

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Thy Will Be Done!



When Jesus in Gethsemane
Besought His God for victory,
He whispered there, God's holy Son,
This earnest pray'r: "Thy Will be done!"

He knew the death He had to die,
The suff'ring that was drawing nigh,
Part of the race He had to run:
And still He said, "Thy Will be done!"

Think what it meant for Him to be
Submissive to His God's decree!
Think what a battle to be won
By Him to say: "Thy Will be done!"

For He was meant to surely be
A sacrifice for you and me;
His blood to atone for ev'ryone:
That's why He said, "Thy Will be done!"

Although the flesh was drawing back,
He faltered not nor was He slack;
He went ahead and fainted none,
And said in faith, "Thy Will be done!"

Oh, what a pattern for today
For us who tread the narrow way,
Our mortal fleshly self to stun,
And say to God, "Thy Will be done!"

'Tis not the pride and empty boast
Of armies in the angered host
That gains the vict'ry to be won,
But grace to say, "Thy Will be done!"

For sin has ruined the human race,
And driv'n them from their resting place,
And pride obscures the lowly One
Who said to pray, "Thy Will be done!"

Bow down thy selfish stubborn head,
And take the cross of Christ instead:
Oh, find the joy of Heaven's Son,
And say, like Him, "Thy Will be done!"

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Power of Faith



Faith in God does not always work according to the human reason, but sees the mighty God able to accomplish all that is needed to be accomplished.

Let us look at Elijah before the prophets of Baal. He made the altar and laid the sacrifice in order, then drenched all thoroughly with water. Faith could see all consumed; the water did not daunt the faith of Elijah. God had fire enough not only to burn the sacrifice, but also the wood, stones, and even the water. This showed the power of God, and demonstrated that He was the God of the fire, water, and rain. Elijah saw it was just as easy for God to withhold the rain as to send it.

If we regard God's power and might as well as His willingness to do and give, we would not be so likely to limit Him so often and in so many things. Neither would we measure Him by our human reasoning and ideas. Faith, like Elijah, sees the rain before it falls. The little cloud meant an abundance of rain. The handful of meal meant a year's rations for three. Starvation never stared Elijah in the face while there was a God of heaven.

We see this same faith demonstrated in Elisha, another prophet of God. He foresaw a great blessing, and when Elijah tried in vain to get away from him, no doubt to test his faith and loyalty, he persistently declined to be separated from him. In this his faith was rewarded, and he received the coveted blessing which helped to make the wonderful man of God he afterwards proved to be. He stood in the test and was rewarded. We see him go forth in the faith, and nothing was impossible to him. Later we see three kings making an inquiry of him. They are about to enter into battle, but have no water for themselves nor for their beasts. In this predicament they seek the prophet and tell him their distress. He commands them "to make the valley full of ditches, and it shall be filled with water, that ye may drink, both ye and your cattle and your beasts." And with confidence and faith he continues, "This is but a light thing in the sight of the Lord." We see it demonstrated—*"And the country was filled with water,"* which

became a blessing to them but a curse to their enemies.

A woman comes to him seeking his help in her indebtedness. Elisha asks her what she has in the house and she answers, "Nothing save a pot of oil." He says, "Go borrow thee vessels: borrow not a few." We see in this again the greatness of his faith. He was not afraid the oil would be exhausted. Get all the vessels you can; faith is expansive, it takes in *all* the needs, no matter how great. Faith also has its effects. Look at the woman as she poured the oil. Her faith grew as the vessels filled, and it had grown to such proportions by the time the vessels were all full that she called for more vessels. She only desired to have the debt paid, but faith reached beyond the debt, even to future needs, and we see how amply it was rewarded. 2 Kings 4:6. A great miracle was as easy for Elisha to perform as a smaller one.

We are impressed with his conduct at Dothan. When the great Syrian army came against him and entirely compassed the city where he was, Elisha's servant cried in dismay, "Alas! my master, how shall we do?" Composedly and with assurance, he answers, "Fear not, for they that be with us are *more* than they that be with them." "And Elisha prayed, Lord, open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and behold the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." Elisha saw the host of Syrians, but he also saw a greater host, and the greater host had power over the lesser host and he saw them subdued. He had proven God time and again and found Him to be a God of love and power, and he knew He would not forsake him in this battle. The whole Syrian army was conquered through kindness.

Faith looks away from seeming impossibilities and cries, "It shall be done." Surroundings cannot affect faith. It calls the things that are not as though they were. The promise is equal to the thing itself. Faith satisfies and is satisfied in God. There is no reaching out for things that are a hindrance to its soaring. The person of faith lives within the radius of "thus saith the Lord," perfectly satisfied with the dealings of faith and the things faith brings. Faith is not a striving and reaching for things beyond our reach, but simply seeing the very needed blessing within easy reach. We may all have this kind of faith, for it is only believing God and acting accordingly.

"The gift of faith no limit knows
Save God's unbounded Word,
It triumphs o'er its giant foes
And glorifies the blessed Lord."

—Jennie M. Byers

How do we know we're whiter than snow?
We've been born again, free from all sin,
And dear Jesus is dwelling within.
That's how we know we're whiter than snow.

—Effie Miller

Have We Lost Our Vision?

When we think of the "Church," of what do we feel it consists and what is its function? Sometimes I'm afraid our vision has so dwindled that all we see are the ones whom we personally know and associate with in the truth. The Church is *ALL* saved people who have been made pure by Christ's blood, regardless of the understanding they have. It is true that Christ designed that his people be of such oneness that as they receive light and understanding they will form a visible body of believers. As a part of His visible body, what is God's will for the Church in the United States? I wonder sometimes if we feel that the function of the Church is just merely to meet together on Sundays, Wednesdays, and at a few campmeetings during the year and try to weed out the ones we feel are falling short of the standards we hold.

The great commission that Jesus gave to the Church was, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) If we are the Church (of which I feel assured we are a part), we should have more missionaries on foreign fields today proclaiming freedom to the heathen and deceived. Where are the missionaries? How many can you name that have left their homeland to spread the gospel on a foreign field?

What about home missions? The streets and ghettos are crawling with derelicts who find escape from their miserable world in a bottle or through crime. How many missions do we know of among the saints here in the United States that are reaching out to help these rejects of society? When Jesus ate with a group of sinners who were outcasts according to the religious world, His reply to the reproofs of the religious people was, "They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Are we concerned about the welfare of the fallen?

Where are the orphanages and homes for unloved and abandoned children? Our hearts weep at the pitiful condition of unwanted children who are pushed about here and there, never knowing what love and security mean. James said, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows . . ." Does God not have someone that He wants to use to bring in rejected children and give them love and train them in the ways of God?

In the 25th chapter of Matthew, Jesus spoke of those who would be cast into hell because they failed to minister unto the sick, the starving, the oppressed, and the poor. Could we be guilty of such neglect?

We fast and pray for the Lord to work mightily among us, but we need to consider just what God is looking for when we fast. In Isa. 58, God talked to Israel about their fasting. He told them what kind of fast was acceptable before Him and what kind was

not. Israel was daily seeking God and holding to God's ordinances, but they were missing out on the true will of God. God told them: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him: . . . Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am."

We see missionaries both at home and abroad, orphanages, homes for wayward teens, and other efforts being directed and supported by various denominations. Are these denominations doing work that God desires His Church to do? Then why is the Church not performing these functions? Is our vision growing so dim that we cannot see needs beyond the intimate circle of the saints? God help us to get a vision of the Church and the duties that God designed it to carry out. Let us stir up our pure minds to action by looking at the needs of the countless souls in the world and realizing that administering to these needs is the duty of the Church. —Sandra Whitson

Obedience

Obedience to the precious Word of God is the only thing that will bring peace to the mind and rest to the soul. Only those who live in perfect obedience to the will of God, have true heart-satisfaction. In Matt. 4:4, we read, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." If we are obedient to all His commandments we shall surely live. In Jer. 7:23, we read, "Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you." Through all ages, God has required perfect obedience to all His commands. One act of disobedience on the part of our forefathers in the Garden brought the disapproval of God upon them.

