he has found in his own nature a great deal to contend with which absorbs much of his energy and time. It is the depravity within which is detrimental to his spiritual welfare, and must be removed. When this has been done, then, and only then, can there be the perfect satisfaction in life and service to the Lord. This is Christ enthroned within, who is greater than the one without. This life is a delightful service, where all the attractions of the world, the flesh, and the devil are easily rejected because of the attractions of Christ being so much greater.

—J. W. Byers

A Living Death

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death." Rev. 2:11. "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Rev. 21:8. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." Rev. 20:14.

The above language is plain. The second death is the lake of fire; that is, the punishment of the lake of fire is the second death. Man's condition in sin is declared to be a state of death. It is a spiritual death which simply means separation from God and his righteousness. Not dead in that sense that all life is extinct, for the sinner of the basest type is as much alive so far as having existence and real action of both inner and outer man is concerned, as is the righteous. There is no way to evade this fact. The rich man of Luke 16 was a sinner; he died that way, and his physical body was buried no doubt in the usual way, but his soul lived in hell. He lived in pleasure on earth and was dead while he lived. "But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." 1 Tim. 5:6. Dead and yet alive.

What is death anyway? Is it not a separation? Let us see. "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing (for she died)." Gen. 35:18. Is not the body dead without the spirit? Yes. See James 2:26. The departing of the soul or spirit of man results in the death of the body. We all know this, as it is a common fact easily understood. This is why God has chosen the word *death* to illustrate the condition of the sinner. Man originally had God's Spirit in him, which to him was life; life to the soul. When he sinned the Holy Spirit took his flight, so to speak, and the state of man without God's presence or Spirit is termed *death*. He still lives, but without the life and attribute of his Maker—holiness—hence, is "dead in trespasses and in sins." Eph. 2:1. See also John 5:24, 25.

Now just as spiritual death does not imply cessation of existence, etc., neither does the second death imply the utter annihilation or extinction of the wicked. I have already shown by the infallible and unchanging Word of God that the wicked shall have their part in the lake of fire, which is the second death. Let the Bible show that the same place of punishment has been prepared for the devil himself and his angels. At the last day when Christ shall sit upon the throne of judgment, He will make a final separation of the righteous from the wicked, placing the latter upon His left hand. To those He will say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Matt. 25:41.

The same lake of fire that God has prepared for the chief hosts of eternal damnation shall be the place into which all on the left hand at the last judgment will be cast. Observe that the unerring

testimony of the Bible shows the lake of fire to be the awful place of punishment for all who die without Christ: "And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night," etc. Rev. 14:9-11. "And the beast was taken and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshiped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone." Rev. 19:20. "And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:10, 15.

Who will suffer such an awful fate? Answer: The fearful and unbelieving; the abominable and murderers; the whoremongers and idolaters; the liars and sorcerers; the devil and the deceived; the beast and his worshipers; the false prophet and those who believed his lies; those who heard the gospel, but did not obey it; all on the left hand, whose names were not found in the book of life. Surely God will punish the "dead in sins" with the second death. How absurd to suppose that God would raise the wicked out of their graves—I mean their decomposed and lifeless bodies—if He meant to do no more than to merely reduce them to ashes! Why not let them alone? To dust they have returned. Nay, it is a living death.

—J. E. Forrest

A Word to Parents

Parents, are you setting before your children a good Christian example? It is human nature to pattern our habits after those we are around.

True love to a child will be manifest by care and discipline. If we are not careful, the children will be bossing us instead of our leading them. The Bible says to bring up children in the nurture [that which promotes growth] and admonition [gentle reproof] of the Lord and when they are old they will not depart from it. Proverbs 13:24 says, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes [early]."

Think of a little tree when it is first set out and starting to grow. You can prune it and shape it while it is little and it will grow to be a tall, straight tree. It is the same way with little children. If parents will take time to teach their children daily, with patience, love, and firmness; not with an outraged temper or harshness, a child's life can be somewhat shaped into a good and noble life.

—Pearlene Whitson

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 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 this autumn season of 1981 begins: The campmeetings have ended for the summer season, and no doubt many souls will have to say, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20. Yet the good news of salvation through Christ must keep going forth by pulpit and press to this sin-sick world as long as time shall last.

Some evangelistic tent meetings are continuing this autumn. In fact, a tent meeting is now in progress near Guthrie, which is a gospel outreach of the Guthrie congregation. Bro. Curtis Williams, evangelist from Kentucky, has been doing the preaching in the meeting which began last Saturday night, Sept. 19. The gospel has been going forth clear and definite with holy anointing, and some local people are coming to the services. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will send conviction by the Word, and that souls will respond to these glad tidings and find the joy and peace of real Bible salvation.



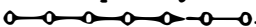
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"Evening Light Songs" Increased in Price . . .

The cost of material has increased so much in the production of the 512-page, clothbound, Church of God hymnal, "Evening Light Songs," that we must increase the price by 50¢ to \$5.00 each, plus 93¢ for postage and handling, effective on **October 20, 1981**. However, beginning on that date we are granting a 10% discount to all who order 12 or more copies at one time. Our terms are cash with order. Write for total quotation on quantity orders.



The Transfer of the Office Workload . . .

The Lord is answering your prayers and comforting our hearts concerning the departure on July 29, 1981, of my sister and co-worker, Marie Miles. She has finished her course and won that eternal crown of life. But the work she was doing here at the office—the correspondence and editorial duties—has been left to us and co-workers. Sister Sandra Whitson is now the editor of the "Beautiful Way"

quarterly paper for primary and junior Sunday school classes, and Bro. Leslie Busbee is editing the quarterly "Bible Lessons" for adults and young people, assisted by Bro. Wayne Murphey. Sister Rebecca Sorrell is doing a large part of the work in the correspondence department, as well as filling the mail orders. We certainly appreciate these helpers, as well as all our other consecrated and faithful co-workers in getting out the good news of salvation to this perishing world. Pray with us for the Lord to supply competent and qualified replacement help as the need arises.

Sister Marie Miles was Vice President of Faith Pub. House, Inc., a non-profit religious institution, and this vacancy must be filled.

Bro. O. B. Wilson, who writes the Question and Answer column, informed us that circumstances arose which prevented him from getting the copy ready for this October issue. That is why you do not find it in this paper. However, Lord willing, he will have copy ready for this column in the coming November issue and thereafter.

Those who claim to be saints "in light" and still have television and condone its use in their home, or wear jewelry, immodest dress, or outward adornments, are living below the New Testament standard, and need to repent and measure to the truth.

Long sleeves for men and women alike have been the teaching and practice of the "evening light" reformation of the Church of God for 100 years, ever since its beginning in 1880 A.D. You may call this only a tradition. But since this teaching is in harmony with the command to dress in "modest apparel" (fully clothed), this good tradition is to be observed as directed by the Apostle Paul in 2 Thess. 2:15, "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." If you have not heard this teaching on long sleeves, then your minister has not been teaching the whole truth.

