

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Wise Men Still Seek Him

From eastern lands they came afar
In search of One born King of the Jews,
Directed by the holy Star
With hearts made eager with the news.

Think of their mission and their quest!—
Across the miles of hill and plain
To chart their courses ever West,
At night, the Star's bright view to gain.

Though in Jerusalem detained
While seeking counsel from the law,
Once more their joy in triumph reigned
When in the sky the Star they saw.

It led them on to Bethlehem
Above the place where Jesus lay,
And on their knees they worshipped Him:
The Lord of Life and endless day.

There is a Star of hope divine
That shines today our hearts to lead:
The gospel with its holy line
Reveals the Saviour we all need.

'Tis wise to leave the world behind
And seek the King of glory now;
'Tis blest the love of God to find
And at the feet of Christ to bow.

Wise men still seek our Saviour King;
'Tis folly to neglect His love;
In vain from earth we seek to bring
What only cometh from above.

No longer in the manger low
Is found the Lord so true and fair;
For all who seek His grace to know
His risen life He seeks to share.

Be wise and let this be your quest:
The life of Christ to apprehend,
And enter now His glorious rest
With Him as Saviour, Lord, and Friend!
—Leslie C. Busbee

How Have YOU Answered the Knock?

KNOCK—KNOCK—KNOCK!

The knocking of a young man's hand one windy, freezing December night awoke the husky motel clerk from his cozy nap.

Silently opening the door, the clerk gruffly asked, "Whatcha want?"

"Please, sir, would you mind letting me have a little gas from your pumps tonight? My car is about out of gas and my folks live twenty miles away and we were . . ."

"Nope, too early. Don't open 'til seven."

"But my wife and children . . ."

"Sorry, sonny, set there 'til mornin' if you want some," the clerk retorted and slammed the door shut.

Amazed at the short rudeness shown him, the young man turned away in silence. There in the car, his wife and two little babies were feeling the icy edge of the night wind slipping through door cracks of the car. Now twice rudely refused gas at this place and previously at another, the young man was baffled about the next search for gas. The town was tiny and held no other place to turn to. Three or so miles down the road there was a truck stop.

So they tried to move forward but around the second bend on the crest of a hill the car lost its last power. The young man steered it into an arched driveway leading directly to a brick house. Two dogs came around the car to bark and sniff. The cold feel of winter soon crept into the stranded car again.

Every baby blanket and coat was utilized in holding warmth around the little huddle the four of them made, but because of confinement and cold noses both babies began to fuss and cry.

"I'll approach these people about calling for gas," the young man said.

"No, let me do it. They might listen to a woman better than a man," his wife told him.

After a while he agreed to her pleading and watched her safely walk to the door with the dogs at her heels.

KNOCK—KNOCK—KNOCK!

A sleepy woman opened her bedroom window in

response to the young wife's knocking. "Who is it? What do you want?" the woman asked.

Explaining their predicament, the young wife begged the woman to call the truck stop for gas. The woman finally agreed, and after a time came back to the window stating the truck stop could not deliver the gas. "Call the police," the young wife suggested. Surely they would come to help. The woman made the call and said the police would be around in an hour or so. By this time the young wife was shivering and in tears.

"Please—please," she begged, "if I could only use the phone. Our folks live only twenty miles away and they would gladly bring us gas if I can only call them. I'll pay you for the call."

After a few minutes the woman opened her door to a very thankful girl. The woman excused her rudeness by explaining that she had a bad cold and hadn't wanted the young wife to catch it. Anyway, the call was made and the wife hurried back to her family in the car where they waited thirty minutes longer until their dad came with gas. They reached their destiny just as the first colors of sunrise touched the sky. The Lord had brought them home.

Many hundreds of years ago, another young couple needed help one night. It was Joseph and Mary. They were, no doubt, hungry and quite tired after traveling several days from Nazareth to Bethlehem, the city of David, which was a hundred mile journey. No doubt, Mary tired easily on this long trip as she was most uncomfortable, being heavy with child. She had only a small donkey to ride upon or she walked. The young mother-to-be was stretching her strength to undertake this long trip but a decree of taxation had been made, and so being of the lineage of David, Mary and Joseph both had to return to Bethlehem. (Luke 2:1-7) Joseph probably stopped the patient donkey often so Mary could take a drink of water and rest from the dust they traveled in. Perhaps the cumbered down little group was left behind by many talking, laughing crowds of people hurrying on to Bethlehem.

No doubt, Joseph and Mary reached Bethlehem late in the evening after most travelers had found lodging and were settling for the night. The town was probably overflowing with other families also gathering in because of the decree from Caesar Augustus.

KNOCK—KNOCK—KNOCK!

Joseph and Mary knocked on doors, also.

"Sorry, you're too late." "There is no room." Oh, how many times did they hear this before someone finally had pity on such needy travelers! Perhaps it was the tired look in Mary's eyes that won the last innkeeper over and he agreed to let them stay in the stable. It was a rude excuse for lodging an uncomfortable mother, but no doubt Joseph and Mary were thankful. At least it was a shelter away from the street and public.

In this humble place, God brought a miracle into the world. The long awaited Messiah was born. There were no earthly cheers, no glamorous display to welcome His birth, but a beautiful star in the sky stood above this humble stable beckoning to those who would notice. Three wise men from afar saw this star and came to worship and bring gifts to baby

Jesus. (Matt. 2:1-10) The angels were sending out tidings of joy and peace to those who would listen. Shepherds attending their flocks near Bethlehem heard these angels and hastened to see baby Jesus. (Luke 2:8-16).

A few righteous ones living close to God accepted the Savior and believed in the coming salvation. Such were Simeon and Anna in the temple at Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit revealed His identity to each of them and both rejoiced at His presence. (Luke 2:25-38) Others immediately rejected the young King and Savior and sought to end the Savior's life while He was yet an infant. Herod the King was so insistent, that he had murdered every infant two years of age and under living in Bethlehem and in all the coasts thereof. (Matt. 2:1-18) God watched over His Son.

During the 33 years that Jesus Christ, the Savior of all mankind, lived upon this earth, He had many doors opened to Him and many doors shut. Some accepted Him and some rejected Him. It has been that way down through the centuries of time. Today Jesus is still feeling the sting of rejection. People are still living cold lives without him. Yet for each one, Jesus died upon the cruel cross. (John 3:16)

KNOCK—KNOCK—KNOCK!

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. 3:20) The knock must be willingly heeded; the door gladly opened. The Savior has a blessing of perfect peace to impart and that blessing shall be the receiver's to keep forever. Anyone who takes time to respond to the knock may have this blessing.

KNOCK—KNOCK—KNOCK!

Are you saying, "There is no room—don't disturb me"? Do not give the Savior a poor excuse, but give Him the best you have to offer. —Connie Sorrell

Recollections of a Trying Experience

By Earl Langley

While reminiscing on some important and memorable events in my past experience of serving the Lord, my mind drifted to an occasion back in 1922 while attending Bible school. A few of the students had encouraged me to join a prayer band to hold cottage services in a certain neighborhood on one evening of each week. I was glad to enlist as I felt that this would provide an opportunity to help me develop my potential as an up-and-coming young minister, and, also, it would provide the means to start spreading the gospel. The plan was to solicit homes that would welcome this type of service, and it was agreed that each member of the band would take his or her turn in conducting the whole service. The response to our work of solicitation was excellent and many homes opened their doors to us, and, to His everlasting praise, a number of people were saved in these meetings.

It finally came my turn to conduct the service and bring the message. I had already been preparing for this eventuality and had filed away in my mind a number of things I wished to say. My heart was thrilled with the message I felt the Lord had given me for I had been painstaking and much in prayer in

preparing myself for this first venture in the preaching ministry. I even strolled down the old railroad track preaching this inspiring sermon to myself. I was all set. The evening for putting into execution the transaction for delivery of this grand theme arrived, and I stood forth to give my message when, to my utter consternation, my animation all seemed to evaporate. My message left me. Recalling, however, a few points I had hoped to make, I stumbled on and talked for a while. Then it occurred to me to just give my testimony—how the Lord wooed me, won me to Him and saved me. This I did, although I do not remember now what all I might have said. At the close of this presentation, two chairs were set out and an invitation given for any who wished to be saved to kneel in prayer. No one moved and the meeting was closed.