Saul did not obey the voice of the Lord, and the Lord was so grieved that He repented even of having made him king. The Lord told Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites and all that they had; but Saul spared the king and the best of the sheep and oxen. He not only disobeyed the Lord, but when Samuel questioned him concerning the sheep and oxen, he tried to hide his sin by blaming someone else. He said, "The people spared them." Saul had slain part, but not all. God took no notice of Saul's partial obedience; He took notice only that the obedience was not complete. Today there are many dear souls just like Saul. They are willing to obey part of the commands of the Lord, but not all. James says, "If we offend in one point, we are guilty of all." It behooves us, therefore, to give heed to all the words of the Lord.

We sometimes find even those who profess to be followers of the Lord, who are not careful to obey

the Bible. They feel that certain portions of the Scripture are non-essential. Like Saul, they say they love and obey the Lord, but they have not slain all the sheep and oxen; and the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen come up before the Lord and His people, and their sin is made known. It pays to conform our lives to the full Bible standard, then we can say from the heart, "I have kept the commands of the Lord." Then His rich graces will flood the soul and His blessings will rest upon us.

There are many precious promises in the Word of God, but they are for those who obey Him. In Isa. 1:19, 20, we find these words, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Here we clearly see that the blessings of the Lord fall upon the obedient heart. And God requires not only obedience, but also it must be a willing obedience. Some people obey the Lord just because they know that if they do not they will be punished. This is not pleasing to the Lord. He wants our hearts so in harmony with His will that we can at all times render unto Him willing service.

God wants us not only to conform our lives to His Word, but He also wants us to perform willingly every duty that He puts upon us. At times, He may lay some duty upon us that seems hard, something we would naturally shrink from. We may obey Him simply because we know He requires it of us, but this grieves Him. Unless our service has been willing, we miss the blessing. God wants us to have our wills so given over to Him, and our hearts so submitted to His will, that even the hardest duties will be gladly performed for Jesus' sake. As we move out in obedience to His voice, He will give us the grace that we need. A sweet consciousness that He is satisfied with us will fill our souls. Many are not enjoying all the Lord has for them, because they are not as careful as they should be in obeying Him in everything.

It takes but a small thing to grieve the Spirit of the Lord, and thus cause us to miss the rich blessing He has desired to pour out upon us. Let us be careful in our daily walk before Him, render unto Him perfect obedience—willing heart-service—and we shall then eat of the good things He has prepared for those who love and obey Him.

—E. Faith Stewart

Exercise

Exercise is absolutely necessary to health, either in the physical or spiritual man. We need good ventilation and we need to breathe properly, but these without exercise would not be of much profit. Ventilation, spiritually speaking, is keeping the heart open to God. Jesus comes and knocks at the sinner's heart, but the Christian's heart door should be always open to Him so He need not even knock. Then spiritual breathing is the panting after God. We must not only open our heart toward God but we must also invite Him in. —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 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



THE NEW YEAR OF 1982 is swiftly bearing us over the waves of time—the stream which will soon reach eternity's shore.

With the dawn of this new year comes the continuing responsibility of God's people to live holy, clean lives in this wonderful world which God created for the benefit of mankind. The chief purpose for which God created man and placed him in this world was to bring glory and honor to the Creator. When men and women live only for themselves and for the material side of life, to consume it upon their lusts, they are failing in the purpose for which they were created. Oh, how many millions of souls come to the end of their lives in this world and have never submitted or yielded to the Lord for God's purpose to be fulfilled in their lives! They do not honor and glorify God even though He lavishes His blessings upon them without number. They have lived for the devil, the enemy of all righteousness, and the wages of sin is eternal death. How sad!

Jesus gives the all-important advice to the person starting life in this world with these words: "But seek ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [necessities of life] will be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. How many times the young person ignores and rejects this vital admonition and chooses the way of self-gratification and the subsequent defeat of their soul's need!

There is a cost of being Christ's disciple, but the final benefits far outweigh the costs. Jesus set down the uniform requirement for one to be His disciple when He said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his holy angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." Matt. 16:24, 25, 27. The real practice of self-denial for Jesus' sake is not very common, and to those who will not go all the way on this point the end result is the eternal loss of their souls. The Lord wants your whole heart and life, or none. He will not accept divided affection. Let us go all the way with our precious Saviour who went all the way for us.

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The 75th annual Oklahoma Assembly meeting, held here at Guthrie from Dec. 25, 1981 to Jan. 3, 1982, closed with victory and a large attendance. The Word was preached with divine anointing, sending conviction to the unsaved and edifying the spiritual Body of Christ. Souls were saved and baptized.

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Best Wishes for Newly Weds . . .

May God grant a long and happy life together in the service of the Lord to Ricky Herron and Julie Montgomery who were united in holy matrimony in

Guthrie, Okla., on Jan. 1, 1982. Julie is from the Guthrie congregation. They are establishing their home at Warrior, Ala.

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Sister Mary Worley of Fresno, Calif., will be 102 years old on Feb. 10, 1982, if the Lord extends her time until that date. Over the years she has sent many gift subscriptions to this paper. Sister Worley is the sister of the late J. E. Forrest who was a pioneer minister in the Church of God.

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Just off the press is a reprint of the excellent booklet, "Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories" by Isabel Byrum. Consisting of 32 pages, the price is 35c each, or three copies for \$1.00, plus 65c for postage and handling on three copies.

In the process of production is a reprint of the excellent out-of-print volume, "Heart Talks" by C. W. Naylor. Bound in a heavy paper cover, the book consists of 280 pages, which we expect to have completed by the end of February.

Other books are scheduled for printing as soon as possible.

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Bound Volumes of 1981 Papers Available . . .

Bound volumes of the eleven issues of the Faith and Victory papers for 1981 are now available at \$1.00 each, plus 65c for postage and handling. Also ready at this time are the 1981 Beautiful Way books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 65c for postage and handling. Send your orders TODAY!

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1982 Scripture Wall Calendar REDUCED . . .

This 1982 Wall Calendar with beautiful nature scenes in color is drastically reduced for quick clearance. While they last, you can have a calendar post-paid to you for \$1.25.

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Still Need More 1982 Campmeeting Dates . . .

Many of our readers would like to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings for the year of 1982 so they can pre-arrange their vacations to attend these meetings. Those who have this information, please send in the campmeeting dates by Feb. 15, 1982, so we can publish the entire list in the coming March issue.

The dates of the next National Campmeeting at Neosho (Monark Springs), Missouri, are set for July 23 to August 1, 1982. Watch for other coming campmeeting dates in the March issue.

The next Oklahoma State campmeeting to be held here at Guthrie, Okla., is scheduled for May 28 to June 6, 1982, Lord willing.

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An Urgent Call For Special Prayer on Feb. 10 . . .

On account of the worsening of this affliction, this writer was able to attend only a very few of the services of the recent Guthrie Assembly. The drainage from the cancer on the left side of my face

makes it embarrassing to be in the public. Then since the first of the year, I have suffered several severe hemorrhages which have left me very weak and anemic. Thank the Lord that He yet gives me strength to be at the office work a few hours each day up to this date—Jan. 25th.

This writer is at a critical point physically and calling for special prayer of the Church everywhere for a definite victory—either to be healed completely, or for the Lord to take me to Himself. Over the years I have trusted God and held on for my healing, and the Lord has wonderfully extended time and strength, but now it seems I am at a turning point, which means victory either way. My all is dedicated to the Lord, and I want His will to be done in my life, either by life or by death. God's way is best for me. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." 2 Cor. 5:1. Praise God for this blessed hope of the righteous!

