

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant



Volume 61, No. 11

61st Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

35¢ Per Year

Feb., 1984

The Love of God



Deeper than the depths of ocean,
Wider than the boundless sea,
Higher than the lofty mountains
Is the love of God to me.
Filled with all His glorious fulness,
Sitting at His blessed feet,
Doing only as He bids me,
This is all my drink and meat.

You may have these earthly pleasures,
You may have earth's fame and store,
I have found a richer treasure,
One that satisfies me more;
In God's love I find completeness,
And an everlasting rest,
Joy that passeth understanding,
Where my soul is ever blest.

Trials, yes, they come quite often,
Friends forsake me, that is true,
Heavy burdens press upon me,
Disappointments not a few;
But the love of Jesus ever
Makes these burdens light to bear,
And the One who never leaves me
Bids me cast on Him my care.

So I ask for nothing better
Than to ever simply know
That my life is pleasing Jesus,
While I linger here below.
And when all the toil is over,
And when all the trials are past,
Seated by His throne in glory
I shall be with Him at last.

—W. J. Henry

Without God, to whom would I go when I awaken
each morning; to whom would I accredit the sunshine
of another glowing day?

—Shelia Hawkins

Procrastination



Procrastinate, a Latin English word, means to put off to a later date; or to defer to a future time. We are interested, however, in its spiritual application—man putting off the Holy Spirit's call to turn from his sinful ways and come to Christ, be saved, redeemed (born again) of the Spirit, as Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:3. This is a spiritual birth.

Christ told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit, or Comforter, to "reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." Jn. 16:8.

This wonderful Holy Spirit is in the world today doing His office work toward mankind. Without His dealing with the heart, or soul, of man, none could be saved. To spurn Him away is one of the most dangerous things a man, woman, boy, or girl can do. The Spirit's dealing with a soul is the most wonderful happening in one's life.

Some think they can get saved any time they wish, but this is vain reasoning. John 6:44, says, "No man can come to me [Christ], except the Father which hath sent me draw him." The drawing power in this present world is the Holy Spirit. Without His work of conviction on man's heart, none could get saved.

Dear ones, when God is talking to you and saying, "Son/Daughter, give me your heart," you are having a most wonderful experience. Yield, and He will take that load of sin and separate it from you as far as the East is from the West (Psa. 103:12), and, oh, how happy you will be! But if you spurn Him (the Holy Spirit) away, He does not have to return. We do thank God that He *has* returned to convict again. Yet, God has said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." Gen. 6:3.

One dear brother, whom I loved as a father in Israel, told of how he got away from God through discouragement caused by the letting down of some of the principals which were shown so clearly through the Evening Light gospel. Because of this, he gave up and went back into sin. For twelve or fourteen years he tried to get back to God. He went to the meetings held by the true saints who had not yielded to modernism, but to no avail. One meeting I attended, he went to the altar and the saints prayed for him, but

they got nowhere with God. The man got up from the altar shaking his head—the very picture of woe. God was merciful to him, however, and told him to go to a certain meeting and He would save him again. The man went, and God, through the Spirit, met him there, saved him again, and gave him back his gift of ministry. He held true and carried this present truth to the end. Praise God!

When I was a boy in high school, I became very concerned about my soul after I lost my dear brother-in-law, whom I loved dearly. The Spirit talked to my heart and I got saved, but it seemed the seed fell on "stony ground" and withered, and I lost that which I had. But thanks be to God, through His mercy He dealt with my soul and I was saved again. It was through the ministry of my father and the saints. God gave me my family and we were privileged to sing the gospel story together. I shall never forget when my father baptized me in the beautiful, running water. As he lifted his hand to pronounce the heavenly blessing upon me, he said, "My son and brother, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Oh, such sweet words!

Dear ones, if you have become discouraged and lost the love of God out of your heart, do not stop praying until the Spirit calls again. Even Peter had to go out and weep bitterly.

If you have never found the Lord, do seek until you find Him sweet to your soul. Do not put off this most vital thing in your life.

May the Lord bless all of His true children who are holding for the Truth that was first delivered to the saints.

Your brother,

—Amos Porter

Dangers of Man-Rule in the Church

"The Church must grope her way into the alleys, and courts, and purlieus of the city, and up the broken staircase, and into the bare room, and beside the loathsome sufferer; she must go down into the pit with the miner, into the forecabin with the sailor, into the tent with the soldier, into the shop with the mechanic, into the factory with the operative, into the field with the farmer, into the countingroom with the merchant. Like the air, the Church must press equally on all the surfaces of society; like the sea, flow into every nook of the shore line of humanity; and like the sun, shine on things foul and low as well as fair and high, for she was organized, commissioned, and equipped for the moral renovation of the whole world." —H. L. Simpson

For at least the second time, I've finished reading *Greater Experiences of Famous Christians* compiled by Gilcrist Lawson. How my soul thrills to the workings of God through these holy men and women over the centuries! Many times as I read, tears would come to my eyes and I'd praise God for His wonderful dealings with mankind in ages past.