To say that I was dejected doesn't nearly meet the requirement at all. I was nearly prostrate with disappointment and a sense of abject failure which had a way of goading me for weeks and months—even years. Then in 1936 (fourteen years later) I returned to attend camp meeting. While walking along a cement walk on the campground, I heard my name being called, "Brother Langley, Brother Langley." I turned to see two beaming faces hurrying toward me to catch up: "You probably don't remember us, Brother Langley, but you will recall holding a cottage meeting in our home years ago. Both husband and I were miserable with conviction that night, but when we were invited to kneel in prayer it seemed the devil had riveted us to our seats. When the service had closed and we were alone, I looked at my husband and Husband looked at me, and, in silent agreement, we went to our bedroom, and, kneeling beside our bed, gave our hearts to Jesus, and we have been faithfully following Him since."

Words are feeble things in such moments of the soul's exaltation. As the hour of that trying experience came forcefully back to me in clear vividness, my heart leaped with joy and praises to Him who understands all predicaments and who holds all contingencies in the palm of His hand. "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" Right then and there, the Lord rebuked me: "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Had I forgotten that, "... Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you?" John 16:23.

Over the years I have learned many valuable lessons, but none more important than the one I learned then, namely, NEVER SELL THE HOLY SPIRIT SHORT. We need ever to bear in mind that Christians—vital Christians—pray and exercise faith on the merit vested in them through Jesus Christ. There is a partnership here that must be taken into account, and His part is always of far greater significance and consequence than that of the human instrument which I had, in my youth and ignorance, over-valuated. So let us be confident, bold and daring as we come to the throne of grace to make our requests known, for the blessed Holy Spirit can always be depended upon to perform His part if we do ours.

Satan Attacks Through Ordinary Things

It is not merely in seeking the baptism of the Spirit that people are beguiled of Satan, but in ordinary affairs of life. A great deal of lethargy with respect to mind and will abounds among the Lord's people. Many seem to think that when they are saved, God will decide things for them instead of giving them the ability to see for themselves what is right and wrong and what is wise and unwise.

"Understanding what the will of the Lord is" might never have been written, judging by the way some people conduct their lives and homes. Some of them will do anything rather than get into the place of a responsible person endowed with the wisdom and decision of "the new man in Christ." There are those who are always asking for signs and indications in circumstances, forgetting that the devil can easily manipulate circumstances. I wonder that more of them do not ask for signs and tokens as to when and what they are to eat and drink. (I knew of one terrible case of the devil's dictating when to eat and drink, and the man nearly lost his life. Through prayer and then personal resistance he was delivered.) But most of them cut their lives into two departments—one natural and the other spiritual. In the former they use their brain and will, but in the latter they just drift along. You never know what they are going to do in the spiritual realm, for their guidance is enveloped in some vaporous mysticism which nobody understands.

"Be sober." Use your mind. Your brain has been redeemed as much as your heart. "Be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10; Rom. 12:2). Let the light of God create for you a new intelligence department—"UNDERSTAND what the will of the Lord is." Say, "I must get to understand the will of the Lord." This will call for faith and patience, but persist in coming to know God's will for yourself by regular searching of His Word. If you will do that, you will guard yourself against falling into many a snare of Satan. In addition, you will become increasingly efficient in the Lord's service as His fellow-worker (2 Cor. 6:1). A word of caution is needed here, however. There are some things that for the time being are designedly veiled from our eyes, and the recognition of this sometimes places faith in its best setting to mature (John 13:7). —F. J. Perryman
(Taken from the book *How To Resist the Devil*)

The World In Awful Sleep

What awful darkness shrouds all the earth!
Hearts sealed in hardness, grope on in death.
Oh, dreadful picture! oh, perils day!
Sleep, darker, deeper, holds deadly sway.
Hell's breathing stupor, now over all:
Who'll break the subtle, infernal pall?
Oh, world of sinners—if not too late—
While hope yet glimmers, flee from thy fate.
Awake, oh, sleeper, God help you hear;
Death coils around thee, thy doom is near.
Oh, hear the thunder, sinner, in slumber;
Will you determine to break the spell,
And not abandon your soul to hell?

—D. S. Warner

FAITH AND VICTORY

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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 Randall D. Flynn, assisted by Wayne Murphey and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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EDITORIALS

The warmest of Season's Greetings are sent to each of you by the workers here at the Lord's Print Shop. We trust that your life has been enriched by the blessings and love of God, and that His love is being radiated out to the world through your life. Seeing the love of God at work in the lives of His creation, mankind, has its effect. Many times those of the world ridicule and make fun of a child of God and his life of purity and holiness. Why is this? No doubt it is because the Christian example that has been set before them has brought condemnation on their own sinful lives. Those who fail to humble themselves and acknowledge the error of their ways, many times feel they must strike back—and thus the child of God becomes the object of criticism and persecution; however, in reality it is Jesus Christ, the plan of salvation, and God himself who are the true object of such persecution. How sad the great heart of God must be as He sees the thousands and millions who reject His Son and the plan of salvation. What more could God give mankind than that which He has already given—the gift of His dear Son who became the supreme, eternal sacrifice for sin. Thank God for that gift!

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

Bro. Curtis Williams was privileged to be with the Guthrie congregation on Wednesday night, Nov. 9. The Lord anointed him with a timely message. We pray the Lord will continue to bless Bro. Williams as he labors in the Lord's harvest field.

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

The Lord blessed Brother Max and Sister Lula Williamson to visit their two daughters and their families in Guthrie recently, and to be in worship services with the Guthrie congregation on Sunday, Nov. 13. The Lord blessed Bro. Max to deliver a message on the promised and soon coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

We trust that many of our readers are making plans and will be able to attend the Oklahoma State Assembly meeting here at Guthrie, which is scheduled to be held, Lord willing, Dec. 23, 1983, through Jan. 1, 1984. A more detailed announcement appears elsewhere in this issue. If you are not able to attend, please remember to pray for this meeting that a bountiful harvest of souls will be reaped for the kingdom of God.

—Randall Flynn

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

It was a privilege to be with the saints in Dayton, Ohio, for a few nights' meeting the first part of November. We are thankful for the safe trip that the Lord gave, and also for His presence in the meetings. The saints there seemed to be greatly encouraged in the Lord.

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

At the end of another swiftly passing year, we approach the time of Christmas celebration. How different is the celebration today from that of the night in the fields where the shepherds watched their flocks. There was certainly reason for a celebration. In Luke 2:10, it says that angels of the Lord told the shepherds, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." The reason for celebration was that Christ was born into

the world and would be a Savior for all people. The angels celebrated by telling the glad tidings to others. Many celebrate by bestowing gifts upon one another. We should have the true spirit of Christmas which is imparting the glad tidings to all the world, and our enthusiasm for this should last the year round.

Such is the purpose of this paper; to spread the news of salvation to all who will read its pages. Why not give a gift subscription to this paper to someone you know? It may be sent to any address in the United States for the small fee of 35¢ a year, or 3 years for \$1.00. Perhaps your effort to send in a name would result in someone hearing the glad tidings.

Not only does God work through the printed page, but I believe He is still looking for "angels" to spread His news to those near and far. There is a definite need in the Church of God today for more missionaries. Commit yourself to the cause of God and He has promised to reward you in this life and in the one to come.

Do something now, before this year is gone to benefit a soul who is unaware of how to celebrate the birth of Christ in his heart!

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

On Nov. 20, Bro. James Huskey of the Guthrie congregation apparently suffered a facial stroke. Since that time he has not been able to work. A card of cheer sent to his address, 523 N. Division, Guthrie, Ok. 73044, would be much in order. Join with us in prayer that the effects of this stroke will disappear and the cause of the problem healed that he might enjoy the benefits of good health.

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

We have received word of the recent passing of Bro. Henry Dornhofer of Shawnee, Okla. He was a man who had a great love for God, and many will miss him. He is survived by his wife, Sis. Emma Dornhofer, of Rt. 6 Box 9, Shawnee, Okla. 74801.

—Wayne Murphey

Partial List of Items Available



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In Memorial

Everett A. Loftis was born Jan. 1, 1906, near Mena, Ark., and went home to be with the Lord Oct. 5, 1983, at his home in Prattsville, Ark.