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Finished Fifty-Nine Years of Publication . . .

This February issue marks the completion of 59 years of publishing this "Faith and Victory" paper which was begun here at Guthrie, Okla., in the year of 1923. All praise to the Lord whose hand has been over this monthly journal as a servant of the Church and to spread the good news of salvation through Christ. We appreciate the readers who have so faithfully prayed for and contributed to the support of this gospel ministry over the years. You will receive a reward that fadeth not away.

—Lawrence D. Pruitt

In Memorial

Sister Mattie Burkes, formerly of the Tulsa, Okla., congregation, departed this life at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla., on April 1, 1981, at the age of nearly 100 years.

Her husband, S. L. Burkes, preceded her in death.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Norman Simpson at the Church of God chapel in Tulsa, Okla., on April 4, 1981.

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Mrs. Pearl Land passed away on Dec. 16, 1981, in Alberta, Canada, at the age of 83 years.

An aunt of Bro. Edward Joe Cramer of Guthrie, she was saved many years ago and had written her testimony in this paper.

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Sister Viola Cramer was born in Frankfurt, Ky., on Jan. 22, 1894, and departed from this life to be with the Lord on December 19, 1981, at the Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, Okla., at the age of 87 years, 11 months, and 17 days.

She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour 45 years ago, and was a member of the Church of God. For thirteen years she worshipped with the

saints at the Church of God chapel in Guthrie, Okla., before moving to the Golden Rule Home where she resided until her death. She loved the Lord and made it her purpose and aim to be ready to meet Him. She lived at the Golden Rule Home for 17½ years.

She was married to Edward Earl Cramer on Feb. 6, 1925. He preceded her in death on July 2, 1948.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her three daughters: Clara Irene Windle of Providence, Rhode Island; Viola Mae Espinosa of Warwick, Rhode Island; Louise B. Holt of Midwest City, Oklahoma; one son: Edward Joe Cramer of Guthrie, Okla.; fifteen grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, besides a host of relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Charles Smith, O. C. Porter, and Leslie C. Busbee. Interment was at Rose Hill Cemetery, Okla. City, Okla.

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William Benjamin (Ben) James of Moss, Miss., was born on Oct. 8, 1904, and departed this life on Dec. 19, 1981, at the age of 77 years.

He was married on Feb. 23, 1929.

When he was able, over the years he attended the services of the Church of God at Zion Hill.

He is survived by his wife: Lessie James; one son, William Paulette James of Mobile, Ala.; three daughters, Mrs. Robert (Retha) Parden, Mobile Ala., Mrs. David (Linda) Horn, Mobile, Ala., and Mrs. Kenneth (Shirley) Ulmer, Sharon, Miss.; two brothers, Alvie James, Biloxi, Miss., and Velma James, Mobile, Ala.; and fifteen grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at Memory Chapel in Laurel, Miss., conducted by Bros. C. C. Carver and Carl Shaffer. Interment was in Zion Hill Cemetery, Jasper County, Miss.

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Charles R. Fravel of Springfield, Mo., was born Aug. 7, 1890, and departed this life Jan. 9, 1982, at the age of 91 years.

Funeral services were conducted at Ayre-Goodwin Funeral Home with Bro. James Bell officiating. He was buried in the National Cemetery, Springfield, Mo.

Bro. Charlie is mainly remembered for sitting in his chair praying without ceasing for the lost souls.

He will be greatly missed by the Church of God congregation and his dear wife, Sister Margaret (Freeman) Fravel; two sons, Glen and Ray, their wives, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Cards may be sent to 831 W. Central, Springfield, Mo. 65802.

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Recently word was received that Irvin H. Whitehouse, an early-day worker here at the Lord's Print Shop, departed this life on Oct. 19, 1981.

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IN APPRECIATION

Oklahoma—The family of Roberta L. (Williams) Jenkins acknowledges with sincere appreciation to our friends, loved ones, and the saints 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 of great comfort to us in our sorrow.

The writer surely thanks the Lord for how He held us up and gave special strength to our body during the two years of the illness of my brother, Canton Williams, and sister, Roberta Jenkins, to help care for them. They both passed in the year of 1981—Canton on July 25, and Roberta on Dec. 10, 1981.

Again I sincerely thank the Lord for the saints and their prayers.

—Katherine Williams

Prayer Requests



Philippines—Sister Josie Tanguan, the daughter of Bro. M. S. Tanguan who is a native missionary in the Philippines, wrote for earnest prayer for her father who is suffering from a bleeding peptic ulcer, that he might have immediate recovery to work for the Lord. Their home and crops were also recently damaged by a strong typhoon.

Miss.—Pray for Sister Mattie Smith who has suffered with "shingles" for 13 years, and she also has dizziness and stomach trouble. Her plea is for effectual prayer in her behalf.

Kans.—Pray for Sis. Amy Hunter who had a hard fall and was bruised up quite badly.

Calif.—Pray for Sister Mary Worley of Fresno who is sick and requesting the saints to pray for her. Aged 101, she is trusting God for her healing.

N. Carolina—Pray for the healing of Sis. Irene Atkins, aged 76, who has arthritis and poor hearing.

Since the last issue went in the mail, we have not had contact with or a report from Bro. and Sis. Hargrave of Goulds, Fla. Continue to pray for them that every phase of this fiery trial will work out to the glory of God, and that their daughter, Rachel, will be healed completely.

Special Day of Fasting and Prayer on Wednesday, Feb. 10

The above date is announced to the Church abroad as a special day of fasting and prayer for all the sick and suffering, especially for those long held in affliction, that God's mighty healing power will set them free. Include in prayer all those listed on this page. Let us pray and believe for definite results on that day. There is much power generated in agreement. We would not be able to list all the special cases, but here are a few, and you can add more: Bro. Murphy Allen, Springfield, Mo., Sisters Eva Lou Gaines, Thayer, Mo., Essie Moore, Tulsa, Okla., Carmen Simpson, Tulsa, Okla.; Evelyn McCoy, Geneva Ray, Thelma Sprague, and Maude Britt, all of Guthrie, Okla., Julia Llewellyn, Shawnee, Okla., and this writer.

—L. D. Pruitt

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Dec. 22)—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt, and the dear saints at the Print Shop and everywhere: We send our Christian greetings, and Christmas and New Year greetings to all of you in America in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you very much for your kind letter dated Dec. 1, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation. Sis. Dorothy Keiser reached here yesterday after a long trip of five days. She is doing all right and taking rest now.

We are busy with the campmeetings. The one at Chayppamkuzhy in North Kerala starts tomorrow, and we plan to participate in that meeting.

We expect many spiritual blessings through our 16th General Campmeeting at Karikkom, which starts on Jan. 6, 1982.

The Malayalam song books are almost ready for use in the campmeetings.

We continue to pray for the healing of your body.

Yours in the work of God, —John Varghese

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MEXICO MISSION REPORT

Calif.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle: We greet you with Christian love and deep appreciation for your love and sacrifice to and for souls.

We are grateful to say that through the divine grace of God we have the victory and have a deeper desire to be all God would have us be in this life, and feel more burden for souls. The meeting in Pacoima was a real blessing and a challenge to us. We went to the last part of it.

After the meeting, we went to the village in Mexico where we used to live, and the electric company was taking some palm trees and shrubs from where our house used to be. Most of the people are pretty well settled in their new places of abode elsewhere. Some of the saints are having services in their homes and are inviting others to come. We are so glad to see that they are encouraged, and trust that soon we can know what to do about another chapel.

One lady was so happy because her oldest son had returned home after several years' absence. We had prayed many years with her for him. She says that he seems to have no bad habits at all now. When he left, his life was full of bad habits. She was really rejoicing.

We continue to have services in our home here in Thermal, and trust that soon the Lord will lead us to others who would come and worship with us. We are meeting more and more people, and we want to be a spiritual blessing to them.