The one Church that Jesus Christ built on the Rock of eternal truth is a visible body of God's people separate and distinct from all the creeds of men called churches. Jesus, the Builder, said it was a "city set on a hill that cannot be hid." Again Jesus said in John 10:16, "And other sheep [Gentiles] I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." The ancient prophets foretold that Zion, the Lord's House or Church, would be established in the top of the mountain above all the hills of "Babylon" and religious confusion.

The idea that God's Church is an invisible ghost scattered among the creeds and divisions of men is contrary to the Biblical description of the one true Church that Jesus built. Perchance, a soul in sec-tism hears enough truth to get saved, the Voice from heaven calls him to come out from among them, and

Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." John 10:27.

Bro. D. S. Warner proclaimed this solemn truth in song:—

"Have you heard a voice from heaven,
Calling in a solemn tone,
'Come, my people, from confusion,
This is not your native home?'
"Yes, I heard, and to my vision,
Zion's glory brightly shone;
Then I rose and fled the ruin,
Taking not a Babel stone."

If a child of God hears the message of the Lord to come out, and he fails or refuses to do so, his soul goes into darkness and he becomes guilty of the sin of spiritual adultery.

"Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last."

Above this writer's desk hangs the above motto which ever reminds us of the brevity of life and the primary purpose for which the Lord placed us in this world.

Let us watch and pray always, and hold up the banner of truth by word and deed to this wicked world which is tottering on the brink of eternal destruction. "What in life we all may do, can but save a very few, yet the blessed Saviour shed His blood for all."

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

Partial List of Items Available

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$5.50 each.

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The Christian Church; Its Rise and Progress, by H. M. Riggle. Bound in cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$5.00.

The Last Reformation by F. G. Smith. Just recently made available, this reprint edition contains 256 pages. Nice paper binding is priced at \$3.50 each, and the cloth binding is \$5.00 each.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$5.50 each.

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God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in nice paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24-page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 25c each, or five copies for \$1.00.

Life's Story and Healings by Sister Nellie Poulos. This is a reprint of her first book, plus additional material. This volume contains 160 pages with a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D. O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

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Memoirs of George E. Harmon, sponsored by Vera M. Forbes. This is a brief autobiography of our beloved Bro. George Harmon, a long-time minister in the Church of God, including the record of the memories of a few others who knew him. It will inspire your faith in God. Its 56 pages with four pictures are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 60c each, or two copies for \$1.00.

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No. 1 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Fourteen songs by the Phillips family on 33 RPM record. This No. 1 record may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash St., Wichita, Kansas 67214. The price is \$5.00 each, plus 84c for postage and handling.

No. 2 Stereo Song Record by the Phillips Evening Light Singers. Eleven songs by the Phillips family—Bro. Paul Phillips and his six children. On the cover for the record is a large picture of the singers. This record No. Two may be ordered from this office or purchased directly from Bro. Paul Phillips, 1220 Wabash Street, Wichita, Kansas 67214. The price is reduced to \$5.00 each, plus 84c for postage and handling.

No. 1 Stereo Song Record by the Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers. These twelve songs were sung by seven California singers and composed by one of the singers, Bro. Philip Matthews of Fresno, California, who is also sponsoring the production of this record. Price, \$6.00 each, plus 90c for postage and handling.

No. 2 Stereo Song Record by the Evening Light Gospel Harmonizers. Just recently produced, this record has ten songs. Price, \$6.50 each, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. It may be purchased from this office, or from the publisher, Philip Matthews, 811 N. Ferger, Fresno, Calif. 93728. Be sure to specify No. 2 Harmonizer Song Record.

The Stereo Gospel Song Album titled, "Songs Mother Loved" by the Carver Family. Sung and dedicated by the Carver children to the memory of their mother, May DeLee (Jackson) Carver, who departed this life to be with the Lord in 1967. On the jacket of the record is a nice, large picture of Sister May Carver. The record has twelve songs which you will surely enjoy hearing. The price is \$5.00 each, plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. Since this office does not have this record in stock, please send your order and remittance directly to Lynette Melot, 1313 Whitehurst, Choctaw, Okla. 73020.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

For postage and handling, add 65c for the first dollar and 7c for each additional dollar of total order.

Mail Orders To—

FAITH PUB. HOUSE, Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044

In Memorial

A. Eva Wilkins was born in Prairieville, Mich., on Aug. 24, 1904. She departed this life on June 28, 1981, at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla.

She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Leo S. Wilkins of Okla. City, Okla.; one daughter, Aneita J. Corteway of Okla. City., Okla.; one son, Ralph O. Wilkins of Guthrie, Okla.; three brothers, John, Richard, and Glenn, all of Mich.; thirteen grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson, and a host of other relatives and saints.

Funeral services were held at the Church of God Chapel, Shawnee, Okla., officiated by Bro. Charles Smith. Interment was at Bethel Cemetery, Shawnee, Okla.

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Sister Edith P. Parsons was born on Feb. 10, 1902, and departed this life to be with the Lord at Freeland, Mich., on Aug. 19, 1981, at the age of 79 years.

Survivors include her husband of the home, Bro. Earl. L. Parsons, their children, other relatives, many friends and saints.

The funeral service was held at the Scott Wilson Memorial Chapel with Bro. Mart Samons officiating. Interment was in the Poseyville Cemetery.

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Edna Agnes Blacksher, the daughter of James and Lucinda Freeman, was born on June 12, 1907, in Douglas County, Mo., and departed this life at her home in Springfield, Mo., on Aug. 28, 1981, at the age of 74 years, 2 months, and 16 days.

She was married to Newton Elmer Blacksher on March 25, 1926. He preceded her in death on Mar. 10, 1979.

Both of them accepted Jesus as their Saviour fifty years ago, and were in the Church of God at Springfield, Mo., until death.

Edna is survived by three brothers and four sisters, beside many other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Sister Ruth Murphey at the Ayre-Goodwin Funeral Chapel, and burial was in the National Cemetery, Springfield, Mo.

—Ruth Murphey

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Bro. Glen Washburn of Shawnee, Okla., aged 59, passed to his eternal reward on Sept. 10, 1981, after an illness of over two years.

We welcome his wife, Sister Marie Washburn, back to services after faithfully caring for him through his entire illness. Let us pray that God will continue to sustain her.

—Sis. Opal Kelly

Note of Appreciation

We desire by this means to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to the saints (even from miles away) for all they have done in standing by us during the illness and passing of my dear companion on Sept. 10th. They surely were faithful around the clock when we needed help so badly.

The Lord was so good to give relief so many times, then to take all pain away during Glen's last hours. He went without a struggle straight to the arms of Jesus. God has given me a serene peace, and I know that "all is well."

The untiring efforts, prayers, labors, floral offerings, and food are all appreciated beyond words to express. May the Lord richly bless each one, is my prayer.