Bro. Loftis' home-going was very peaceful. At one time when prayer was being offered for him, he said, "Amen, Lord." While the song "One Thing I Can Do" was being sung, he joined in and sang, too.

He leaves to mourn his passing: his wife, Myrttie; three sons, Leslie and Noel of Prattsville, Ark., and Merle of Greenwood, Ark.; three daughters, Nellie Henderson and Lenora Bennings, both of Prattsville, Ark., and Barbara Walters of Sheridan, Ark.; thirteen

grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many other relatives, saints, and friends.

The funeral services were conducted by Bros. Mart Samons and Tommy Melot.

Note of Thanks

We, the family of Everett A. Loftis, wish to take this opportunity to thank all the dear ones for their acts of kindness in our time of sorrow, and for all the cards, letters, phone calls, love offerings, and prayers. Words cannot express our appreciation to all. Would love to write each one a letter, but that seems almost impossible.

May the dear Lord richly bless each one is our prayer.

—The Loftis family

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Sister Ada Ward Short, born January 16, 1902, in Covington County Alabama, passed to her eternal reward September 12, 1983, at the age of 81 years, 7 months, and 27 days, having been a resident of Hammond, La., for the last 23 years. She attended worship services regularly, being one of the congregation of the Campground Church of God.

Sis. Short was preceded in death by her husband, Mr. Zoner Short; three sons, Foster, Thomas, and Owren Short; also one grandson, Paul Schofield. She is survived by ten daughters: Mrs. Gladys S. Cashio of Loranger, La., Mrs. Otha (Marie) Schofield of Baton Rouge, La., Mrs. Bratton (Merle) Freeman of Lufkin, Tx., Mrs. Hardy (Nava Jo) Hutchinson of Neosho, Mo., Mrs. Donald (Mildred) Kimball, Metairie, La., Mrs. Donald (Margaret) Schwabauer of Ventura, Calif., Mrs. Eugene (Glenda) Labatut of New Roads, La., Mrs. John (Dianne) Kindroik of Lufkin, Tx., Mrs. James (Dale) Peden, Broken Arrow, Ok., and Mrs. Clarence (Cita) Johnson of Hammond, La.; three sons: Benjamin of Walker, La., Edward of New Roads, La., and Carroll of Innis, La.; one sister; 39 grandchildren; and 35 great-grandchildren. One granddaughter, Billie Jean C. Theriot, was reared with the family as one of the children. Sis. Short was deeply loved and is greatly missed by James and Betty Howell and children, they having a very close family tie, as well as by many saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Sis. LaVerne Manuel and Bro. Bob Forbes, with singing by a group of the Oak Grove Church of God congregation. Burial was in the Oak Grove Cemetery near Loranger, La.

—Bob Forbes

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Elizabeth McNair was born to Willis and Katie White on April 8, 1883, in Clay County, Georgia, and departed this life Sept. 3, 1983, at the age of 100 years, 4 months, and 25 days.

Sister McNair embraced the truth of the Church of God at Mystic, Ga., in 1935, and was faithful to the best of her knowledge unto the end. She loved to read her Bible and talk about the Lord; she rejoiced in the services of God, praising Him in song. She spent her last years in Jackson Heights Nursing Home, Miami, Fla. She continued in the services of the Lord rendered at the nursing home under the leadership of Bro. R. L. McIntyre, Sr. of Goulds, Fla.

She leaves to mourn her passing one devoted sister, Mattie B. Savage of Goulds, Fla.; three grand-

children; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Herschel H. Hargrave assisted by others, in the Church of God Chapel at Goulds, Fla., on Sept. 10, 1983. Burial was in McRae, Ga.

Note of Appreciation

We, the family of Sister McNair, wish to thank each one who showed their love and kindness with cards, flowers, phone calls, offerings, and food at the time when it was most needed. May God richly reward each of you for your labor of love in our behalf.

Yours in Christian love, —Sis. Mattie B. Savage

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Eva Lou Sorrell Gaines, the oldest of eight children of Audie and the late Tola Chester Sorrell, was born in Myrtle, Mo., on January 22, 1932, and departed this life to be with Jesus on November 15, 1983, at the age of 51 years, 9 months, and 24 days.

On December 25, 1955, she was happily married to Clayton Gaines, and to this union was born one son, David, and one daughter, Ruth Ann. Eva Lou was preceded in death by her mother in November 1956, her daughter, Ruth Ann, in Nov. 1968, and two brothers, Benny and Junior Sorrell.

At a young age she was born again into the Church of God, and lived a faithful life for Him until He called her Home, testifying, even in the last days of her life, that God, too, had been faithful to her. The song, "Less of Me" was her expression of the Christ-like life that she endeavored to live—living her life doing more for others and less for herself. She was in the furnace of affliction for the last few years of her life, but trusted God faithfully.

Being the oldest of her family and the only daughter for twenty-one years, she had the responsibility of helping her mother to care for her younger brothers and sister. When God saw best, nearly eleven months after her marriage, to call her dear mother to her reward, Eva Lou was faithful to be "Mother" to her little God-given sister and brothers, teaching them the Bible way as their mother would have. She never relaxed her care and concern for her family, even in the few years that she lived in Kansas; she still carried that concern and sacrificed her time to come home very often to help care for them. She devoted her whole life to loving and caring for her father, brothers, and sister, along with her own dear husband and children.

She leaves to cherish her memory: her faithful and loving husband, Clayton, of the home; one son, David, of the home; her father, Audie Sorrell, of the home; one sister, Rebecca Shaffer, of Okla. City, Ok.; four brothers, Leon of Bentonville, Ar., Thomas of Thayer, Mo., Sam of Bartlett, Ks., and Paul of Deming, Wa.; five nieces; eleven nephews; and many other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Sis. Margaret Eck and Bro. Carl Shaffer on Nov. 18, in the Church of God Chapel, Myrtle, Mo., with Bro. Curtis Williams conducting the graveside service. Interment was in the Church of God Cemetery, Myrtle, Mo.

A Word of Thanks

We thank each one for their love shown to us in our recent time of illness and sorrow. May God bless

you for your prayers, care and concern, words of comfort, cards, and help in whatever way you gave. Even though our hearts ache and we feel the vacancy, we can rejoice because our loved one has been delivered (Psa. 34:19), and is now enjoying what we are yet working for—that crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8).

—The family of Eva Lou Gaines

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Roderick Alan Powell, son of Jesse and Wilma Powell, was born June 13, 1961, at Alma, Mich., and departed this life at Gulfport, Miss., on Oct. 19, 1983, at the age of 22 years, 4 months, and 6 days. Rick's death was the result of a tragic automobile accident.

Rick was previously a member of the congregations of the Church of God at Myrtle, Mo., and at Four Corners, Okla. Although Rick had strayed away from the Lord more than a year ago, I was very happy on the night of Oct. 2, 1983, to receive a phone call from Rick saying that he had just made peace with God that evening. I asked Rick, "Do you feel that you got a real experience with the Lord?" He answered me with a positive "Yes." That was 17 days before he was called to depart this life. Rick's last testimony, as far as we know, was that he was saved and ready to meet the Lord. I anticipate meeting him in heaven.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Carol Powell; two sons, Christopher Alan and Jacob Lee Powell; a daughter, Elisabeth Sue Powell, all of Gauthier, Ms.; his parents, Jesse and Wilma Powell of Gulfport, Ms.; four brothers, David Powell of Thayer, Mo., Terry Powell of Escaraba, Mich., Kevin Powell of San Francisco, Ca., and Mark Powell of Goose Creek, S. C.; his paternal grandmother; his maternal grandparents; a number of other relatives, friends, and saints.

Funeral services were held on Sat., Oct. 22, at the First Church of God in Gulfport, Ms. Rick's body was laid to rest in the Finley Cemetery beside Miss. highway 53, there to await the sounding of the last trump of God and general resurrection of the dead.

—Harlan Sorrell

MY LAST TRIBUTE TO A DEAR FRIEND— IN MEMORY OF RICK POWELL



I somewhat lack in words
To speak to you today;
I know that it cannot be heard
By you what I say.
But one last tribute I would give
In memory of a friend,
Who for the Lord desired to live,
Make heaven in the end.
To one who longed to do God's will
And conscientiously
Set out God's purpose to fulfill,
And live from sin set free.
Yet, Satan was thy subtil foe
So cunning and so cruel;
He schemed thy soul to overthrow
And bring beneath his rule.
But Jesus, merciful and kind,
Knew thy true heart's desire;
He sought His wandering sheep to find
And pull thee from the mire.