We want to tell you we appreciate the offering you sent. It is a real help with gasoline so high. Even though it's only 80 miles down there, it takes a lot. We use it for trips down there, or to Ojos Negros, or other places, because sometimes with the

wages Paulino earns and the size of the family, it's a little hard to make the ends meet. . . .

We thank you and each one who so kindly and generously have given and shared.

With Christian love, —Edith Lara

P. O. Box 824, Thermal, Calif. 92274

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NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Bendel State, Nigeria (Nov. 28)—Dear Brother Pruitt and all in Zion: Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus. He is Almighty in power, yet tender in love and plentiful in mercy. Because He is God who changeth not, we will praise Him. Because of His faithfulness that endureth forever, we will bless His name.

Thank you for your letter dated Nov. 2, 1981, with its contents noted with immense thanks.

I just returned to Kwale from a successful missionary tour of Western States of Nigeria, namely, Ondo, Oyo, and Lagos, respectively, for visit of the brethren who came out of the clutches of the wicked one to set their feet upon the Rock to stay. Bro. Paul Oluwasegun, a young man well equipped intellectually who vacated his Egyptian post with the Customs to heed the call of God, led the group out of the land of captivity. He was blessed with a vision to see the light upon the holy hills of Zion to which he painstakingly invited the attention of others. The Lord, on seeing their earnestness in asking the way to Zion, evacuated them from the ruins of Babylon to His spiritual Kingdom. To Him alone in all the earth be praises, goodness, adoration, excellency, majesty, power, glory, honour, and thanksgiving!

Leaving Lagos, we arrived at Ilesha. Members here were met in pleasing mood, so firm and healthy in the spirit, standing by with all anxiety to make inquiry of eternal things. The pastor of this congregation is Bro. Enos Onyemekara, a forceful and energetic brother, who like Bro. Paul Oluwasegun was fast in grasping the doctrine of the Church of God. The Lord is prayed to instruct them more perfectly.

On Nov. 20, congregational representatives from Western and Northern States, together with us, arrived to assemble at Ado-Ekiti, a populous town in Ondo State, for dedication of the newly completed chapel of the Church of God. This writer was the officiating elder in the dedication service which took place at noon on Nov. 21, 1981. A high powered message of Holy Ghost anointing was preached on the occasion by Bro. Paul Oluwasegun. Bro. Femi feeds the flock of Ado-Ekiti congregation.

Bro. B. Ben Taylor of Rivers State congregation did write, also Bro. Benson Oparaji of Umuguma-Owerri congregation in Imo State. We are all fine and walking steadily in the King's Highway of Holiness. Time is flying fast and Jesus' second coming is at hand. The devil and the wicked powers of this woeful world must be silenced and put to flight with the Sword of the Holy Spirit.

Attention of the saints is invited to the Editorial comment of Bro. Pruitt concerning his health in the Nov. publication. One cannot know the worth of a thing until it is lost. Prayers are solicited for the right kind of volunteers to be appointed of the Lord Himself to understudy the publishing work. . . .

Yours to make Christ known, —Titus U. E. Enu

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

The Spanish literature preparations the Lord has given me to make is in its fifth year. Thousands of tracts have found their way into Mexico, Central America, Cuba, South America, and other Spanish-speaking areas. All thanks to God and to all who have supported this work through their prayers, efforts, and means. May the dear Lord richly bless each and every one, is my prayer.

As we enter this new year, new translations, especially those of doctrinal tracts and books, are being prepared for the earliest possible printing. I am very grateful to God and to the Faith Publishing House for having access to the Compset 500 machine for the setting of material and for printing at the cost of paper alone.

Please remember, anyone who is making a trip to Mexico, that I'd be very happy to send many tracts to be mailed from Mexico, which can be done at a much more reasonable rate. Recently, a group who went to Mexico, mailed a box of tracts for \$12, but it would have cost approximately \$90 had it been mailed from the States. I will be glad to pay the postage, as the Lord has provided for it.

Continue to pray for this work as the Lord enlarges its outreach.

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

Field Report From Canada

Dear saints everywhere: We'd just like to share a little of how the Lord has been with us here in Chilliwack, B. C., Canada. 1981 has been a very good year for all of us. Since the Lord mercifully led us out of the error of sectism into the true light of the gospel, He has blessed us richly. He has given us a deep love for the "Church" that He established and a real love and a feeling of closeness to the saints which were almost foreign to us before. We've never before experienced such love, unity, and concern among God's people.

At first, we thought we had to stay and help our brothers and sisters in the congregation we were attending. We stayed for about a year. The Lord showed us light and we accepted what we could understand, and prayed much about the things we could not understand. We shared these truths with the others, but it seemed to fall on deaf ears. They thought we were going too far, but we knew this light was from God and we hung on to it.

About a year later, in Nov. 1980, we attended the Assembly meeting in Jefferson, Ore., in spite of

all the warnings we received through sermons and the personal opinions of others. (We had attended some of the meetings that Bro. Tom Melot and a little band of saints were holding here in different homes. We knew that they had the power of God in their lives.)

So, we loaded up, Ron and I, Sis. Koethler, and Mrs. Walter, and headed for the meeting in Jefferson, Ore. We went with great anticipation, expecting the Lord to meet our needs. Almost immediately after entering the chapel there, we felt we were at home. As the meeting went on, we knew we had found the truth. Confusion left our hearts and minds.

Our congregation here has grown from just the two of us to about nine adults and fifteen Sunday school children. We also feel very blessed and privileged to have Bro. and Sis. Paul Sorrell and family here from Guthrie, Okla., pastoring this little flock.

There are many souls we're dealing with and we need much wisdom from the Lord. Please pray for us all that the Lord will be able to use us in His service more effectively.

Lord willing, we plan to have another campmeeting here at Chilliwack from June 21 to 27. We're looking forward to seeing you there.

Love in Christ, —Ron and Anne Walter

Mission Worker Arrived in India

Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and co-workers, and all saints at home and abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the One who died for the sins of the world.

Just a few lines from India, half-way around the world. Because of fog, the overseas plane I was to take to Bombay from Los Angeles, was delayed in takeoff for about thirteen hours. This threw the whole flying schedule off. When I arrived in Singapore, my plane had already taken off for Bombay. I spent two days in Singapore, trying to get a plane to India that would get me there before the 22nd. It is very expensive to tarry any place along the way. I finally entered India through Madras on the east coast. Bro. John and Sis. Sara Varghese met me in Trivandrum on Dec. 21. It was a long five-day trip and I was exhausted, but after hours of sleep I am much recovered, for which I thank God.

The next unpleasant thing to happen was that I found ants in my bed. I didn't realize ants could bite and leave such welts. I was quite miserable with many bites on my arms, shoulders, and around my right eye. As I write this, I am much better.

We went to the bank and post office yesterday. While in town we looked for a bathtub for Madamma (me). One was finally located—aluminum, about one foot deep, and two feet wide. I can stand and stoop freely in it. It is so much better than a pan of water. Then I have the advantage of using the same water to wash out a few articles of clothing. The tub cost 60 rupees.

There were about forty out to prayer meeting last night on Christmas Eve. We had prayer and singing

in Malayalam. Then they welcomed the Madamma to India once again. I used two pictures—the manger scene and shepherd scene, as I brought a message from John 3:16, and Luke 2, on Christmas and its real meaning to a lost world. We gave everyone a pencil as a Christmas remembrance. The pencils were donated by a good Brother and Sister in the Shawnee congregation.

Christmas day was spent quietly. There were no decorations in Christian homes and no special food. In the afternoon, Sunday school children gathered in the chapel at Karikkom and quoted Scriptures. It was handled much like a spelling bee. When they could remember no other Scripture they dropped out. No one quoted less than fifteen verses, and some could quote a hundred. Then the children in the Varghese compound played a few simple games, like ring the peg, etc.