—Marie Washburn and family

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Bro. Oscar Wall was born June 5, 1909, in Kingston, Ark., and departed this life at his home near Vinita, Okla., on Sept. 20, 1981, at the age of 72 years, 3 months, and 15 days. He had lived at Kingston, Ark., before moving to Vinita in 1973.

He was united in marriage to Marjorie Slaven on Feb. 12, 1928. To this union were born two sons and three daughters.

Bro. Wall gave his heart to God in 1936, and walked in all the light God gave him, continually seeking for more. In the year 1954, he went to Monark Springs, Mo., Campmeeting, and through the labors of Bro. Murphy Allen, he was led into the truths of the Church of God, and has continued faithful until death.

He leaves to mourn his departure: his beloved wife Marjorie of the home; two sons, Oscar G., of Kansas City, Mo., and Paul of Chula Vista, Calif.; three daughters, Mrs. Leta Inman of Peculiar, Mo., Mrs. Vonda McMillian of Vinita, Okla., and Mrs. Marilyn McMillian of Bentonville, Ark.; thirteen grandchildren; one brother, Charley Wall of Grand View, Wash.; four sisters, Mrs. Ova Carter of Moxee City, Wash., Mrs. Elsie Stills of Soda Springs, Idaho, Mrs. Irene Schimel, of Arkansas City, Kansas, and Mrs. Bonnie Thomas of Rogers, Ark.; and a host of other relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in the Lord.

The funeral service was held Sept. 23, at the Luginbuel Funeral Chapel in Vinita, Okla., conducted by Bro. Clifford Wilson, and assisted by Sis. Margaret Eck. Burial was the same day at Upper Campground Cemetery, Kingston, Ark., where Bro. Austin McMillian officiated at the graveside service.

(Editor's note: Bro. Wall faithfully trusted the Lord through the many months of affliction, and experienced God's presence and comfort. This writer and his wife visited and prayed again with Bro. Wall on Monday before he departed on the following Sunday, and his uplook was bright. He left this earthly tabernacle of suffering in the triumphs of a living faith, and now he is at rest with the Lord. . . . Over the years Bro. and Sis. Wall have been faithful supporters of all phases of the gospel work, including this gospel literature ministry. Bro. Wall is gone, but his works will follow him to the end of time. . . . May the Lord comfort and sustain Sis. Wall, the children, other relatives, and saints in their loss. He is greatly missed by all of us, but we have the bright hope of a grand reunion in Heaven.)

Meeting Reports and Notices

REPORT OF BOLEY, OKLA., CAMPMEETING

We give thanks to the Lord for how He worked in the Boley, Okla., campmeeting, and for the ministers He sent from far and near to help fight in the battle against sin. The attendance was very good. We appreciated the young saints and young ministers that came and rendered their service in the meeting. Much good was accomplished.

The Lord was faithful to anoint His Word and bless it to our souls. A few souls sought the Lord for salvation. Others consecrated their lives to God to be filled with the Holy Ghost, and some received other spiritual help.

The ordinance services of the Lord's House were very precious as we remembered our Lord's death and suffering for our salvation. We felt His presence in our midst. Praise the Lord!

We thank the Lord for all the ministers, workers, and saints that helped in the campmeeting to make it a success. May the Lord bless each one.

Yours in His great name, —Katherine Williams

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REVIVAL HELD AT SANDUSKY, OHIO

We thank the Lord for the wonderful revival He blessed us with in Sandusky, Ohio, Aug. 24-31. The Word of God was preached with power under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, wherein the saints did greatly rejoice. We are much encouraged to go on and finish the race we have begun.

We are grateful to Bro. Fuller, pastor of the Akron congregation, and Bro. Robinson and the congregation who so faithfully supported us in this meeting. We were thankful the Lord sent Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons to be with us. May the Lord bless each one for their labor of love.

We trust the souls the Lord was dealing with will yield their hearts to God. The Lord is blessing the work here. Pray for us.

—Bro. James Bruner, Pastor

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REVIVAL AT GREEN PASTURES, OKLA.

The fall revival meeting at the Church of God Chapel in Spencer (Green Pastures), Okla., will begin on Friday, Oct. 9, and continue through Sunday, Oct. 18, according to the Lord's will.

We are praying that the Lord will send ministers and workers of His own choosing, and work mightily in this area. We extend a warm welcome to all.

For further information, contact Bro. Charles Chandler, 740 N. E. 81st St., Okla. City, Okla. 73114, phone (405)478-1653.

—Charles Chandler

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REVIVAL AT OKMULGEE, OKLA.

The annual autumn revival meeting held at the Church of God chapel in Okmulgee, Okla., will

begin, Lord willing, on Monday night, October 19, at 7:45 p.m., and continue nightly through Sunday, Oct. 25.

We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and be with us in the battle for the Lord and right. Souls need to be rescued from the road to hell. Many of our loved ones need salvation.

With bright anticipation we are prayerfully expecting a miraculous outpouring of divine power in behalf of the meeting. God has promised to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19. Revival comes from Him!

For more information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, or phone (918)756-6425.

—By Erma Johnson

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AUTUMN MEETING AT WICHITA, KAN.

The Fall meeting at Wichita, Kan., is scheduled to be held Oct. 30 through Nov. 8. We are looking to the Lord to anoint and so bless that the Holy Spirit will have complete right of way in the meeting.

In these perilous times, people need to run for their lives, and then do all they can to stay in the City of Refuge after getting in. Therefore, we pray that some will be moved to get saved, and all the saved will be strengthened in the meeting and encouraged to go to Heaven at any cost.

The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash. The phone number is (316)267-9582. For further information, the pastor, Bro. Lewis Williams, can be contacted at (316)264-8481, or at his address at 2643 N. Spruce, Wichita, Kan. 67219.

—Submitted by Shirley Knight

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REVIVAL AT HOFFMAN, OKLA.

The annual fall revival meeting at the Church of God chapel in Hoffman, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, Nov. 11 to 15, 1981. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. We will appreciate your presence and your prayers.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Woodrow Warren, 810 N. Porter, Okmulgee, Okla. 74447, or phone (918)756-6425.

—By Lorene Payne

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HAMMOND, LA., ASSEMBLY MEETING

The annual Assembly Meeting on the General Southern Campground at Hammond, La., will be held, Lord willing, from Nov. 22 to 29, 1981, which is Thanksgiving week.

A more complete announcement will appear in the November issue.

A LOVING HEART

Grant me Lord a loving heart,

A will to give and share,

A whispered prayer upon my lips,

To show I really care.

—Edward M. Brandt

Prayer Requests

La.—Pray earnestly for Sister A. M. Alexander who suffers with high blood pressure. It is affecting her eyes.

Philippines—Bro. M. S. Tangunan, native missionary in the Philippine Islands, needs special prayer for his healing of heart trouble.