Oh, Rick, I was so glad to hear
 From you two weeks before
 The fatal accident occurred
 That you were saved once more.
 Our Savior knew just what was best
 To get thy soul to heaven;
 So took you while your soul was blessed
 With pardon and salvation.
 Although a loss I keenly feel,
 My heart has bled with sorrow,
 I hope that I in heaven will
 Meet you some glad tomorrow.
 I wish that I could see you just
 Once more and give a greeting;
 I did not know two weeks ago
 We'd no more here be meeting.
 And when you said that last good-bye
 Knew not 'twould be the last time
 I'd hear your voice entreating me
 To put you on my prayer line.
 Oh, Rick, how oft' I prayed for you
 When you were 'mid life's pressures;
 That God would help you to be true,
 In heaven lay your treasures.
 If I had one more chance, I would
 Some flower to you be giving;
 But I'm so glad I gave you all
 I could while you were living.
 As now with tears I think, my friend,
 Of you and memories left us,
 It makes us realize time we spend
 With those we love is precious.
 For only one short life will soon
 For all of us be ending:
 "Oh, Jesus, help us make the best
 Of time that we are spending!"
 And may He comfort your dear wife,
 Your loving sons and daughter,
 Your uncles, aunts, and brothers, too,
 Your mother and your father.
 Our hearts are filled with sadness now:
 We think of you and miss you.
 I wish that we could tell you how
 Much we really love you.
 Oh, may it be our goal of goals
 To flee all sinful leaven;
 To live for Christ and save our souls
 And meet you, Rick, in Heaven.
 These, my regards for you I speak
 To give a final laurel,
 And say that you're beloved, Rick.
 Your best friend, —Harlan Sorrell

Without God, I care not to even try piloting this
 ship, for without Him at the helm, the storms and
 tempests would overthrow—never to safety would I
 reach. —Shelia Hawkins

Oh God of grace and God of glory,
 In darkest lands Thy light shall be,
 A love that knows no breadth nor depth
 To guide the savage soul to Thee.
 —Edward M. Brandt

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

REPORT OF REVIVAL AT HOLLY HILL, S. C.

Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I love the saints and the truth. I'm much encouraged to press on as this is truly a pressing time. The harvest is ripe but the laborers are few; pray God to send laborers into the vineyard.

Our revival meeting which was held Oct. 10-16, was richly blessed of the Lord. There were some at the altar seeking help for their souls, desiring a closer walk with the Lord; I believe they did receive it. There were not any of the unsaved seeking salvation, but I believe they were under conviction. May the dear Lord trouble their hearts until they melt down in tears. The meeting was very well attended. Bros. Egbert Allen and Gordon Humphrey were with us; God did send some inspiring messages and souls were stirred. We desire your prayers for our friends and loved ones to be saved here at Holly Hill.

We are still looking up to God; it is from Him that our help comes. We desire for all of God's family to remember this congregation here in prayer, that God will send the ministers of His choosing to help us. We welcome the saints at any time. May God continue to bless His work in the earth.

Yours in Christian love, —Utson Platt
 Rt. 1 Box 34, Holly Hill, S. C. 29059
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FALL MEETING REPORT FROM OKMULGEE, OK.

Thankfully we greet you in the name of Jesus. Even though we had rainy weather during our revival, the attendance was good each night. Saints from Hoffman, Tulsa, Boley, Okla. City, Green Pastures, Sapulpa, and Bristow, Ok., Wichita, Ks., Sandusky, Ohio, California, and surrounding areas were in the battle in behalf of souls. Praise God! We were blessed to have Sis. Velma Smith of Oakland, Ca., and Sis. Rosetta Randall of Sacramento, Ca., with us in all the meeting. Much sound doctrine went forth under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Church was edified, encouraged, and exhorted to be more humble, obedient, patient, love one another more, and to have a more supportive spirit. It was stressed that these divine graces working in the sanctified life bring oneness to God's people who will lift up a standard of holiness to a lost world. . . . Some sought the Lord at an altar of prayer. . . .

Again we thank all who had a part in the meeting in any way. "The singers will be there." There's no doubt about it.

A child of God, —Sis. Erma Johnson
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OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 77th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, Okla. beginning on Dec. 23, 1983, and continuing through Jan. 1, 1984. A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people in the central area of the U. S. A.

The chapel is located on the corner of N. 6th Street and W. Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are in the same block for your conven-

ience. All who come will be cared for. The expenses of the meeting will be met as usual by freewill offerings.

We are praying for and expecting the Lord to send Holy Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing to declare His Word among the people under the anointing of His Spirit. All hungry souls seeking light or spiritual help, come, and God will meet you here. If you are sick in body, come, and be healed by faith in the Great Physician. Saints, come with a burden, praying for the salvation of souls and that the Church may be strengthened and drawn closer together in the bond of unity.

All contributions for the meeting should be sent directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Frances Deforth, 105 E. Industrial Blvd., Guthrie, Ok. 73044. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie Busbee at 417 N. 11th St., Guthrie, Ok. 73044, phone (405) 282-4951.

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CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, December 23, 1983, and continue through January 1, 1984. The camp ground is located at 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Ca. 91331, phone (213) 899-9021.

We know the Lord will be with us as we humbly meet together in His name. By faith we anticipate the active support of all saints, both through prayer and attendance, especially those of the California state congregations.

Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. All who can do so should furnish their own bedding.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, Ca. 91331, phone (213) 896-7593, or Bro. Edward Sorrell, 15831 Olden St. Sp. 64, Sylmar, Ca. 91342, phone (213) 362-0014.

—Edward Sorrell

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SERVICES SCHEDULED AT NOWATA, OKLA.

We thank the Lord for sending Bro. Egbert Allen to Nowata recently for a meeting. We received much good food to our souls. Several outsiders attended, and some seemed to be real interested. Lord willing, beginning Dec. 16, Bro. Egbert will be here for meeting the third Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of each month. Everyone is welcome to come and be with us.

—Lois Chrisman

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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP GROUND

The proceeds from the sale of the old General Southern Camp Ground at Hammond, La., along with past and general contributions, have been used in this new building project at the Oak Grove Church of God near Loranger, La. The new chapel is nearing completion. Here is a list of what is to be done next:

1. The old chapel building needs to be completely remodeled to accommodate kitchen and dining facilities.
2. Showers need to be installed in the restrooms.
3. Hookups and a dumping station are needed for campers.

We here are trusting that God will provide the necessary funds to complete this new General South-

ern Camp Ground meeting place. If any desire to help in this work, it will be very much appreciated. All contributions should be sent to Bro. Don Forbes, Rt. 2 Box 66B, Amite, La. 70422.

—Nelson Doolittle

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National Ministers' Meeting Scheduled

A number of the ministry have expressed the need for and have scheduled a national minister's meeting of the Church of God to begin, Lord willing, on Monday, Jan. 2, 1984. This is immediately following the Okla. State Assembly Meeting which closes on Jan. 1. The meeting will be held in the Church of God Chapel located at N. 6th St. and W. Warner Ave., Guthrie, Okla. The use of the camp ground facilities (women and men's dormitories and kitchen facilities) will be available for those who attend. Any contributions for the expense of this meeting should be sent to: Sis. Frances Deforth, 105 E. Industrial Blvd., Guthrie, Ok. 73044.

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REPORT FROM THE MISSION FIELD

La.—On June 22, 1983, Bro. Herchell Hargrave and company returned from a safe trip to the field of Honduras, C. A. This company consisted of Sis. LaDolia Fuller, Sis. Liurrie Sanders, and Bro. Louis Kimble; Bros. Bernardo Sanders, Jackie Riley, and Sis. Lydia Bennett served as guides and interpreters. The stay was very profitable and the Word was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Services were held in Coxen Hole, Politili Bight, Sandy Bay, and Oakridge which were on the island of Roatan. We also left Coxen Hole and went to the mainland for service in the city of Tella, Honduras. The meeting was profitable with much altar work. On the island of Roatan, one night in particular, Bro. Jackie Riley left and returned with twelve young men; they all went to the altar plus the wife of one of the young men.