On Dec. 26, Bro. John, Sis. Sara, and I left by bus to attend the last two days of a four-day meeting. It was good to see once again those whom we contacted two years ago. We were in three preaching services and a Sunday school service (special). I brought messages on the life committed to God, Psalms 37:5, and 1 Peter 5:6-10, and also Luke 12:13-32, on seeking God first. A number of people sought help from the Lord. It was a profitable meeting.

Bus traveling is very hard on us. It's hard to get a seat and many stand in the aisle for hours to get to their destination. When the bus came that was to bring us home, somehow Bro. Baby John and Bro. Mattunni got on the bus first and held a seat for us. Bro. John took our bags and slipped them through the window from the outside. Then it was up to us to get on the bus through the crowd that was all trying to get on. We did make it. The brothers got off and went their ways, and we were headed home. We were thankful for a seat on an overloaded bus.

I am very happy to be in the field again in India. My aim is to be faithful to precious souls. The work is great and laborers are few, but thanks be to God who giveth the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Continue to pray for us.

Yours for souls in India and everywhere,
—Dorothy Keiser

Note of Thanks.

Wisc.—Dear Brothers and Sisters at the Print Shop: We want to thank those who prayed, and sent cards and flowers after our auto accident. We appreciate so much the concern of all of God's people, and I want to tell you that my wife Bertha is doing fine. She is eating better and gaining strength each day. She can do some things to help with the house work, and can take care of herself quite well.

We are so thankful to all who helped in any way.

Sincerely, —Mr. and Mrs. John LaVeau

From the Mailbox . . .

New Mexico—Dear Brother Lawrence and Sister Maybelle, and dear saint helpers in the Lord's Print Shop: May the Lord help each and everyone, both in soul and body. Bro. Pruitt, we are praying that God will heal you completely. Trusting God to heal all who had a request in the *Faith and Victory* paper.

Another year has passed. May God help us to live closer to Him and have the wisdom to do more in 1982. . . . I am thanking and praising the good Lord for everything, for without Him we can do nothing.

I do ask you to remember me and my unsaved loved ones.

Christian love, —Sis. Ruth Doolittle
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Canada—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. Looking back over the year 1981, I can honestly say that the Lord has never failed me. He has been a present help in time of trouble and a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Since I've met the saints, the Lord has revealed more and more truth to me. Coming out of sectism and becoming a part of God's Church has been like going from darkness to light. I try to tell others the way I feel, but words can't describe it; they'd have to experience it for themselves.

I remember when my husband Sid and I came to the meeting at Okla. City, in March, 1980. We surely enjoyed the messages and the message bearer, Bro. Hargrave. We appreciated being able to help at the Print Shop as well. I'll never forget that day when I was ordering all the books and literature. I ran up a fairly high bill, and you told us to keep our money, and you didn't charge us anything. May God bless you richly for your generosity. No one has shown us so much kindness as the saints of God.

I've moved from Prince George to Chilliwack, and am enjoying being under Bro. Paul Sorrell's ministry. The Lord is truly blessing our meetings. Even though we are few in number, the Spirit of God anoints and blesses the same as in a large congregation. There have been many that have come out to services, but most do not want to walk on that narrow road. We're praying for the Lord to help us find honest souls who are hungry for the pure gospel. Please remember the Chilliwack and Prince George congregations in your prayers.

We often hold you up before the Lord, and trust that God will have His perfect will done in regard to your healing, and also for the needs at the Print Shop. Enclosed is a gift of love to help with the important ministry of the Faith Publishing House.

—Sis. Betty Rabel

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Fla.—Dear Bro. and Sister Pruitt: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus.

Last Sunday night I was reading this Scripture in Titus 2:1-5, and I was impressed to have it print-

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ed in this paper. It reads: "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: that the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; that they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."

I believe this Scripture should be taught often.
Yours in Christ, —Sis. Kathleen Williams

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

Ind.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: I have not written to you since the Home-going of your dear sister, Marie Miles, but we have prayed for you and your family that God will continue to comfort you and undergird you with His strength. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Sis. Marie in this life, but I received encouragement from her letters and wonderful articles in the *Faith and Victory* paper. We all miss her, but I am living so I can meet her in that holy and beautiful city whose Builder and Maker is God.

A Sister in the Lord, —Mattie C. Black

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

Ohio—Dear saints at Faith Publishing House: Greetings in Jesus' name this New Year's day. I am praying that you are all able to be doing God's work.

I surely thank God for His goodness to me this past year. He, and He only, knows my need, and on Him I depend for every breath I draw, for every heartbeat, and for every ounce of strength He gives. Surely He is good to me to let me stay here twelve years on borrowed time. I can't praise Him enough for all the blessings I receive in every way, and for the many times I have asked for help and it always came. I don't know how people live who don't trust God for all their needs. They keep their trust in the arm of flesh and never get any better, only poorer financially. I am glad I have a Physician who can heal all diseases.

Enclosed is my offering, not given grudgingly but willingly. I believe I owe it to God, as He has prospered me again. I pray you all will have a good year.

One who loves God with all my heart,
—Mrs. Carrie Ross

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

Ala.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the workers at the Print Shop: Holy greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. I am saved to the glory of God, and I am on the way to Heaven. I still need your prayers.

I believe the saints have the truth and I am standing for it. I mean by God's help never to go back in sin in any form. Romans 8:35.

This is to let you know that I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper and would like for you to keep it coming.

I am yours for service, —Henry P. Effinger

Ala.—Dear ones: Just a word of greeting in this, the beginning of a brand new year. My daily prayer is that my life might show forth the love of Jesus to each and every one I come in contact with.

May God bless the work at the Print Shop and every one who has a part in it.

Yours in Christ, —Leora Frink

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Texas—Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus: The holiday season is gone, and we are in a new year. May we ever live close to the good Lord and do His good will. Let us live to please our dear Redeemer, that we may do some good for some poor lost souls.

May the good Lord bless and keep you workers in the center of His will. He knows, He loves, and He cares.

I'm living to glorify Him in my body, which I have given back to Him, and I hope to stay like clay in the potter's hands.

Christian love and prayers, —Nellie Lovell

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

Okla. (Dec. 28)—Dear Bro. and Sis. Pruitt and saints abroad: I am aged 13, the oldest child of Bro. Norman and Sis. Carmen Simpson of Tulsa, Okla.

I am writing to thank all of you for praying for my mother in behalf of her illness. The Lord has really blessed her. Praise God! Isn't He wonderful! Mother's very tired in body, but she is doing wonderfully.

I want to thank all the saints (some we don't even know) for praying, coming over, sharing money, bringing food, and most of all, the love of God which they shared with us.

We are all doing well. May God bless all of you.

Love, —Shannon Simpson

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La.—Dear ones: We greet you in the beginning of this new year with joy and happiness in our Saviour. We don't know what we may face in 1982, for we never know what a new year may bring forth, but we do know that we have a God who is all powerful and He has promised to be with us, and care for us to the end. There are many promises we can stand on; they are sure and steadfast to those who are faithful to love and obey His Word.

It is so wonderful to be free and have a hope of a beautiful mansion and a glorious life forever when this walk on earth is done. But, oh, it's so sad for those who live for this life only, and make no preparation for the future; doing nothing to escape that awful place of suffering and woe, and doing nothing to help their children escape it. I read a tract of one having a vision of parents meeting their children in hell, and of the children blaming the parents for not teaching them the right way, nor warning them of hell. The devil gets people bound by nicotine, caffeine, and dope habits; sin of every kind, but no doubt the trap of adultery (double marriage) is the hardest from

which to get free. The devil gets people into trouble, but never helps to get them out. Oh, I pray the Lord to awaken precious souls, and cause them to see the realities of eternity without God—lost forever, ages without end! I want to be ready, and by the help of the Lord, I will be ready for that solemn change from time to eternity.