Ind.—Pray for Sister Mary Rogers and family in their bereavement, as her husband, Russell C. Rogers, aged 73, departed suddenly with a heart attack on Aug. 31, 1981. They have seven children, and one is left at home with her. Pray for their salvation.

Ill.—Pray for Sister Truman Pitts who has high blood pressure.

La.—Pray fervently for Bro. Lloyd Smoot who is suffering much with prostate gland trouble. His faith and trust are in the Lord.

Okla.—Sister Julia Llewellyn is suffering from a fall in which her wrist was broken. Pray that the Lord will grant her a speedy recovery.

Mo.—A son of Bro. and Sis. Norman Allen fell from a tree and suffered some broken ribs and a severely broken wrist. Pray that the Lord will relieve pain and grant a divine touch of healing. Also pray that the parents may be comforted and strengthened by the presence and love of the Lord.

Okla.—Pray for Sister Floy Woolery who has a serious nervous condition that often does not permit her to sleep at night.

Mo.—Pray for Bro. Murphy Allen at Springfield, Mo., who is fighting the good fight of faith in the battle against affliction. He is one of God's faithful ministers, and the Lord does not forget his work of faith and labor of love for His cause. The Lord gave Bro. Allen special strength and inspiration to preach a message of truth at the Neosho, Mo., chapel on Sunday, Sept. 13. This writer and his wife were present to receive the instruction.

Mo.—Pray for Sis. Thelma Sprague of Guthrie, Okla., who was driving to Illinois to be with her aged mother. Enroute she stopped at the home of her daughter at St. Charles, Mo., and took very ill with chills and fever. Her two daughters in Guthrie have gone to her bedside. Pray fervently for Sister Sprague's complete healing and deliverance from afflictions.

Fla.—Pray for the healing of Bro. and Sis. Hargrave's oldest daughter, Rachel, who has been very ill and unconscious part of the time. The Christian school in Goulds had to be closed temporarily.

Jesus Christ made an atonement for our physical healing, and it is His general will to heal His people. One who is sick or afflicted should pray with faith and patience until the Lord definitely makes known that it is not His will to heal in his particular case. In that event, God will grant sufficient grace as in the apostle Paul's experience. Of course, the time will come to every saint when "healing" will be the soul's departure from the suffering body according to the will of God.

Jesus said to the father whose son was possessed with a foul spirit, "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." Mark 9:23, 24. Let us ever hold up the shield of faith, for faith is the victory. —L. D. Pruitt

Foreign Mission Reports

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

South India (Aug. 18)—Dear Bro. Pruitt and the dear saints at Guthrie, and abroad: Our greetings of Christian love to all of you again in the precious name of Jesus Christ, the consolation of spiritual Israel.

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

We started the work on the chapel, and it is in progress now. May God bless the donors abundantly as we pray for them.

It was a real shock when we read the sad news of the rather sudden departure of our dear Sister Anna Marie Miles. Oh, how can we forget her! Surely she was a mother in Israel and a light in the Church. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalms 116:15. Glad to know that she is in perfect rest now, free from all pain and suffering.

I realize that her departure is a big loss to your family and to the publishing work. Please let not your heart be trouble and distressed, but be encouraged. We earnestly pray for you. God is able to fill up that big gap. We pray God to give you special comfort and grace at this critical time.

My wife, myself, and our whole family with the ministers and saints of the Church of God in India extend heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the bereaved relatives and friends, and to the Church in America in the Home-going of Sister Marie Miles.

We conducted a one-day gospel crusade at Koot-tarvila last week which was very blessed. We contacted many perishing souls with the gospel of salvation. Follow-up work will be done in those places.

Our monthly meeting in the northern area was at Chalakudy last Saturday. I participated in that meeting and three women were baptized on that day.

It is still raining here constantly.

Let us see each other through the eyes of prayer always.

Yours in Christ,

—John Varghese

DEUTERONOMY 33:27

There's a blessing in each trial,
Even though it sore alarms,
For underneath to cheer and comfort
Are God's Everlasting Arms.

—Edward M. Brandt

NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (August 31)—Dear Brother Pruitt: Greetings in the comforting name of Jesus whose name alone dries tears and heals the wounded in spirit.

I did receive your letter dated Aug. 4., which of a truth threw me out of balance on reading of the passing of Sister Marie Miles. Really? Whoever realized she was so near the crossing when we have been in the strong hope of more years for her in the land of the living? Saints here were thrown

into a sorrowful state to suffer the physical loss of a great author, an inspired writer, a dependable vessel, a painstaking worker, the next best and able director at the Lord's Printshop. . . .

Saints are summoned to pray for volunteers in Zion to come forward. The Faith Publishing House as a servant of the Church requires workers of divine call and qualification—not self-made, but Christ-made. Self-made men are usually not made up of good material, and they can be wrapped in a very small parcel. But those whom the Lord wants and wins are those He is able to fashion to His own pleasure.

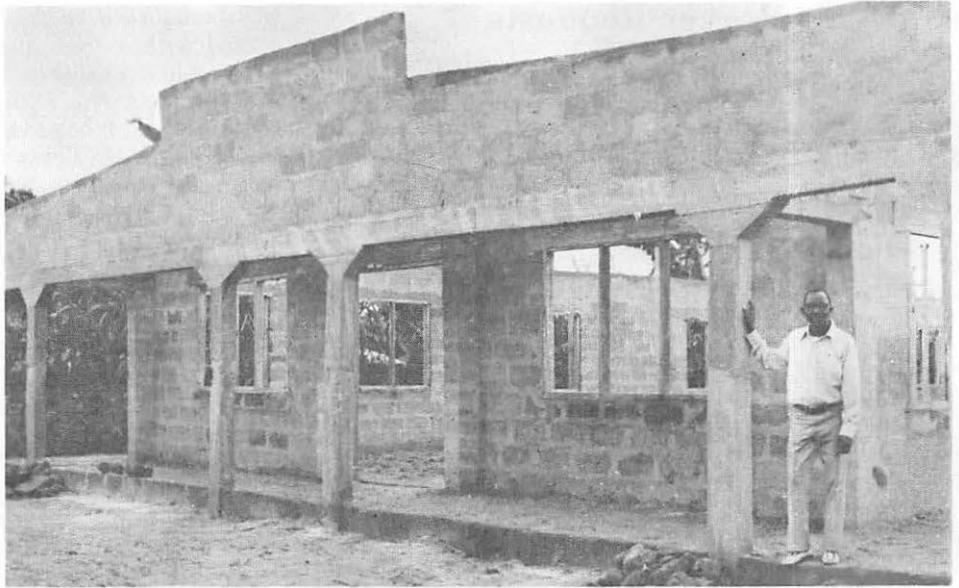
A cablegram message of condolence was sent to you on Aug. 20. But once again we hereby ask the Pruitt and Miles families to accept our heartfelt sympathy. We should humbly submit to God's will in taking her unto Himself. . . .