Bro. Hargrave and company held a meeting with the ministers there to let them know that we didn't come to set up another church, but to work with the church that was already there, and to help strengthen the brethren by the Holy Ghost. Sis. Sanders has given up her home in the States to return to her native home in Roatan to work with the ones that have come out of confusion.

Efforts are being made to establish a residence for saints going from the States for meetings and visiting there. We find there is a great need for financial support for materials in setting up a place for the saints. There is no electricity, and no transportation except taxi service, which is very expensive. There's a need for a generator for electricity, which is needed for holding meetings. Plans are already being made to purchase transportation for the mission work there. Anyone who feels led of the Lord or desires to help support this cause, or who want more information concerning this work, may contact Bro. Herchell Hargrave at 22345 S. W. 117th Pl., Goulds, Fla. 33170, phone (305) 258-4102, or Bro. Louis Kimble at 305 N. Laurel St., Apt. A, Metairie, La. 70003, phone (504) 738-9017. All contributions should be sent to Bro. Kimble as he is in charge of a fund already established for this purpose.

The evangelistic company returned in time for the Franklin, La. tent meeting. Having left Sis. Sanders in Honduras, Bro. H. Hargrave, Bro. Kimble, and Sis. LaDolia Fuller were joined by Bro. Keith Fuller in a profitable meeting at Franklin which was held Aug. 10-14.

Enroute to Sandusky, Ohio, from Franklin, La., a stop was made in Water Valley, Miss., where two souls who were already saved desired to be baptized. We held three services while there—Saturday night, Sunday morning and night. On Sunday morning, the Lord blessed Bro. Keith Fuller to bring the message; the power of conviction so filled the house that souls came weeping their way to the altar. Others were visibly moved by the Spirit, but would not yield; one man left running, looking back. There were six souls who followed the Lord in baptism before we left Water Valley, and plans were made for a tent meeting to be held beginning Sept. 21.

On Aug. 22, we left Water Valley for the tent meeting in Sandusky, Ohio. Some souls were saved in this meeting and others sought for spiritual help at the altar. After the meeting, Bro. Keith Fuller returned to his congregation in Akron, Ohio. Bro. Louis Kimble, my daughter, and I returned to New Orleans, La. I am now residing in New Orleans, having been led of the Lord to give up my home in Akron, Ohio, and move to New Orleans to help in the work there.

On Sept. 20, Sis. Liuirie Sanders (who is back in the States on business) and Sis. LaDolia Fuller took the gospel tent to Water Valley, Miss., and were in meeting there from Sept. 21-26. Bro. Keith Fuller and other saints from Akron and New Orleans were there to help in the meeting. There were visitors there each night. During the last service there was much shouting and rejoicing in the camp; six knelt at the altar and yielded their lives to the Lord. We have scheduled servies in Water Valley for the third weekend of each month.

Plans are being made at this time to return to Honduras in Jan., 1984. Sis. Liuirie Sanders is returning to Honduras in Nov. There are fifty or more children attending Bible study classes along with adults. . . . Much literature and books are needed in the work in Honduras. We are reminded of the Scripture that commands, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15.

Yours in His service, —Sis. LaDolia Fuller

Prayer Requests

Ala.—Sis. Frances Everhart requests that the saints please continue to hold her before the Lord in prayer.

Pa.—"Please pray for Sis. Flora Hinzman who is in Gordon Health Care Center in Spencer, W. Va. She is not able to care for herself, so cannot stay in her home. She is in her late 80's and needs the prayers of the saints." —Helen Byerly

La.—"Please pray for me as I am not well. I suffer a lot with headaches and other trouble. I have some unsaved children I desire prayer for.

—Beulah Johnson

Miss.—Bro. and Sis. Allen Reed have requested the prayers of the saints for some unspoken requests.

Ala.—"Please pray for my healing. I have an injured back and I'm very seldom without pain."

—Mollie Totty

Fla.—Sis. Anna Rouse requests prayer for her daughter who has had two light strokes. She also requests prayer for the healing of her eyes. She writes: "I can hardly see to read anything."

La.—Word has been received that Bro. N. P. Futch of West Monroe has suffered a heart attack and is in much need of prayer.

No doubt, each of us have some special requests that we are holding before the Lord. Though we do not speak them out in public, the Lord is well acquainted with our needs and knows the desires of our hearts. "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalms 37:4, 5. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

—Randall Flynn

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Due to so much help before, during, and after the flood, there is a good supply of packets of tracts on hand ready for distribution. Most of them are for the asking, as many foreign countries do not handle U. S. currency.

A recent order from Uruguay for some children's lessons has been completed, and a portion of them is on its way.

As of today, three books and many tracts, from six to twenty-eight pages, are ready for printing.

Pray that the Lord will see that they get into the hands of honest-hearted spanish-speaking people.

Yours for lost souls, —Sis. Opal Kelly

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MISSION REPORT FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Dear Brother Hammond and the dear saints at Guthrie: Greetings of Christian love to all of you in the name of Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Thank you once again for your kind letter and the love gift therein. Please accept our most heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your love to us and for your concern and burden for the salvation of precious souls.

As we continue our work here in the cultural minority area, our work is always progressing with souls added to our flock. Praise God for His help and guidance in winning these lost souls. It is our desire to spread the gospel before night comes. Time is getting short and signs of His soon coming are now coming to pass. . . . Surely the Philippines is now facing a great crisis. Prices are getting so high that we can hardly make both ends meet in our daily commodities; however, we have our good Lord who supplies our every need. "Thank you, Jesus."

In regard to our place of worship, we are very glad to inform you that we are able to rent a house wherein we will hold our services when the saints around come for fellowship. Nevertheless, we are still longing and praying for a church building that will

be constructed someday as the Lord provides. As we had informed earlier, the materials are now ready except for the sheets of roofing, and the cement for the floor and walls. Please pray with us that God will supply the needs for it.

We are praying for God's abundant blessing to each of you dear saints, both materially and spiritually, so you can continue peacefully, and joyfully your good works for Him before He comes.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. and Sis. Ilde Detuya and family

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REPORT OF MISSION WORK IN GHANA

Okla.—Dear Bro. Flynn and co-workers at the Print Shop, and saints scattered abroad: Greetings of Christian love in Jesus' name. I want to thank everyone for their many prayers that have reached God on behalf of the work in Ghana, and for the offerings that have come in for the church building started there. Besides what has already been received, I have something over \$1,000 to take to them. Also, to date \$390 has come in for the Twi Bibles requested. I can't buy them in the U. S., so will have to buy them in Ghana.

I will be able to take extra freight with me on the plane at \$66 per piece not weighing more than 70 lbs. each. Since used clothing is a real need there, I hope to take two bundles, 140 lbs. of them to the saints, and two boxes including dehydrated foods, a folding cot, a two-burner kerosene stove, etc.—things I will need if I do get a resident missionary permit for six or twelve months. I am waiting on my visa. . . .

I have received and answered a lot of mail at this time at my home. After Jan. 1, 1984, do not send mail to me here. My mailing address will be: c/o Jim Akwasi Konadu Yiadom, P. O. Box 44, Akumadan-Ash, Ghana, W. Africa. If money is enclosed for the work there, it should be in cashier's check or money order made out to Bro. Jim or myself. Any offerings designated for the work in Ghana will also be received by Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Ok. 73044. I desire your prayers. —Dorothy Keiser

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MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Oct. 25)—Dear Sis. Pruitt, workers at the Print Shop, and saints scattered abroad: We send our Christian love and greetings to you again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your very kind letter dated Oct. 4, which took 20 days to reach here. Surely, the mail service is very slow these days. The enclosures of the letter were noted with much appreciation and gratitude.

Every day we hear very sad news of tragic happenings around the world. Very unpleasant situations are existing now in all the nations. As the apostle Peter said, "But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." 1 Pet. 4:7. The time for Christians in the world to wake up is now! The time for the godly minority to pray, plan, push, and promote a great crusade for souls is now! The time for revival is now! If we are to succeed in that mighty crusade, we must be different from the

world. The only church that will meet the need of the world is the church that is different from the world. The Church will never win the world with compromise and by adapting itself to the world. Men and women, young and old, who want to walk with God as Enoch did, will quit all habits and amusements that are contrary to Christ. The Word says, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Rev. 22:11-12.