—Myrtis Flynn

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

Mich.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and all the saints there and everywhere: Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour who left His home in glory and came down here to die for us that we might have eternal life. Oh, how I thank Him for that!

I trust all there are well, and that the Lord's work is progressing. I do want to be a part of it and help as I can. . . . I am so thankful to God for His many blessings. I am especially thanking Him for His healing power. He has touched and healed my body many, many times, and we can never thank Him and praise Him enough for all He has done for us.

May the Lord bless all of you, is my prayer. Please keep me and my loved ones in your prayers.

Christian love,

—Lela Stewart

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Okla.—I am very thankful to see the beginning of this new year. The Lord has surely been good to me through the year of 1981. He has healed me many times. This time last year my limbs were hurting me so much. Now I am so much better, especially my legs. All praise and honor go to the Lord who answered the prayers of the saints.

Just recently, it seemed that my mind was leaving in a few minutes, but the Lord undertook and gave me so much peace and contentment. Oh, the love and power of God that passeth understanding! Praise the Lord!

Just this week the Lord performed a financial miracle. My son had to have a large sum of money to meet an obligation within 24 hours. After much prayer, the Lord worked it all out for him to get the money. Praise the Lord!

Pray that my son will give up sin and go for God.

I mean by God's grace and power to go all the way with the Lord.

—Sis. Icylee Tillman

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Ore.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sister Maybelle: Greetings of love in the name of Jesus this beautiful white day. We didn't have snow for Christmas, but we have it now.

We are a blessed people to have salvation. What a privilege we have to know that God is right there when we need Him. I wouldn't exchange salvation for all the money in this world.

The Lord has blessed me so much this past year. He has blessed me in my body. I had arthritis really bad, but He healed me. I do have a trace in my neck.

I hope you both are better, and that the Lord will bless you more this new year.

Love and prayers,

—Sis. Helen White

Fla.—Dear Bro. Pruitt: The Lord has wonderfully touched my husband Roy, who had severe pains in his chest. I called for prayer the morning of Dec. 12. That afternoon he got out of bed feeling good and has been up since. Praise the Lord for His goodness to us!

Now I am in need of prayer for a healing in my body. The Lord is the One who saved me. He keeps me and blesses me with His most precious Presence, so He is the One in whom I trust to heal my body. Thank you for your prayers.

In Christian love,

—Sis. Ruby Blanchard

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Pruitt and saints: Greetings in Jesus' precious and holy name. Surely He is a wonderful Saviour, and it is sweet to do His holy will.

This letter leaves me saved, wholly sanctified, and walking about Mt. Zion—fully appreciating the wondrous blessings of the Church of God.

The saints here surely appreciate the literature you sent to us for distribution. It is surely being used to the glory of God and the upbuilding of the kingdom. Pray for our congregation in Ontario, Calif., that we be what God wants us to be and that we will see many souls won to the Lord.

I surely remember the printing work and you in your affliction. May God bless your labors for Him.

Love in Jesus,

—Bro. Daniel Layne

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Wash.—Dear saints and readers of *Faith and Victory*: We are happy and full of praise to our God that delivers His children out of their many afflictions.

We feel impressed to give our testimony of a wonderful healing. There is a little shed behind our house that has a very low ceiling. We were in there working, and had forgotten how low the ceiling was. I raised up somewhat fast and it seemed like I jammed my neck very hard down on my shoulder. It was different from any other time that something like this had happened. My neck made a popping noise when I would turn my head to the left. I hoped and thought that probably this would go away in a week or so, but I was somewhat concerned, as I could tell it was serious. I could not turn my head to the left without a severe pop. After a month or so we became more concerned, so I requested prayer at meeting. But the Lord wanted to do something really special to inspire our faith, so He just let my neck go on as it was. I came to the place that I thought, "Well, almost everyone has some kind of physical problem, so this just may be my 'thorn in the flesh.'" I sort of submitted it to the Lord. I thought, "Well, other people have problems that are far worse, so I can live with this."

While we were in Guthrie for the recent Assembly meeting, we were present at the healing and fast day. As far as I could tell, there was nothing unusual that day—just singing, praying, then a message. Someone said, "Those of you who wish to, may come up to the altar to be prayed for." I'm so

glad I obeyed then, because the Spirit said to me, "Now you need to obey and have the elders anoint you and lay hands on you." I moved out, and I want you to know that the work was done! The devil fought me and said, "You will be the same," but we just put those things out of our mind. Oh, dear ones, the first time I noticed my neck was on Monday morning. I turned my head—no pop! I tried again—no pop! I got somewhat excited and carried away, but I couldn't get over it. After about three months of my neck-popping—it has not popped again! We just had to write and give our testimony of an unquestionable healing from God.

Dear ones, tell what He's done, what He's done for you. Let us overthrow this attitude of people not getting help any more. If space and time would permit, we could tell of so many outstanding workings, that are unquestionably directly from God, that the devil has to back off. God is real and is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. We challenge all, especially the young people. Let us "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints." Let us go with this truth and tell it.

—Bro. Paul Sorrell

4419 Minaker Rd., Sumas, Wash. 98295
o—o—o—o—o—o—o

La.—Dear Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Maybelle, and all the co-workers at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. This leaves me saved, sanctified, and satisfied. I'm satisfied with Jesus. He has never failed me or disappointed me, and by His help and grace I want to live in a way that He will be satisfied with me. That is what will count at the Judgment Day. We know everyone will stand before the Lord to give account of the deeds that have been done whether they be good or bad. We want to do good deeds.

This is another year, and I want to live closer to the dear Lord than I did last year. I know I can by His help. We can do nothing, have nothing, or be nothing without God. It's in Him that we live and move and have our being. Praise the dear Lord!

We are so thankful for all the dear Lord is doing for His people. In fact, He is merciful unto everyone, as He sends the rain on the just and on the unjust.

We are praying for you, Bro. Lawrence, and we are encouraged to know you are standing firm on the Word of God and trusting Him completely. We do pray He will soon come to your rescue and bring sweet relief. We are serving a mighty God. As we look back and think of all the mighty healings He has done, it encourages us to press on and trust Him for the present and future, for He is just the same today. . . .

We enjoy the little paper so much, and I believe it would be the will of the Lord for it to continue as long as time stands. But if not, we want the will of the Lord to be done. It's been a blessing to us these fifty years we have been reading it.

Pray for us that we be faithful unto the end, as it's the ones that endure to the end that shall be

saved. Pray for our sister, brother, our children, and grandchildren, as we want them to make it into heaven. We don't want anyone to be lost. Jesus can save!

With Christian love,

—Effie Miller

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Will Jesus set His feet on the earth when He comes again?

Answer: According to the way I understand the Scriptures, the answer is "No." But that will, no doubt, require some projection and explanation, and I do not guarantee that I can explain it to every one's satisfaction.

In Rev. 20:11-13, we have a description of the judgment scene in these words: "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the EARTH and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works." Note, it says in this passage that the EARTH fled away from the presence of Him Who sat on the throne. The earth was corrupt and cursed because of sin (Gen. 3:17, 6:12, and Isa. 24:5-6). When Jesus came the first time, He came clothed in a fleshly body, "In the likeness of sinful flesh" (Rom. 8:3), and He walked on the earth here among men and identified with men and took their sins on Himself that He might bear them to Calvary and there make an atonement for them. Now that has been accomplished. When He comes again "without sin unto salvation" (Heb. 9:28), in complete holiness and in the naked, unsheathed glory of the Father and surrounded with all the holy angels, He will not count the corrupt and defiled earth as a suitable and fit place for Himself and those who will accompany Him to come in contact with. He will be through with the earth forever, so will just banish it from Him as He approaches.