The new chapel at Port Harcourt was dedicated on July 26, 1981, as scheduled. This writer and four others were in attendance from Kwale. The night preceding the day of dedication was passed at Tombia as arranged by Bro. B. Ben Taylor, the pastor, which refreshed our contact with the Tombia brethren. All of us in a joyous mood moved to Port Harcourt together the next day. The occasion was lively and spirit-filled. Bro. Benson Oparaji and Emmanuel Kalu attended from Owerri, Nigeria.

Ever yours in Christ, —Titus U. E. Enu

FIELD REPORT FROM CHILLIWACK, CANADA

Wash.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and all consecrated workers: Greetings of love in the wonderful name of Jesus! We want to report victory in our souls. We want you to know that we love and appreciate every one of you. It is so sweet to know that God is no respecter of persons. Also, the family of God is the only one true family. We are enjoying the true fel-



Bro. Titus Enu, pastor at Kwale, Nigeria, where this chapel is under construction.

lowship of being born into the Church and kept by the power of God.

The little band here in Chilliwack, Canada, is very much alive, and with steady, united effort we are endeavoring to keep the truth unspotted. It is wonderful to see quite a bit of reception. We have regular services in our chapel which is in Bro. Ron Walter's garage. It is real nice. We have three regular services a week. Then we go out at least once or more a week, usually on Friday night, and have evangelistic services, usually in homes of people who are receptive. We are also trying to get our Sunday school attendance up. Bro. Ron Walter purchased a van for this purpose. . . .

We would like to request prayer for Bro. Don Harns. He is a single man, approximately 40 years old, who is afflicted with what looks to be sugar diabetes. He has a real bad sore on each of his legs just above the ankles. We met him during the Chilliwack campmeeting. . . . He seems to be saved and is trusting completely in God for healing. . . . We ask all of you to pray that he will be healed if God would see fit. It would be such a boost to this new work.

We were just thinking—last year at this time there was no such thing as a congregation in Chilliwack, as the first to really come out didn't take their stand until November, 1980. So keep praying with us for souls. The Lord's work and request is to get this truth to as many precious souls as we can. Also, there are two or three other families that need prayer. . . .

We do sincerely appreciate every letter. When we find a letter in our mail box, it does mean so much. We thank God for His family, and may God bless each one of you.

Bro. Lawrence, we want you to know how much we did appreciate the letter. . . . There are quite a

number of new people that we want to try to get on the mailing list as soon as possible.

Yes, we think of Sis. Marie, her life, and what she meant to so many of us. It's hard to bear, for you who were so close every day. We really miss stopping in off the milk truck, but it wouldn't be the same now. However, we know that we are all working for what she has gained.

We do appreciate all of you who so faithfully are printing the Good News. We are praying the Lord to continue to bless and help.

It has been such a rewarding experience, moving here all by faith. We came ready to accept anything, even the worst, but you know God has taken good care of us. While we haven't done so well on the job, . . . we still count that the least of importance, and feel real sure that the Lord is keeping His hand on things. We would like to see Canada evangelized. Socialism is very strong here, and they accept the Communist party. Time is short for us to work: only God knows how long. We should not forget Cuba and other countries that are going down one by one.

May God bless you, and pray for us.

—Bro. Paul Sorrell and family

4419 Minaker Rd., Sumas, Wash. 98295

From the Mailbox . . .

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and workers: It was with a saddened heart that I read of the passing of our dear Sis. Marie, yet heaven is nearer and dearer with her there. *Psa. 116:15.* . . .

I just passed my 80th milestone. I may not have long to stay here, but God has been so good to me. I want to be faithful to Him and the Cause unto the end.

Yours for souls, contending for the faith that was once delivered to the saints.

In His love, —Sis. Charles Kelse

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Wash.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: My heart is greatly touched about the passing of Sis. Marie Miles. . . . When I came back here from Michigan and told her of my husband's passing away, she was an encouragement to me. She was such an inspiration to me through her letters that she wrote and the pamphlets (tracts) that she sent to me. Her articles were the first that I looked for when the *Faith and Victory* paper would come. When I learned of her passing, my tears flowed, even if I never knew her in person, for the love of God had bound us together. May the Lord comfort the broken hearts that are left behind. I, myself, have passed my 83rd birthday. I pray I'm closer to my Jesus: soon I may be called.

May God bless all of you in the work there.

Yours in Christ Jesus, —Martha Fischer

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Ariz.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle: I can think of no better way to commemorate the Home-going of Sister Marie than to make a contribution to the cause of God, to which she was so

dedicated. Please accept this offering from Daddy and me to be used as you see fit in the gospel of the printed Word.

Yours sincerely,

—Alberta Cook and S. E. Abbott

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Fla.—Dear ones in Christ Jesus: . . . I was so sorry to hear of your loss by the passing of Sister Miles. I only knew her by her letters and by reading the *Faith and Victory* paper.

I feel sorry, too, for your afflicted body, and am really concerned about the paper when it will be God's will to call you Home. Will it be always the high standard of truth as it is today? God forbid it will ever change to a lower standard.

May God be with you. —Sis. George Rouse

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Tex.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: I received your letter and was so sorry to hear about Sis. Marie. It hurt me so very deeply when I read your letter saying God had taken her. I felt like part of my world had died. I had written to Sister Marie for almost four years, and she always answered my letters. This was such a blessing to me. I felt that she was truly a child of God and was in hopes of meeting her on this earth some day. I felt like she was a person that I could always talk to and ask for prayer, and that she wouldn't forget me. I still have her home phone number in my billfold. It seems like there is a vacant place in my heart and life since I found out that she is gone, although I know that God always knows best.

I pray that God will bless all of you, and that He will give you strength and health to carry on the work there. I know she is missed so much by all of you. . . .

Please remember us in your prayers.

Christian love,

—Louise Strickland

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Miss.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: The *Faith and Victory* monthly paper has been a welcome visitor in my home for quite a few years. I have been inspired many times by the messages I read, and naturally I always looked for Sis. Marie's encouraging notes among the first. I was saddened to read of her passing, but I feel our loss is heaven's gain.

I am not well in body, and sincerely desire the prayers of all the workers there that God will take care of my needs. . . .

May God continue to bless you and all the workers there.

Yours in the service of the Lord,

—Sis. Olen Williamson

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Ore.—Greetings to all the saints everywhere: It has been a long time since I have written through the paper.

First, I want to say I love the Lord with all my heart and want to do His will in all things.

I am going to take my sister, Mrs. Helen G. Haven, into my home in Dallas, Ore., on the 27th of

Sept. to care for her. We need your prayers for her, and for myself also to be able to accomplish this big undertaking. Her children and I feel she isn't getting the proper care in the nursing home where she now is; so with God's help I am going to take her and do the best I can to take care of her.

Pray for her and us, as we do for all the afflicted saints everywhere. . . .