The theme and essence of the book proves that, through the annals of time, whenever a religious movement began leaving the leadings of the Holy Spirit and partook of man-rule, the Spirit of God withdrew Himself from their midst.

One can go back even farther than that by reading both the Old and New Testaments and see how during each age and generation, God would raise up men and women who dared to stand above their contemporaries and herald the Truth.

Lately, I've been thinking more seriously than ever how God is displeased with man-rule. We know that in our world, there must be rulers over a state, country, and nation in order for there to be guidance of a state or nation as a whole. However, whenever that rule tries to impinge upon the sovereignty of God's supremacy in the heart and soul of man, then God wields the ultimate right, power, and position in each individual heart. And if, oh how said, the soul of man rejects God as supreme Sovereign and places in the throne of his heart the rule of another human being, then God rejects that person.

Whenever God created the world, He wanted to make mankind in His own image. He condescended to walk in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, communing with them. The most thrilling words, to me at least, in the Old Testament was about Enoch—he was not found; God translated him because he "walked with God." Just those few words indicate so much. How close and endearing that walk must have been to both God and Enoch!

As time marched on, we find that the children of Israel needed a leader they could rally around to direct them out of Egypt. So God raised up a man—Moses. But whenever the people settled in Canaan, they soon demanded a king from Samuel. What did God tell them? "He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, . . . and he will take your daughters . . . and he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, . . . and put them to his work." 1 Sam. 8:11-16. Samuel was so downcast over this request by the people that God finally told him, "For they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them." 1 Sam. 8:7. God had deigned to be their King, but they wanted a flesh and blood person—not only that they might see a king, but that the other nations might pay homage to their king. This happened in Canaan—a type, for us, of the second work.

There are many, many more instances where the people as a whole rejected God in favor of a mere man. And so man-rule became the mode of the times and generations. No more did a prophet or high priest appeal to God for direction for the nation. But man, in his own limited wisdom endeavored to lead the nation—many times with disastrous results. There were jealousies and murders among the relatives of the kings and their descendants as each vied for the prestige of the throne.

After Christ's ascension, we see the bride of Christ was motivated by the Holy Spirit. How glorious was her growth! How powerful her victories! She stretched from shore to shore of most nations, conquering and progressing. Such power! She pressed and flowed and shone!

Alas, man again desired power. The love of power and knowledge or wisdom was the downfall of man-

kind in the beginning. Again, we see it happening about 270 years after Christ's death. Then through the ages—sometimes so black one could not even imagine a bride for Christ, then so misty she appeared as a vaporous floating image always out of reach. God never forgot. Although man formed churches after his own commandments, there were times when the Spirit of God brought forth a man or woman in the power of His Spirit to bring people's minds back to Him.

And so various movements rose and prospered as long as they were obedient to the voice and commands of the Holy Spirit. Once the people left following His still, small voice, God removed Himself. He will remove Himself today if we do not listen to the still, small voice of our High Priest and King, Christ Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

—Sis. V. N. Robertson

Religion Versus Salvation



Religion, it has been said, is man trying to find God. *Salvation*, on the other hand, is God finding man.

Religion satisfies man's mind; *salvation* satisfies the soul.

Religion puts on its best manners on Sundays and whenever people are around. *Salvation* behaves itself every day and everywhere, even when alone.

Religion is man working as hard as he can for God. *Salvation* is God working as hard as He can in man.

Religion will cause a person to be found in church—every day, if necessary. *Salvation* will cause the church to be found in the person—every day, as necessary. *Religion* will make a man do a lot of things he doesn't really want to; *salvation* will make a man do only what he wants to do, because the desire to do it is in his heart.

Religion will make a certain set of "good habits" to form a man. *Salvation* will cause a man to form a set of "good habits."

A man works on his *religion*, but *salvation* works on the man. *Religion* will cause him to do good. *Salvation* causes him to be good.

Religion will sometimes make a man look beautiful to others; *salvation* will make him look beautiful to God.

Religion is concerned with showing the "fruit of the Spirit." *Salvation* is concerned with possessing the Spirit of the fruit. One will then automatically produce the "fruit of the Spirit."

Religion depends on the sunshine of life, but *salvation* makes its own sunshine. When the sunshine of life goes behind the clouds, *religion* droops, but *salvation* never notices the difference.