Peter wrote, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." 2 Peter 3:10. Paul declares that this will be "in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," and that it will be "at the last trump." And Paul describes this coming of the Lord and the sounding of His trumpet in these words in 1 Thess. 4:14-17, "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For

this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Now I am somewhat familiar with the doctrine of the "Rapture" which is read into this passage and is so generally taught in Christendom today. But I do not identify with that teaching, and for the simple reason that this passage makes no reference at all to the saints coming back here at the end of seven years to reign in Christ's kingdom here on the earth for a thousand years or any length of time. Quite the contrary. It says they will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they EVER be with the Lord up there. This is further proof that Christ will not touch His feet upon this earth again, but will come in the clouds of heaven and catch His saints up to meet Him in the air.

1 Cor. 15:52, is speaking of the same thing as 1 Thess. 4:14-17, and there this trump is called the last trump. Also, Jesus said that saints would be raised on the last day (John 6:39, 40, 44, and 54.) Can you see the folly of trying to believe or prove there will be a thousand years or any number of days at all after the last day or the last trump to call forth the wicked dead for judgment after the righteous dead have been resurrected to reign with Christ in His kingdom on the earth? The holy Scriptures do not teach such a thing, and neither do they teach that Christ will ever set His feet upon this earth again.

Now we will look at a text in Zech. 14:4, which is strongly set upon by advocates of the Millennium doctrine. It reads: "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south." This chapter opens with the statement, "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh." Verse 3 says, "Then shall the Lord go forth." Then verse 4 says, "And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives." Then it is clear that it is the Lord's feet that will stand there and that it will be in THE DAY OF THE LORD. Several times in this chapter reference is made to "IN THAT DAY" (verses 6, 8, 13, and 20, beside this verse 4 which we are considering). These references all refer to the DAY OF THE LORD (verse 1). No doubt, this 14th chapter of Zechariah is referring directly to events pertaining to literal Israel. Many Scriptures and prophecies that pertain to literal Israel also have a clear fulfillment in spiritual Israel (the church in this dispensation).

I feel that Zech. 14:4, is in this classification as well as several other verses in this chapter. We know that Jesus often went to the mount of Olives and spent considerable time there with His disciples when He was here upon the earth. In fact, it was the last place on earth that His feet touched and He ascended to heaven from there. Jesus Christ ushered in the gospel day (the DAY OF THE LORD) and shed abroad the burning, shining light of the gospel in the world. At that time He stood on the mount of Olives time and again. But the Scriptures referred to above strongly infer that He will never touch foot on any spot on this earth again.

However, I feel that Zech. 14:4, is prophetic and figurative and refers to spiritual truths in Christ's kingdom. This mountain stood on the east side of the city of Jerusalem and afforded a commanding view of the city and the temple. The city and its temple were both types of the Church of God. Then figuratively Jesus stands on the mount of Olives overlooking and observing all the operations of the Church. The mountain cleaving in the midst and forming a very great valley between, some have interpreted as the atonement of Christ extending back to include people in the law age and extending forward to cover this grace dispensation. There is some basis for this, inasmuch as Christ was a lamb "slain from the foundation of the world." (Rev. 13:8). Others have interpreted it as referring to the removing or breaking down of the mountain or barrier or "middle wall of partition" (Eph. 2:14-15) of the law system with its ordinances and rituals which stood as an insurmountable barrier to the Gentiles and opening the way through faith and grace for the Gentiles to have an access and entrance into the Church. I can see good basis for this also, since the mountain clave to the east and to the west and also removed to the north and to the south, which would include all the cardinal points of the compass and signify the gospel to the whole world and the bringing in of every nation, kindred, tongue, and people (Rev. 7:9).

I correlate or parallel this with what is said of the ministry of John the Baptist in Luke 3:4-6, "... Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." In other words, it signifies the coming of Christ, the establishing of His kingdom and the effects of His gospel to all people.

Glorify God's Name on High !

(Psalm 50:23)

Praise the Lord!
Keep Him glorified,
Extol His love,
Far and wide!

—Edward M. Brandt

What Kind of Literature Are Your Children Reading?



I am sure that all Christian parents are interested in the spiritual welfare and development of their children. For this, I feel free to approach you on this subject.

In the evening as you gather your children around the fireside and listen to their childish prattle and merry outbursts of laughter, how your heart yearns to see them grow up to be noble men and women for God! But it is evident that they will not naturally grow that way; they must be trained in the way of the Lord. Hence, your duty as Christian parents is to lead them in the paths of righteousness. While we look into this matter, may the Lord help you to see more clearly the extent of your duty.

We all admit that as the body of a healthy child increases in size, the development of its little mind increases accordingly; and, while yet very young, the child begins to thirst for knowledge. This is manifested by the numerous questions that crowd out of its little mouth, one after another, so fast that it sometimes seems impossible to answer all of them.

It is not only through the medium of spoken language that children obtain knowledge. As they grow older and become sufficiently familiar with written language to grasp the thought, how eager they become to devour the contents of every book, magazine, or paper that falls into their hands! Here, dear parents, I would sound a note of warning. Be careful about the kind of literature you allow your children to read.

Because many books and papers are far more detrimental than beneficial to the growing mind of your child, is no reason why you should endeavor to deprive the child of the privilege of reading. It is natural for children to desire to read, and they *will* read. When I was small, possibly nine or ten years of age, my father learned that his little daughter was reading some of his old novels. This, of course, he knew would never do, so the books were destroyed; but no new supply of good, wholesome, interesting literature for children was furnished, consequently my desire for reading novels did not vanish away with the smoke of the burning rubbish. I began to seek for such reading elsewhere; and while at school, managed to secure and read a number of novels. Fortunately for me, however, I was saved at an early age, and that ended my novel reading. But, as I said, children *will* read, so it behooves their parents to be careful about the choice of their reading matter. See to it that they early cultivate a taste for good literature, then they will not be so likely to be bothered about wanting to read the other kind.

—Elsie E. Egermeier

Kicking Against the Pricks



A prick is a goad or sharp instrument. When a young ox was yoked to a cart for the first time, he did not like it and quite often tried to kick the cart to pieces. The master would fix a bar with a row of wooden spikes, and every time the ox tried to kick the cart he hit his legs against the spikes and hurt himself. Very soon he learned that it was better for him to be obedient to the reins and to the yoke.

Jesus is calling all of us to come to Him and to take His yoke upon us. He said His yoke is easy and His burden is light. Too many of us are like Paul was when Jesus told him, "It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." There he was, on his way with the letters to give him the authority to bring men and women to Jerusalem to be cast into prison, or perhaps, even to be stoned to death as dear Bro. Stephen had been while Paul stood by consenting to his death.

I feel Paul had lots to think about on the road to Damascus. Surely he had to think of Stephen's sweet spirit in the hour of his death. Stephen had taken upon himself the yoke of Christ; he did not try to break that yoke but submitted to it in gentleness, kindness, and with a true heart. All who sat in the council looking steadfastly on him saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. Should Paul have been there, too, surely it would have troubled him. Stephen's last words, "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge," were enough to have broken the hardest heart. But on Paul went, kicking against the pricks, until Jesus shined that light round about him and he fell to the ground. The Lord spoke and Paul asked, "Who art thou, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Then he began to tremble. "What will you have me to do?" was Paul's submissive reply.

Oh, the change! There Paul was, a man of authority to bind others for serving the Lord Jesus, now humbly asking the Lord what He wanted him to do. Paul was willing to take upon himself the yoke of Christ and to learn of Him—to learn how meek and lowly He is. Paul found pleasure and peace in serving the Lord to the extent he said, "Nothing shall separate me from the love of Christ!"