We had a wonderful revival meeting at Karikkom last week which resulted in the awakening of the Church as a whole for dedication and new decisions. The Church in the north and south part of our state is moving on fine through some trials and urgent needs. Our existence is due to your prayers and support. We thank the Lord for this chain of prayer among the saints.

We pray God to give a burden to someone there to visit India to look over the work here in different localities and to study the needs of the Church here. We pray for the strength and growth of the Church of God in America and in other nations.

Yours in His service,

—John Varghese

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NIGERIAN MISSION REPORT

Nigeria, W. Africa (Sept. 23)—Dear brethren of the Holy Family: Greetings in the most precious name of the Lord Jesus, who works all things after the counsel of His own will. Praise the Lord! He is the Rock upon which the Church is built. The stained record of the church of Rome has its church founded upon poor failing Peter, but the Church which Christ called "My Church" (the Church of the living God, 1 Tim. 3:15), has Christ alone as the foundation. (1 Cor. 3:11) . . .

The ministers' meeting was successfully held as scheduled on Aug. 12-13, 1983. Attendance was most encouraging. What appeared to be the chief concern of all was the coordination of the Lord's work in Nigeria to make for effective operation at the national level. . . . Reading of books, magazines, pamphlets, etc., of sect-Babylon was banned.

It brought indescribable joy that just an hour after my return from Tombia, a young man was led to my home by a relation, who on introduction of himself was Bro. Jim Akwasi of Ghana. What a warm embracing he received from this writer and the saints in general. He was in our midst for seven days of useful contact and discussions. He was eager to know many things about the Church. I call on Holy Ghost ministers to avail themselves in turns in Ghana immediately to help organize the work there. This writer, Lord willing, will find his way to Ghana immediately after the national camp meeting to be held in Kwale in December. There is virtually no food of your choice in Ghana, even to buy. All intending to go should be aware of these conditions, and take along necessary provisions sufficient enough to last the time of your stay in Ghana.

Yours in Him,

—Titus U. E. Enu

From the Mailbox . . .

Ark.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: I really appreciated your card and note of encouragement. . . . The Lord truly has been my strength. The second morning after our dear one's passing, the Lord gave me this song: "I know on Whom my faith is fixed, I know in Whom I trust; I know that Christ abides in me, and all His ways are just", and with it a sweet peace, and He took the ache from my heart.

I do appreciate the prayers of the saints; they have given my strength.

Love,

—Myrttie Loftis

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Fla.—Dear saints everywhere: Greetings of love in the name of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave His life that we might live. I am so glad His death and resurrection were not in vain in my case. Praise the Lord!

It has been quite some time since I have been able to write. I have been suffering for several months with what I think is arthritis. My hands, arms, shoulders, knees, thighs, feet, and back pain quite bad at times. The Lord has given me a healing touch, however, and it is not as bad at this time; I can write a little better. I thank the Lord for it all as I know He is at the control of all things and feel that He allows these uncomfortable things to touch our lives for a purpose that we don't understand. We only need to wait on Him patiently, knowing that "tribulation worketh patience."

I would like to say that Bro. and Sis. Robert McIntyre, Sr., and I have moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. I believe the Lord wants this truth to spread all over the world. I surely mean to do my part. Please pray much for me that I will obey all of His Word to me. I am determined to follow His leadings. I believe He is leading us to Ft. Lauderdale that He might use us as instruments to establish another congregation in Florida. God has blessed us with a small place to rent in which to worship. We surely want His approval on this little work. Feel free to help us with your prayers, presence, financial support, or in any way.

I surely want to finish my work in this time world before the Lord calls me over into eternity. I do want to see His face in peace. I want my labor to be worthy of the reward of that resting place Jesus has gone to prepare for me.

May God bless each of you there at the Print Shop as you get out the words of truth to a perishing world, and also all of you out there who may read this.

Love and prayers,

—Sis. Mattie B. Savage

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

Calif.—Dear Bro. Flynn: Greetings to you and all the workers at the Print Shop. God bless you dear ones for the wonderful work you are doing for the Lord there. No doubt, many souls have been saved through your efforts in getting the gospel out to lost souls.

We do enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper so much. The column of "Home Life" is really good and we hope many families are being blessed by it. We enjoy the good testimonies of the dear saints, telling of the wonderful things that God has done and is still doing for them.

We are encouraged to press on and draw closer to God each day; surely we are living in the last of the last days.

With Christian love,

—Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

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

Ala.—Dear ones: Greetings in Jesus' name. I'm thanking God today for the peace I have in my soul in spite of all the strife and suffering that is going on all over the world.

My heart breaks for the homeless and hungry, but most of all for the many who are dying and going into eternity unprepared. I know God is just and doeth all things to His glory, so I find comfort and peace in just realizing that everything is in His control.

I am burdened for all the service men who are risking their lives to protect us. I pray that God will convict and save many even as they face death on the battlefield. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Yours in Christ,

—Leora Frink

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

La.—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Sis. Grace: Greetings in the sweet name of Jesus to you dear ones and all the workers at the Lord's Print Shop. We were so sorry to hear about the flood, and we know that the cleaning up was a big job. We do trust and pray the Lord will bless and help to get all this work done.

The Lord blessed in the meeting Bro. Danny Layne held here at Loranger a few weeks ago. Nearly all who went to the altar are holding out faithfully, and we do thank the dear Lord.

I have been reading in the Bible about Joseph, and how he stored food and fed all that came to him during the famine. The people had to put faith into effect and pay the price to get literal food for their bodies. They got help when they paid the price. It is much the same way about spiritual food. We are having a spiritual famine in the world, but it's because people refuse to "come, buy, and eat." There is plenty of spiritual food, but so many won't pay the price, humble themselves, and accept salvation and be saved. Jesus teaches us that if we eat of His flesh and drink His blood, we will never hunger or thirst any more. Oh, praise the dear Lord! I'm so thankful I accepted His truth and came unto Him when I did. I'm sure it has kept me out of many snares and traps of the devil. We do pray for others that they will come unto Jesus and be saved. There is no other way; the Bible way is the only way from earth to heaven. Thank the Lord.

—Effie Miller

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

Tex.—Greetings of Christian love to all the Print Shop workers and all the saints in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We all are His children—brothers and sisters in the Lord. What a wonderful thing even to be raised from sin's dark night, reign with Christ, and to be called the children of God—His sons and daughters. Glory to His name! Praise Him for the glory He fills our souls with; it is joy unspeakable and full of glory.

I was praying, "Lord, I want to go to meeting so I can see the saints." He said, "Go look in the mirror." I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper so much as I can hear from some of the saints through the paper. I'm sorry that so many are sick and in need of prayer for

healing. Thanks to everyone that has taken time to pray for me.

May the Lord keep you in the center of His will to glorify Him.

Christian love and prayers, —Nellie Lovell

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Kans.—Dear saints: We are thanking God for the lovely fall weather we have had which reminds us of the beautiful salvation that we possess. What a precious gift Jesus gave to us! I am yet encouraged and excited about my journey to heaven. I know there is more ground to possess, but I am willing to meet the challenge, fight the battles, and win the victories to obtain it. I am truly happy in the Lord and love to follow Him. By His grace, strength, and power we can go on until the crown is won and land safely on the other shore.

I wish it were not so hard for people to become willing to pay the full price. It is also a shame that it takes people so long to get a good, clear vision that will cause them to refuse to backslide. I'm so glad the plan of salvation is perfect and it will take us all the way to heaven if we will only surrender all. . . .

May God bless each one is my prayer.

Christian love, —Shirley Knight

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer



La.—Dear ones: We send Christian love and appreciation to each one in the Print Shop. We were so thankful that the flood water didn't get in the shop, and were sorry about it getting in the dining hall and chapel. May the Lord bless in every needed way, and we hope that things are back to normal.

God has wonderfully blessed and healed Harold of the rash he had for more than three years. It was spread over large areas of his body; his toe nails were deformed and some came off. The itching was almost unbearable at times. Through all of this our faith and trust were stayed on God and not man. Praise God! He is still a Healer for both soul and body. God has been faithful to us through many things, and with His grace, we will be faithful to Him unto the end. We do appreciate all the saints' prayers.