Religion makes a man more pleased with himself than with God. *Salvation* makes a man pleased with God and never pleased with himself. *Religion* allows a man to compare himself with others and then settle down in the cozy little nest of self-satisfaction. *Salvation*, on the other hand, makes a man compare himself with Jesus Christ, the "model Man," then settles him in a never-ending struggle to attain that perfect Christ-image.

With *religion*, the creature is the dominant entity. With *salvation*, the Creator is all in all. *Religion* is powered by the love of self. *Salvation* is powered by the love of God.

Religion is characterized by a spiritual dearth. *Salvation* is a spiritual birth. *Religion* is "having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof." *Salvation* is having the power of godliness but denying the form thereof.

Religion will allow a person to feed the poor, starving millions of India, but hate his next door neighbor. *Salvation* will cause him to love everybody. "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor . . . and have not love, it is just religion." 1 Cor. 13:3, paraphrased.

Religion will make that same rich man give away \$1000, which he didn't need anyway and can write off as a tax deduction. *Salvation* will make a man give away his last \$10 bill to someone in need, with no hope of receiving any credit or remuneration for it at all.

Religion allows you to worry about how people are treating you. *Salvation*, however, causes you to be concerned about how you are treating people. With *religion*, if people treat you too bad, you can always "lay your religion down," get even with them, then pick up your religion later on. *Salvation* is something that will make you lie down and take ill treatment meekly like Christ did, picking you up later with praises to God still filling your heart.

Religion will make you feel like you earn and deserve heaven. *Salvation* will make you know it's nothing but the gift of God.

Religion may sometimes make people sick of you. *Salvation* will make them sick of themselves. They will see the beauty of the life of Christ and desire it. *Salvation* attracts; *religion* drives people away from you, from the church, and from Jesus. Maybe this is why America spends so much time on Sundays camping, fishing, and having fun instead of spending it in church.

Religion is what man since time's beginning has been trying to offer to God. *Salvation* is what God since time's beginning has been trying to offer to man. This, then, is the chief difference between the two: *religion* arises from the earth, while *salvation* comes down from heaven.

Which of the two do you profess to have: an empty *religion* or a full *salvation*? One is the real thing; the other is a cheap imitation. As in the commercial world, you get what you pay for. To get *religion*, you give up certain things. To get *salvation*, you just give up—everything. —Phillip Matthews

When I was a child I laughed and wept,
Time crept.

When as a youth I waxed more bold,
Time strolled.

When I became a full grown man,
Time ran.

When older still I daily grew,
Time flew.

Soon I shall find, in passing on,
Time gone.

—Sel. by Effie Miller

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

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Okla.)

Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your Zip Code number. The post office now charges 25¢ to notify us of each change of address.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single copy, one year	\$.35
Single copy, three years.....	\$1.00
Roll of 4 papers to one address, one year.....	\$1.00
Write for prices on larger quantities.	

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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P.O. Box 518 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
Office phone 405-282-1479; Home phone 405-282-2262

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to: Faith Publishing House, P.O. Box 518, Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—3 YEARS FOR \$1.00

EDITORIALS



We send greetings to all the readers of this February issue. Already the year of 1984 is rapidly progressing. This February issue will complete 61 years of publishing the *Faith and Victory* paper. We thank God for His blessings and our gratitude also extends to those who are faithful supporters of this work. Your help is not taken for granted, but each offering and token of interest is duly noted. This is a joint effort for God, and the final reward for the good that is accomplished will be shared by all who have stood behind the work throughout the years.

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

We are preparing to print a 16-page booklet entitled, "What About Man?" This booklet, which is in the form of a poem, was written by Bro. Harlan Sorrell, and addresses materialistic views. To obtain a copy, send 15¢ for the booklet plus 20¢ for postage to this office.

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

The 77th annual Oklahoma Assembly Meeting was held as scheduled, Dec. 23, 1983, through Jan. 1, 1984. The weather was very cold before and during the meeting, and snowfall made it dangerous for many to travel. Considering the negative conditions, the meeting was still well attended. The Word went forth and those in attendance with open hearts heard truths which proved a blessing to them. There was not much altar work although the invitation was given and sound reasons presented as to why a sinner should turn from his wicked ways.

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

It was with surprise and sadness that word came to Aunt Maybelle Pruitt of the death of her brother, Clyne Miles, who resided in California. His funeral was held Jan. 19. We extend our sympathy to his wife, Tillie, and all the other members of his family.

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

If there are camp meeting dates that you would like published, please send them in immediately. In the past we have printed a complete list of camp meeting dates in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we request that your information be in this office by Feb. 15, if possible.

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

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:5. There are multitudes today whose hearts are filled with darkness. God's light is extended to them, but they fail to comprehend it. It is not that people are unable to understand God's way, it is just that many are simply rejecting it, for men love darkness rather than light. If we are not careful, we can become so calloused to this darkness that is so prevalent in the world today, that ultimately, it becomes commonplace. We will lose the abhorances for it that we should have.