Yours in His service, —Mrs. Clyde W. Bethell

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Ohio—Dear saints: I want to testify of a marvelous and glorious healing of my body. Last November, I was suddenly stricken with a strange affliction. I didn't go for a diagnosis, but gave my case entirely to my Lord. Since having had a stroke in my face two years ago, (God healed me) I guessed this affliction to have been a stroke also because of the sudden way it happened. There was no pain at the time it happened. This time it was my right ear, which suddenly plugged up with a faint ringing sound. It was as though a plug had softly been shot into the ear. At the same time, it left a feeling in the left side of my head as though something had been suddenly taken away. I felt out of balance and, oh, so strange!

This was the beginning of an eight month battle with the most torturous affliction I had ever witnessed. I already had a sinus condition and a bronchial cough. The duration of the latter affliction also developed into other complications. The Lord was good to me through the whole affliction. In answer to prayer, He would give to me divine touches and periods of rest. I never had to be in bed, nor have my meals brought up, until about three weeks before my healing. When my condition got worse, then the Lord came in and bade the devil to take his hands off. After eight months of being tested and tried, the Lord never gave me any witness that He was going to take me. I reached the conclusion that it was time to move out on the healing promises. I had already told the devil that no matter what happened I would continue to believe God. I got up from the bed, dressed myself, and said to the Lord: "Lord, you know I would never make an effort like this if I didn't believe you were pleased with it. My full trust is that You will see me safely down these steps." (I was not supposed to be on the stairs.) The devil whispered, "You're going to fall", but I felt the power of God backing my move, so there was no stopping me. I went down the steps, made my own lunch, and went to the dining room and ate. No one questioned my move, but were glad I trusted God. That was the last of the deafness, bronchial cough, and that affliction. He also had healed me of the other complications that developed with this affliction. Praise the Lord! God is still in the healing business. He has also healed me of rheumatoid arthritis and many other ailments. He has also healed one of my daughters of a goiter and

another daughter of cancer of the thyroid. I am seventy-six years of age. I mean eternal trueness to Him. He can do without us, but we need Him every moment. I need the prayers of the righteous.

—Sis. Helen Thomas

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Okla.—Dear ones: Greetings of Christian love to all in the precious name of our Redeemer and Healer, Jesus Christ.

Recently, my back had been bothering me somewhat for about five days, then, as I got up out of a kitchen chair, it struck me severely. Every fraction of an inch I would move brought forth cries of pain. I called some saints for prayer, but by the next morning, it was worse. The saints stayed with me around the clock for a week. All were so good, loving, and patient to do anything for my comfort, also to pray many times.

The second evening it took Sis. Fern Stubblefield and me thirty minutes to get me to a sitting position on the divan. Other than my fall out of the pickup in Mexico, fifteen years ago, my back hasn't been this bad since my husband fell dead 27 years ago. At that time, I was on crutches. I couldn't walk at all without help.

The third day the Lord gave me, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," (Rev. 2:10) and the song, "A Crown Over There" (Evening Light Songs 363). I held on to that promise. I continued trusting the Lord fully and He brought me out. Praise His precious name! I want to be faithful to Him unto the end. Please pray for me.

I want to thank each and every one who put forth any effort in my behalf, laboring, praying calling, giving of yourself, your flowers, food, and offerings. I know the Lord will not forget to reward you for your labor of love.

Christian love, —Sis. Opal Kelly

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

Okla.—On June 1, 1981, around 8:30 in the evening, there was a prayer meeting started at our house. Several were called in, as Wife had taken suddenly very ill, and it looked like the Lord was calling for her. She got very cold with cold sweats all over her. She turned blue and never knew anything. It looked like death was very near. The children and several of the saints were called in. All night we prayed and asked God for her life. I was holding on to her, but finally decided the Lord wanted her, so I submitted for Him to have His way. For about seven days she lay not knowing anyone. Sister Margaret Eck was called. She came right away and stayed in the battle with us for three days. We would get victory over one battle and the devil would give us another one. We now had some hope as we were getting a little food and water to stay with her, but she was having nervous chills, could hardly breathe, and she'd lost twenty pounds.

One night in July, we called Bro. Orie Young to come over. We anointed and prayed for her. That

night she slept the rest of the night, and she claimed the victory. Even then the enemy kept coming back, and sometimes it looked like she still wouldn't make it, but we held on to the victory we got that night.

It was two long months before she could eat normally. Now she is up and going to church services, is able to cook some for me, and does a little around the house. She sleeps good most of the time. No one knows but the Lord what it was as we never had a doctor. The children took turns coming to help out and keep me encouraged in the long battle.

As we close this letter we will be on our way to Calif., and want to thank the Lord for all He has done for my wife, and thank the saints for their prayers.

—Bro. Leonard Roberts

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

Okla.—Dear readers of the *Faith and Victory* paper: Greetings to one and all.

This lovely Oklahoma morning finds me still pressing on in the strait and narrow way. I do not find it broadening out on any line of truth for me or anyone else. It is still very strait, and unless we measure our lives to it, we will just be cast out with those on the left side.

Though still afflicted in my body, I am not discouraged, but pressing on. This climb of faith is a 24-hour job, and I truly do not want to give any place to the enemy of my soul.

Time is swiftly passing. Souls are putting off salvation which is the most important thing of their lives. You ask them, "Do you intend to be saved?" "Oh, yes," some say. But when? Death is taking them at all ages.

Oh, I'm so glad I came to Jesus whole-heartedly at a very young age. By so doing, the results have been a wonderful, happy life. One thing is that I've been satisfied with the Bible way. It is not too strict or too strait for me. I find that if our hearts are in tune with heaven, it is a privilege and a pleasure to measure to the Word of God, and seek to be an example on all lines.

Our hearts were so saddened at the loss of our dear Sis. Marie Miles, as I've known her and her parents' family sixty years or more. But she has met her first appointment. We have ours yet to meet. I feel sure she was ready, but how will it be with us? It may be later than we think!

I desire the earnest prayers of God's people for complete healing to my body.

In the Master's service,

—Sis. Evelyn (Gibson) McCoy

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

Kans.—Dear workers at the Print Shop and all the readers of the *Faith and Victory*: We thank God for His love today. So glad we are one of the sheep of His pasture.

We are glad Sis. Marie didn't have to linger into a long period of suffering. We are sure she would have been faithful if called to do so. No doubt God saw it to be enough and took her Home. What a

"Homecoming" with all those who have gone on before!

We missed going to the Monark Springs, Mo., campmeeting. Going to Monark is like coming home. I am sure Sis. Marie missed it, too, but she got to go to the greatest campmeeting of all. By and by we all can go, too, if we are faithful.

We want to thank the saints for their prayers and acts of love and kindness to us in our long period of affliction. Many times we have been sustained through most difficult situations. We have keenly felt the support and power of prayer from God's children. We don't have words to express our gratitude. The more we think of heaven the lighter our afflictions become. For every battle there is a victory. We aren't afraid of the battle, because we know victory will come.