We are still looking to the Lord to heal Bro. Nathan Carver and Sis. Doris Jones of the rash they have. We are thankful that Sis. Doris is better and was able to be in the Loranger meeting.

Christian love,

—Harold, Norma, and Shane Purvis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Canada—Dear Sis. Grace, and all the saints at the Print Shop and abroad: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus our Lord. It has been some time since we sent in our testimony. We are both out of work now, but are trusting the Lord to help and provide. He has never failed us, even in the past when our seven children were all small. We don't feel well in body at times, but we can say as the apostle Paul, "... though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day." 2. Cor. 4:16. We are much encouraged to fight the good fight of faith unto the end, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord has been so good to us; we can never praise Him

enough. It seems we are doing so little, and the Lord does so much for us.

We are so thankful to God for dealing with us and leading us to the family of God, the Church of God—the pillar and ground for the truth. We do appreciate all the dear saints and all the many workers for the Lord.

We need your prayers that we will do the will of God in these last days. We always pray for you in the Lord's Print Shop, and for all the dear saints abroad, and for lost souls. May God bless all of you!

Standing for all the Bible truths,

—Bro. and Sis. George Schroeder

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear saints at the Print Shop, and scattered abroad: Greetings of holy love! I'm so thankful to be a child of the King. His presence is so precious.

It is such a blessing to know that the Lord is near—that He loves and He cares. He has been a faithful Friend and Savior to us all these years, and brought Murphy and me over many hard places as we traveled life's road together. I find the dear Lord to still be our Friend and Savior, and He walks and talks with us daily. Now that I travel through this life alone, He is with me, so I'm not alone. Thank the Lord! He gives comfort and grace in every moment of grief. Praise His dear name! Oh, what a Savior!

I want to thank everyone who sent sympathy cards, especially those I have not had time to acknowledge. I appreciate each one's words of encouragement, the love offerings, concern, prayers, and phone calls; it has all meant so much to me. May the Lord bless and reward each of you.

Please pray for me when you think of me. I want the Lord's will in my life, and want to live to please the Lord above all else.

In Christian love,

—Natalie Allen

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear readers of the *Faith and Victory*: I greet you in the name of Jesus. May God bless each of you.

I want to express my thanks for all the prayers and every other way interest has been shown in me since I have been ailing in health the last few months. I am better now, but have to face having diabetes. I am expecting God to be with me and help me; He has done so much for me. I praise Him for His mercy and goodness, and for providing for my soul and body. (Psa. 103:3)

Since I gave up my post office box (187) at the Webb City post office and started having my mail delivered here at home, I have not been receiving all of my mail. The post office only forwards it for one year, and then returns it to the sender. No more mail should be sent to my old address, but to my home address which is 600 N. Fountain, Cartersville, Mo. 64835.

In Christ,

—Ruth Murphey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Okla.—Dear saints: I want to thank all the saints who carried a burden and prayed for me during my recent affliction. As I was expecting our third child, I went to the doctor for a checkup. He thought I was carrying twins, and sent me to the hospital for an ultra-sound test. They discovered, however, that I had a tumor instead. The specialist who saw the picture

said that the baby would have to be delivered by c-section. My regular doctor didn't know what problems the tumor would cause; it grew to five times its size in five months. We were looking to God to perform a miracle, and that is what He did.

First, the Lord moved the position of the tumor and I was able to give natural birth to a healthy boy. After birth, the nurse couldn't even find the tumor.

After I was home a few days I had more testing. I started experiencing severe burning pain where the tumor was, and I wasn't able to get out of bed. We searched our lives and stood on God's promises of healing. We praise His holy name; He took the pain away and the tumor, too. When I returned to the doctor for my checkup, he couldn't feel anything, while before it had been easy to feel.

The Lord taught me many things through this test. There is no fear in trusting God for our bodies when we have a clean heart before Him. Trusting God for our bodies is only natural. I thank the Lord for bringing me through this test and healing me completely.

Praise God, the day of miracles is not past!
Yours in Christ, —Jane Sallee

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

Okla.—Dear ones scattered abroad: Greetings! "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. We need to "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15.

There are many "seemeth right" ways going out to deceive and capture the innocent. It is very needful that we study God's Word; try the spirits and see if they be of God.

I am so thankful for the strait and narrow way that has been taught to us from God's sacred Word down through the years; and not only taught but lived out before us, day by day, by God's dear ministers who have not shunned to declare unto us all of the true counsel of God. I have no desire to weaken or change it, or make things easier. I think of when Peter spoke to Ananias and Sapphira when they lied to the Holy Ghost. Peter didn't sugar-coat it for them; he simply gave them the truth and they fell dead. (Read Acts 5:1-11.) What happened after that? Great fear came upon all that heard these things.

Sin and deception need to be uncovered. I never did want things sugar-coated for me, and I don't intend to be guilty of sugar-coating them for anyone else. We are living in perilous times. People want to hear easy and smooth things to ease their conscience, but the truly honest-hearted, the willing and obedient, want the Word just like it is; they will prove it by their willingness and obedience. The Lord is coming back for a spotless Church—one without spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Dear ones, this is a close, clean, pure life. Who will lay aside every weight and run with patience the race that is set before us? Are we doing our very best? If so, then Jesus will do the rest. If we weaken a little, become just a little careless or neglectful in our living and prayer life, become a little light in our talk, or take on just a little worldliness, the devil, being very much awake, sees the places where he can work on us. Beware of "the little places where he can work on us. Beware of "the

foxes, the little foxes, that spoil the vines."

I'm still much in need of prayer, and I'm still looking up. I mean by His grace to be true and faithful. I have no desire whatsoever to turn to the puny arm of man. My trust is in the Lord; He knoweth the way I take.

Dear ones, let us show the world what side we are on by our life and walk here on earth.

In the Master's service,

—Sis. Evelyn (Gibson) McCoy

Mexico Report

We want to thank you for the money you sent us and the saints. We do appreciate it because it's hard to have money for gasoline for the trips to Mexico with the size of family we have. We use it for repairs, gasoline and any need we might see down there.

This last week-end we went down there to Chapultepec where the house for the chapel is and we went on over to Ojos Negros for services on Saturday night. Then we went to Chapultepec for services Sunday morning. We felt that the Lord was with us and blessed the people and the meeting. Several of the saints from Bakersfield, Pacoima and Pomona and ourselves plan to go back the 5th of November.

On the loan for the chapel of \$1,723 there has been paid \$960, leaving the balance of \$763. Over half is paid now. We're so glad and grateful to each one who has helped. After the loan is paid off then we hope to be able to finish the chapel. It still needs to have doors and windows, electricity, plumbing, paint and a fence around the lot. We do trust that this effort will be the means of many souls finding peace to their souls and the entrance to heaven. We must close at this time.

May the Lord bless you specially and all of the workers there. We do appreciate every effort you are making to extend the story of salvation. We remember you in prayer.

With Christian love,

Edith Lara

HOME LIFE



Love is proverbially blind, therefore it is hard for parents to take an unbiased view of their children. To have them criticized by others is painful in the extreme. There is scarcely a mother who has not felt that sore, harrowed feeling that comes from a discussion of her child's faults with a criticizing friend or neighbor. How to meet these criticisms and make them steppingstones instead of hindrances is a problem to many a perplexed parent.

When tales are brought to us about our children, there are two extremes that should be avoided. There is a tendency to become irritated at the accuser and refuse to listen to his charge, or, if the child denies the charge, to take the word of the child against that

of the accuser. The other extreme is to take for granted that the child is guilty and to accept the accusation against him no matter how firmly he denies the charge.

The first extreme is dangerous in that it gives the child a feeling of security in his mischief and encourages him in untruthfulness also. Many parents think their children will not tell untruths, but such children are scarce—very scarce. Self-protection is one of the first laws of our being, and the child will defend himself even if he must do so by denying the truth. This temptation is strong, and the flesh is weak; it is foolish for any parent to be too sure that his child will not be guilty. If the accusation is brought by a responsible person or is of enough importance to justify the effort, it should be thoroughly looked into. If the child is telling the truth, investigation will not hurt him; but if he is lying, the sooner the parents know it the better.