How we desire to see people yoke up with Christ and serve the Lord with gladness. We see boys and girls at the campmeetings get under conviction and decide to take upon them the yoke of Christ. After they go back to the everyday life and face their old friends they break away. It reminds me of a man taking a young horse to break him for work. The animal has been used to running at his will in the pasture. Now he has a rope around his neck, a bit in his mouth, and next a harness on his back. Then he is led to a wagon where a yoke is placed in front of him and another horse, and a heavy wagon tongue is fastened to the yoke. About this time the horse decides it's all too much—he wants to be free. He

Do not allow one little pain that someone may give you to cause you to forget all the kindness he has shown you.

—C. E. Orr

breaks and runs away heading back to what he calls freedom, but many times is injured in doing so.

I have seen many a soul break away from the yoke of Christ for what they call freedom, but is it freedom? They get out with the worldly crowd. The cigarette is passed around. It looks so harmless, but one calls for another until, at last, they are bound and cannot break loose. Soon the beer bottle appears and after a few drinks the bondage of liquor is pretty well secure. They will say to themselves, "I will never take another drink," but they have no power to quit. The devil has charge of their body, mind, and soul, and he is a hard taskmaster. Here comes marijuana and soon it calls for something stronger—LSD, cocaine, and on and on one goes. Yet, all this time they call this *freedom*. Oh, that they would stop and consider their ways!

Young people are giving themselves over to fornication and adultery until they are so bound by the passions of the flesh that they cannot free themselves. But we hear Jesus calling, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt. 11:28-29) Jesus can break the bondage of sin and cleanse and make you free. Oh, dear soul, stop kicking against the Lord and let Jesus come in and give you glorious freedom.

—Sis. Margaret Eck

Hope and Contentment



The Bible says, "But godliness with contentment is great gain. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." 1 Tim. 6:6, 8. When we are away from our loved ones and the dear saints, and begin feeling lonely or discontented, let us turn to Jesus. Did you know that Jesus is a Friend who sticks closer to us than even our brother, mother, father, sister, or companion? He will never leave us nor forsake us. He can also be our Counsellor. We can go to Him, pouring out our hearts, telling Him all our secrets, burdens, and troubles, and He will never betray us. Sometimes we tell our troubles to other people and they may betray us, but Jesus will never betray us. What a Friend! He is always beside us if we will only believe and have faith to turn to Him and trust Him at all times and for all things.

One way to be content is to think of others instead of self. Give a smile to others even when they don't to you. Sometimes, a smile can do wonders. Try to encourage and cheer people when they are down and out: help to lift their load. Let us be a blessing to humanity while we can, for we will pass through this life only once. Let us be sure to praise God and thank people for what they do. Each one of us is a person to Jesus, not just a number. He knows the number of the hairs of our head. He takes note of the sparrows when they fall, and we are much more precious to Him than the sparrows. The Bible says, "And

why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matt. 6:28, 29)

We should be content with whatever state we are in. If we are poor or rich, we should be content and live one day at a time. If there are things in life we desire and need, such as a better house, a better job, or a good companion, let us go to God in earnest prayer, believing He will answer in His own time, and not be grieving over and thinking about it all the time. Let us get up from prayer, praising and thanking God for what He has already done for us and for His love, mercy, grace, and all good things. Let us keep reconciled to His will, whatever it may be.

The Bible says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." (Matt. 6:33, 34) Maybe we have only a little money or just a few talents, but let us use what we have and God will give us more.

When we feel low in spirit, we can go outside and look at God's handiwork—the flowers, trees, hills, and at night the moon and countless glittering stars. On dreary days a woman can get a pretty piece of material and make a dress or a quilt. Getting one's mind on work will cheer the heart. A man might get some paint and brighten up a room that has long needed repainting, to help his downcast spirit.

Another way to bring contentment is by singing and praying. When we feel lonely or neglected, we can get out the hymn book and sing praises unto God. We should have a song in our heart at all times. If we are a singing Christian, we won't have much time for discontentment.

Here are some Bible verses to read when you are feeling despondent. (Matt. 5:3-12) "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." Another good Scripture to read is Psalms 119:1, 2. "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." Psalms 103:1-5, says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the

Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." James 1:12, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." Rev. 14:13, reads, "... 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." There are many other Scriptures you can read to get comfort to your soul.

When we or a member of our family is sick, let us pray and have faith that healing will come. If the children come home from school with a bad grade, let us not discourage them, but help them and have hope they will improve. If we are discouraged because of problems in our life, let us pray and have faith in the Lord working things out for a better future. When the cold, cloudy, wintry days come upon us, let us have hope that it won't be long until spring when the flowers, bushes, and trees will come to life once more. When a loved one has died, let us not grieve as others, but let us have that blessed hope of seeing and living with them again, at the last day when Jesus comes and the graves burst open. Let us have hope of being with Jesus when He comes and being reunited with all the dear redeemed ones for ever and ever, where there will be no more parting. Praise God for that blessed hope, and for the faith and contentment He gives us when we trust Him. —Pearlene Whitson

"Open Thy Mouth Wide"

"I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." Psa, 81:10.

I have heard many people, including some ministers say, "The Bible says, open your mouth and I will fill it," thereby meaning that we should not study what or how to testify, pray, or preach, but just open the mouth and expect the Lord to fill it with a testimony, prayer, or sermon without any effort on our part to prepare ourselves. Such people seem to forget that we are admonished in the Scriptures to "Search the Scriptures," "Think on these things," "Give thyself to reading," "Study to show thyself approved of God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed."

The truth in this text is fittingly illustrated by a mother bird's treatment toward her nest of young. When she comes with food, and gives notice of the fact, every mouth opens wide, and when every bird is satisfied, she stops making trips. So the Lord will supply all our need. When we ask it shall be given. The text has reference to temporal supplies, but in the light of the New Testament it means all our needs, both temporal and spiritual. In the picture of this text the people of God are the birds, and God

says, "Open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." He means He has delivered them out of an awful state of bondage, and will surely supply their needs if they will open their mouth and ask Him. But we must not forget that He supplies both temporal and spiritual needs on conditions. He feeds the birds, but He does not scratch for them. And He feeds us, but we must plow and pull weeds or do our part in some other way. God's law is, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." One must not say, "Give us this day our daily bread," and open his mouth toward heaven and expect God to fill it with food. Neither should we neglect reading, meditation, nor prayer and expect to come to meeting with a convincing testimony, a fervent prayer, a stirring sermon. But there is real comfort in the fact that God will work and provide where we cannot, and will make our work a success if we do it in the spirit of this text.

—David L. Walker

The Value of a Testimony

God's people are God's witnesses. Each can tell something that God has done for him. When we tell what God has done for us, it will interest someone else, especially those who feel the need of such blessing as we have obtained. If we testify how the Lord forgave us, it will interest those who feel the load of guilt; if we tell how God has sanctified our souls, it will interest and instruct those who feel the need of heart purity. If we testify to having been healed of some disease, it will interest and encourage the sick to trust God for healing. If we had a sore temptation, and God has graciously helped us through it, and we relate the experience, it is highly encouraging to any who may be in trial or temptation. Sometimes we have very peculiar trials and very peculiar feelings, and the enemy tries hard to discourage us and to get us to give up, but by God's help we overcome. To tell such experiences of help from God, is very helpful to others.

Let us be witnesses for God. Someone may be needing the very help or comfort you have been receiving; therefore, be sure and tell it out. If after a good sermon is preached, someone arises and testifies to an experience in demonstration of the thought presented, the testimony has the effect of riveting the truth upon the hearts of the hearers.

Some have had remarkable answers to prayer; some have received special comfort in times of trouble and sorrow; some have received grace to bear meekly the most abusive and insulting conduct; some have been healed of sore afflictions—all of these can, by telling their experiences, be a great help to others.

Let us testify; you may not be eloquent, nor even free of speech, but the fact, the experience, is what counts for good. Your own manner of talking is much better for you than the language of someone else.

"Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord." If God has done anything for you, be sure and witness to that fact. This will increase your own faith and grace, and help others.

—R. L. Berry