Keep me on your prayer list, and we are praying for you. May all your needs and desires be filled.

Our love,

—Lavina Martens

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

Okla.—Dear saints: I feel impressed to tell how God answered prayer. About seven years ago, I lost my children through the court. I will not say much, except to say it was an indescribable, heart-rending tragedy, as only one who has gone through it knows.

About three years ago, I was driving through Oregon when I saw a beautiful rainbow arching over the road just ahead. It was so close and vivid. I saw another and another, until I saw seven rainbows. I said, "Lord, what does this mean?" Then He showed me that was His promise. He said, "You will get your children after you have suffered seven years." When seven years were up, I had both of my daughters in my custody. Oh, the magnificent mercies and unsearchable riches of God! In August of this year I received permanent custody of my younger daughter.

Pray earnestly for the salvation of their mother; also, we need much prayer and wisdom.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the saints who have prayed and fasted with me in this long battle. We love all of you dear saints, and are limited for a while from going out in meetings. Our first duty is at home.

We should tell what God does. The devil is busy telling what God is not doing (his version, anyway).

My phone number is (405)282-3611.

Christian love,

—Tom Melot

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

Calif.—Dear saints of the Most High God in every nation: All reverence, honor, glory, majesty, and power be to God! Let His name be exalted for His matchless love, mercy, and truth that endureth to all generations! For His divine plan of redemption is not a myth, but a living reality! For a sure and firm foundation is laid for our faith in His Son Jesus, the first fruit of the resurrection! O, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of

God! (Rom. 11:33). Praise Him, all ye saints, called according to his purpose, set for the defense of His precious gospel in these last days, for ye are the lights of the world. Be much encouraged and rejoice ever more 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.

I fellowship with you in thanking and praising God for how He tenderly cares for us and how He supplies our every need, for He is our Shepherd and we shall not want! The Lord gave me some work to do. I had some money that had been entrusted to my care. I lost my wallet. I lost it in a place where many people pass to and fro each day. It was lost for a few days; however, when it was returned to the office and I went and picked it up, none of its contents had been removed. All of my I. D. cards and money were safely inside. Praise God! Nothing is too hard for Him!

One morning I woke up with an infected place on my back. I prayed and asked the Lord if He would lance it and flush the infection out of my system and heal me. Glory to God, He did it all! Nothing is impossible with God, who forgiveth all our iniquities; who healeth all our diseases. (Psa. 103:3) I was able to continue with my duties each day. Oh, how I thank and praise Him for His healing power and mercy extended to me! "Yes, He healed in Galilee, set the suffering captives free, and He's just the same today!" All the power in earth and heaven is in His majestic name. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." (Psa. 34:19).

Pray for me that I will prove faithful and glorify Him in all things.

Yours in His service, —Melina Viser

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear ones: Greetings to each of the household of faith. We thank the Lord for salvation and for His many blessings to us.

I want to thank each and every one for their prayers, phone calls, cards, and love offerings that were sent to me after I was in the car accident on May 31, at Shawnee, Okla. Above everything, I want to give thanks and praise to our God who looked down with His mercy. I did suffer much, but the Lord is so good to His trusting children. He knows just how much we can suffer. Praise God! I want to praise His name, the name given by His Father: Mary and Joseph had no choice in the selecting of His name. He has many names. Praise God! He is the "Shiloh" in Genesis, the "I Am" in Exodus, the "Star and Scepter" in Numbers, the "Rock" in Deut., the "Captain of the Lord's host" in Joshua, David's "Lord and Shepherd, Strength, and Song", Solomon's "Beloved", Isaiah's "Counselor, Prince of Peace", Jeremiah's "Lord, our Righteousness", the "Messiah" in Daniel, the "Branch" in Zechariah, and the "Desire of all Nations" in Haggai. He is the only Name through whom we can pray to God. The Father is glorified in the Son

when we pray in "His name." Acts. 4:12, "... there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Our praise and thanksgiving are to our God and to all the saints. I pray the Lord to heal His children that are in a battle of affliction. I surely want to thank Him for every trial that has made me stronger in Him. So many prayers have been answered, and, oh, I have received so many blessings from the Lord. Oh, how I thank Him! Please continue to pray that I will get the lesson He wants me to get out of all these things.

—Verlene Williams

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Ohio—To the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings! I thank the Lord how He led me out of sectism. It truly is a place of confusion. When I got saved, I was in sectism. At first I enjoyed myself, but when the battles came, I got confused and felt like no one cared for my soul. I soon started seeking another place of worship.

I came in contact with a Sister of the Evening Light Church of God here in Sandusky. She invited me to services. After attending the service, I knew I had found the truth. In my justified state, I soon realized I needed more power to defeat the enemy, because the battle was getting hotter. Satan did all in his power to destroy me, but I had a hungering in my soul for victory. So on April 4, 1981, I went to the altar and the Lord blessed my soul. Then all I could see was a bright light. While I was praying, suddenly the Lord flooded my soul with sanctification. I jumped up and began praising the Lord. I couldn't stop praising Him, so again I fell on my knees, and this time I felt light as a feather. Satan came and tried to make me doubt, but I kept resisting him. The victory is mine and the enemy is still being defeated. Pray for me.

Your Sister in Christ, —Sis. Diane Jackson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt, co-workers, and all saints scattered abroad: This testimony comes to you in the precious name of Jesus, trusting it to be a blessing to every reader.

About the middle of May this year, I took very sick with what I believed to be one of the "flu's." When I started to feel bad I isolated myself in my apartment, not contacting anyone, so as to keep from exposing others to the germ. After staying in for about four days I began to feel better, but what I had settled in my right ear first, then went over into my left ear. It wasn't like an ordinary deafness from a cold in the head. When I would eat or drink it seemed like my mouth was full of gravel, and I could only hear faintly. It was a frightening feeling.

I decided to go to the Guthrie campmeeting. I went and stayed in the dormitory for most of the ten days the meeting was in progress. As I talked to one of the ministers about my condition, he said that God and my faith alone in Him would bring

me out of the affliction. God was taking me through a trial of faith. Then God gave me the wonderful portion of His Word found in 1 Peter 5:6-10: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

God also gave me the song, "Press the Battle On." The words, "forward, forward," were especially impressed upon my mind and heart. Surely I was in a hard place, but I had no thought of going back. I could not stand still and do nothing with the affliction I had. I had to go forward. My faith took the Scripture and the song in. This was a great lesson of faith to me. I knew that with humility of heart, committing my case into God's hands, resisting the devil, and with steadfast faith, the victory would be mine.

I was anointed and prayed for at the meeting, and the test of faith was on. As I went forward by faith, I was progressively healed. I was in a great conflict in my body even up to two nights before I was to leave for the Jefferson, Oregon, and Chilliwack, Canada, meetings. I told the Lord that if I could not feel better than I did, there would be no need for me to go to the meetings, because I could not contribute anything to the meetings. Then God did a wonderful thing. He touched my body. The day before I was to leave here, I began to be my own natural self again. My ears are healed today, and I do thank God for doing the work, for the lessons of faith, and for a greater compassion in my heart for others who are in great afflictions.