The second extreme is unfair in that it gives the child no chance. It is possible for any person to be mistaken. If the accuser is not mistaken, investigation will not hurt his position; while if he should be mistaken, it would be a great injustice to the child to deal out correction for an act of which he is not guilty.

One father received such an accusation against his little son whom he had carefully taught against the sin of lying. The boy denied the charge, but the father believed the one who brought the accusation and dealt with the boy not only for the offense but for untruthfulness also. He punished the boy severely, but the little fellow persisted that he was not guilty, though he lay under the stigma of a lie for days. At last the father became alarmed lest he had been unfair to his little son, and said no more about it. Months afterward he learned that the boy was not guilty. This man was a good father and made up for his mistake to the boy to the best of his ability, otherwise he would have lost the respect and confidence of his son. It was a bitter lesson to the father and one to be remembered and heeded.

Every parent comes in contact with well-meaning people who have little understanding of child-nature, and who are constantly overestimating the faults of the children. It is very hard on the dispositions of our children to have them exposed to the criticisms of friends or relatives. While we should be ready to receive an accusation if our children have been ill-behaved, there is no parent that has not the right to take a firm and decided stand against constant nagging at his children.

As the children grow older, it is harder still to keep them with a kindly feeling toward those who "tell" on them. There is nothing more natural than that our children should resent even the best-intentioned accusation against them. The proper attitude of the parent will help the child to see things right. If the parent, with a careful and unbiased mind, investigates the matter and deals with it as a fault and not as an accusation, he will stand a far better chance of keeping the child in a humble attitude than if he either shields the child or embraces the accusation.

—Sel.

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; . . . but as

for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15.

Joshua realized that there was nothing that he could do to persuade people to serve the living God. God gives every individual a free will, and the ultimate decision is theirs. However, it was in his hands as to whom his house served. We survey things around us and are tempted to straighten things out, but many times this is not our responsibility. Our responsibility lies at home with ourselves and our families. With this in mind, it is our desire that this column be of encouragement and help to those who are shaping their family. If you have some advice or words of encouragement for others, we solicit that information. Send all articles to: Faith Publishing House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Ok. 73044, designating that it is for the "Home Life" column. —Wayne Murphey

Question and Answer Column

By Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What is the Biblical explanation of 1 Tim. 2:11, and 1 Cor. 14:35?

Answer: 1 Tim. 2:11, says, "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection." Verses 12-15 need to be included here to establish the context and complete the thought. These verses read thus: "But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety."

In his book *What the Bible Teaches*, F. G. Smith observes on this passage that it refers to a woman's proper relationship with her own husband, and is not related to the other texts concerning the official position of women in the Church. Adam Clarke sets forth the same thing in his commentary at this place. F. G. Smith further says that this is evidenced by the example given—Adam and Eve—and its connection with childbearing. Adam Clarke inserts a quote from Dr. Macknight which reads thus: "However, though Eve was first in the transgression, and brought death on herself, her husband, and all her posterity, the female sex shall be saved (equally with the male) through childbearing—through bringing forth the Saviour", etc.

Hence it is evident that this entire passage has reference to a woman with her husband and not to any public relationship. In the proper domestic relationship the wife is to recognize her own husband as her head and be subject to him (Eph. 5:23 and numerous other texts). However, in spiritual things, the woman's husband is not her head. She is a separate, distinct individual before God and is personally responsible to Him the same as is her husband. To make the wife subject to her husband and him her head in spiritual things would fix it so a woman with an unsaved husband could not live a saved life. The answer of Peter to the magistrates who had commanded them to teach no more in the name of Jesus (Acts. 5:29 "We ought to obey God rather than men")

is applicable to any case where one is required to be subject to and obedient to another. Consequently, we conclude that a married woman is to obey God rather than man even if that man is her husband. It is therefore evident that a husband is not given to be the head of his wife in spiritual things but only in domestic and temporal things.

The reference to the woman learning in silence in verse 11 I would not interpret as meaning that the woman has no voice at all in the affairs of the home, business affairs, and plans for the future and welfare of the family. I feel there should be a generous and free exchange of views between a husband and wife on all important matters, but in the final analysis the decision is in the hands of the husband, and the wife is to accept it without contention, argument, or back talk.

1 Cor. 14:35, says, "And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church."

The position of women in the church is an age-old issue and has never been settled to the complete satisfaction of all. I have no idea at all that what I say here will satisfy the minds of all who read it. But the question is a persistent one and keeps popping up, so we have to keep dealing with it.

First, I would say that any Scripture on any subject must be interpreted according to the rule of the unanimity of faith. What this means is that any Scripture on any subject must be interpreted to harmonize with every other text in the entire New Testament on the same subject. Therefore, if this were the only Scripture in the New Testament we would just have to accept it as the norm. Then we could allow women to attend church services but require them to be silent and say nothing while there. But it is not the only Scripture on the subject, and I say we would surely lose a lot of fine talent to enforce it that way.

In *What the Bible Teaches*, F. G. Smith says that the idea of male superiority and female inferiority in the human race has its roots in paganism. Christianity is the only religion in the world that recognizes the equality of men and women. Paganism regards women as greatly inferior to men, and they have very little part in religion. Among the Jews, even under the law, special provisions were made for women and they were honored and respected. Some of them even rose to positions of prominence. Deborah was a prophetess and a judge in Israel (Judges. 4:4). In her position as judge she would have been her husband's judge, too, if she were a married woman. Barak refused to go to battle with Sisera unless Deborah went with him (Judges 4:8). She went with him, and God gave them a great victory.

In John 4, Jesus delivered one of His greatest sermons to a lone woman of Samaria. Then the woman took the message to the men in the town and many of them became believers. Paul recognized the equality of men and women in Christ in Gal. 3:28—"There is . . . neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus." In Acts 21:9, it is recorded that Phillip had four daughters which did prophesy. In the second chapter of Acts where the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church is recorded, Peter said in verses 14-18 that this was what was prophesied by Joel (Joel 2:28-29). And he said in

verses 17, 18, ". . . I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy . . . and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

Prophecy or to *prophesy* primarily means to speak forth, to tell out the mysteries of God. It is to proclaim the mysteries and knowledge of God. Paul declares that redemption itself is a mystery (1 Cor. 2:7-14). To preach the gospel of Christ, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is to proclaim the *mysteries*, the *hidden wisdom* of God—to prophesy. Both men and women participated in this according to the above Scriptures.

This is the general teaching of the New Testament Scriptures; other cases could be cited if space permitted. But there were necessary exceptions to this because of the different customs of the gentile people among whom Paul labored, and 1 Cor. 14:35 is such a case.

The following quote is from F. G. Smith in *What the Bible Teaches*. "Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles and, as such, was engaged in planting the gospel among various nations and peoples with different customs and social conditions. He found it necessary to identify with them in many of these respects in order to gain them. This is shown in his own writing in 1 Cor. 9:20-23. Paul said in some of his instructions to this Corinthian Church in 1 Cor. 7:26, 'I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress.' In such cases, those instructions would not be a standard for all people and for all time. This would be true concerning women's silence in the Church because to interpret it otherwise would create a contradiction in the Scriptures which cannot be. The Corinthian Church was in a heathen environment so all he could do was accommodate himself to their custom."

The Smile of God

"Who will show us any good?" Psalms 4:6. The world is asking this question of the saint. The saint finds the answer in the words of the remainder of the text. "Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us." The smile of God is the chief good. Nothing in all this world is good except it has God's good pleasure upon it. Let that alone, dear soul, upon which God will not smile. It is heaven upon earth to stand continually in the smile of God. That is the essential good. Pluck no rose that does not have the radiance of light from the countenance of God upon it. It will prick you if you do. Nothing will take God's place in man's life. Men have tried to manufacture artificial sunlight, but they have not yet succeeded in inventing something that will melt the snows of winter, paint the flowers with beautiful colors, mantle the fields with coverings of green, and shoot life through all nature. It is only God that can bring light, peace, and health to the soul. The pleasures and riches of the world will never do it. You may have the applause of the world, its riches, and its pleasures if you wish them, but let me stand in the light of God's countenance. God's smile will bring a bright spot into life's darkest hours. —C. E. Orr
(Taken from *Helps to Holy Living*)