I will soon be applying for a visa to enter India again. I have already contacted the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, and have been given the assurance of receiving a tourist visa for three months. I desire the prayers of the saints everywhere that God will work everything out according to His will.

Yours in His service, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser

Spiritual Exercise

Exercise is the practical use of the graces God has given us. The apostle says, "Exercise thyself rather unto godliness." God says, "I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness." We will become more godly only as we exercise ourselves unto godliness. Any muscle of our physical body not used will weaken. The same is true of the spiritual man. Any grace not used will weaken, and the weakening of one grace weakens the entire spiritual man. When we are strong in every grace then are we strong in the Lord. We are commanded to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. This we cannot be unless we properly exercise every grace. The exercise of every grace is exercising unto godliness. —C. E. Orr

God Loved Her, too (In Memory of Marie Miles)

"Hello, Honey," said a weak voice over the telephone. "I just wanted to hear your sweet voice again. I haven't heard from you for a little while."

Instantly my throat choked up and my voice trembled. "How are you doing, Grandma?" I asked.

"Well, not too well, I guess. I'm still weak—and I still suffer most of the time."

"Grandma, we are praying for you."

"You do that, Honey, you keep praying. It's only the saints' prayers that have brought me through this far. By the grace of God and through the prayers of the saints, I plan on being healed. We are serving a great, merciful God."

Our conversation wasn't very long that summer afternoon in June, as Grandma's strength didn't permit her to talk too long. I could hardly keep from crying, but I tried to be cheerful for Grandma's sake, as she was lonesome: crying certainly wouldn't cheer her.

However, after we hung up the telephone, I went to the couch and knelt there sobbing and praying to the Lord for Grandma's healing. "Lord, why does Grandma have to suffer so? Why?" I sobbed and prayed until a sweet calmness came over me, and then the Lord spoke so gently to me. "Connie, don't pray for her healing; pray for her deliverance."

Then I was crying again, but this time for a different reason. I didn't see how I would make it without Grandma should she leave us. She had always been there when I needed her to talk with and be with. I had never known a day without Grandma! Many questions came to my mind, but the Lord is a great Comforter. He constantly put a song in my heart or dropped a Scripture in my mind to answer every question of anxiety that I had.

James 4:14, says, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." We do not understand the Lord's ways because He is a great God. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Isa. 55:8. It is not for us to question "Why?" or "How come?" when we know it is the work of God, the will of God. "... as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Heb. 9:27.

We shouldn't ask the Lord where Heaven is so much as we should ask, "How do we get there?" "Enter ye in at the strait gate, for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat; because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." Matt. 7:13,14.

Finally, the Scripture I cling to often would come to mind, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." Rom. 8:28. Truly I love God.

"Lord," I would pray, "help me to be strong in every test that comes my way, for surely, I do not know what shall be on the morrow."

Days went by. Sometimes Grandma felt better and sometimes she felt worse. Grandma was so weak and tired. Nearly every time I talked to her or was with her, she would seem a little weaker. Toward the last two months or so, Grandma would often sit in her recliner with her head back, eyes shut, an arm on each arm of the chair, and she rested—too weak to hardly talk. That was so different from the way Grandma usually was. How our hearts ached to make her feel better! Her suffering touched the heart of God also. Although her suffering was great at times, she never wavered from her faith in God, for she pleased God and diligently sought Him herself. Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

I remember a text of Scripture Grandma used for a message she preached a few short years ago. It is in Philippians 1:21-24, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: nevertheless, to abide in the flesh is more needful for you." Every time I wanted to plead for Grandma's healing, I felt a silence coming over me that I could not break. Now I know that to have talked with Grandma about it may have made it harder for her to bear "the valley of the shadow of death."

On Tuesday I called and talked to Grandma on the telephone. Anxiously I asked, "Grandma, how are you doing?" Always before, she would make some comment that "the Lord will see me through," but this morning she said, "It's all in the hands of the Lord, what He wants to do with me . . ." then she stopped. We both listened to the silence on the telephone.

On Wednesday I just knew I had to see Grandma. With three babies, I didn't get to see her nearly as often as I desired, but my thoughts were often with her. Around noon on Wednesday, I engaged someone to watch the babies while I went over with Mother and Daddy. Sis. Sylvia Busbee met us at the door to tell us Grandma had made a change for the worse. It was with heavy hearts we saw her lying there, suffering on her bed; however, in her last hour the Lord had compassion on her and relieved her suffering some, although she was still conscious. As I clasped her soft, weak hand, I was so thankful I had come, as it was the last I would feel her hand warm. I talked with her. I told her I loved her, and she replied that she loved me.

Grandma just fell asleep in Jesus. Although my eyes were flowing with tears, my throat tight, and my hands trembling, I knew up in Heaven Grandma was seeing Jesus for the first time. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psa.

116:15. Grandma's death seemed so sudden in her busy life, and it is hard to believe the fact of our separation. Some day I plan to meet her again when I see Jesus myself. It won't be long, as life is but a vapor, a handbreath. (Psa. 39:5) Now I must study to show myself approved unto God (2 Tim. 2:15), therefore, redeeming my time wisely. (Col. 4:5) "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Heb. 12:1.

Yes, we cry. It is healthy to cry, but let it be only for a season, as the way of a Christian is happy and we must pray the Lord to put a song in our hearts when our sorrow seems too heavy to bear. The Lord understands our sorrow, for Jesus, Himself, wept while here on earth. He is a great Comforter. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5.

As long as we stay near the Lord, He will help us keep that peace within our hearts. We must learn to say with the Psalmist, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Not only let us say it with our lips, but with our hearts let us know this. Only then will we be able to see the love of God, the wisdom of God, the way of God, and be happy in it.

—Sis. Connie (Miles) Sorrell

Contented in the Grace of God

Hearts are seeking worldly pleasure
Over all the earth today;
Looking for some hidden treasure
That will cheer them on life's way;
But the masses search quite vainly,
Never finding joy of soul.
Though the Saviour told them plainly
In His kingdom first enroll.

I'm contented—Praise the Master—
In His loving, tender care;
And He keeps me from disaster
As I look to Him in prayer.

O how good and how uplifting
Just to know that we are saved
From the worldly way of drifting
And the sins that once enslaved;
And that Jesus, in His sweetness,
Fills the longing of our heart,
And in Him we find completeness
That the world can ne'er impart!

I'm contented, well contented,
In God's wondrous love and grace,
For I know that I've repented
Of the sins I used to face,
And my Saviour now is blessing
In my heart-life all the time,
And there's nothing that's distressing
As I walk life's way sublime.

—Selected by Earl B. Bliss

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