One of the "commonplace" crimes of today against God and humanity is the sin of abortion. Millions of lives are legally snuffed out by human hands because a mother and father did not want the responsibility of raising a child. Our courts today have obligated themselves to defend the rights of those who are wronged. Not only does the government profess to uphold justice, but there are organizations who will,

without charge, defend those who are accused. And yet, where are those who will defend the right of the unborn? Is it because they are unable to cry out that they are being wronged? Is it their undoing because they cannot speak? If so, then we who uphold the truth must stand firm for that which is right and not allow it to become to us just a common occurrence.

John the Baptist lost his life because he spoke out on a moral issue. He defied Herod in his sin, and paid with his life. Does God require less of us? We may not lose our lives, but our reputations may be at stake. We should use wisdom in maintaining the cause of God, but we must uphold the right and refuse to rest our approval on that which is sin.

Ballad of the Unborn

My shining feet will never run
On early morning lawn;
My feet were crushed before they had
A chance to greet the dawn.

My fingers now will never stretch
To touch the winning tape;
My race was done before I learned
The smallest steps to take.

My growing height will never be
Recorded on the wall;
My growth was stopped when I was still,
Unseen, and very small.

My lips and tongue will never taste
The good fruits of the earth;
For I myself was judged to be
A fruit of little worth.

My eyes will never scan the sky
For my high-flying kite;
For when still blind, destroyed were they
In the black womb of night.

I'll never stand upon a hill
Spring's winds in my hair,
Aborted winds of thought closed in
On motherhood's despair.

I'll never walk the shores of life
Or know the tides of time;
For I was coming but unloved,
And that my only crime.

Nameless am I, a grain of sand
One of the countless dead,
But the deed that made me ashen grey
Floats on seas of red.

—Fay Clayton

The Ballad of the Unborn may be obtained in tract form from this office upon request. Quantities may be purchased for 70¢ per hundred. —Wayne Murphey

My dear Father,
How can it be
That your Son died
For unworthy me?
The answer to
This poem above
Is nothing less
Than divine love.

—Effie Miller

In Memorial

Mrs. Larrie King Morris, born Feb. 4, 1903, to Mr. and Mrs. Robert King in Muskogee, Okla. She departed this life on Oct. 25, 1983. At an early age she was united with the Church of God.

On March 4, 1921, Larrie was united in marriage to Mr. Andrew E. Morris in Silver City, Ok. God blessed this union with ten children. The family moved to Fresno, Ca., in 1944.

Sis. Morris was a faithful and loving wife and mother. In the Church and community, she was always showing love and concern for others. Her kind and loving way will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

She leaves to cherish her memory a devoted husband; eight sons, Leonard, Clyde, Cecil, Kenneth, Wilbur, and Billie Jean Morris, all of Fresno, Ca.; King Morris of Pasadena, Ca.; two daughters, Mrs. Lenora Brewer, and Mrs. Gloria Dixon, both of Fresno, Ca.; a devoted niece and nephew whom she reared, Wylene Darden of Rodeo, Ca., and Willard Darden of S. Carolina; thirty-seven grandchildren, nineteen great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

—Submitted by Naomi Jennings

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

Latha Payne Hamilton was born on Jan. 22, 1881, in Henderson County, N. C., to Mr. and Mrs. George Payne. She departed this life on Wed., March 2, 1983, in her home at the age of 102 years. Sis. Hamilton was a resident of Fresno, Ca., for 67 years, coming from Winlock, Wa. She was the mother of thirteen children.

Sis. Hamilton accepted Christ into her life at an early age. She was a founding member of the Church of God in Fresno, and served as a Sunday school teacher.

She leaves to mourn her passing: one son, Calvin R. Hamilton of Fresno, Ca.; three daughters, Mrs. Ollie R. King and Mrs. Imogene Clark, both of Fresno, Ca., and Mrs. Viola P. Saunders of Los Angeles, Ca.; one sister, Mrs. Hattie Burnette of Okla. City, Ok.; seventeen grandchildren; forty-eight great-grandchildren; thirty-one great-great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives, saints, and friends.

—Submitted by Naomi Jennings

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

Amy Leoda Hutton Hunter, born in Kingfisher County, Okla., on May 17, 1895, to Cornelius and Cornelia Hutton, and passed to her eternal home on Dec. 16, 1983, in Pacoima, Calif.

On Sept. 18, 1922, she was united in marriage to Chester Hunter. He preceded her in death on Feb. 12, 1946.

Sister Hunter was saved in June 1961. She embraced the truth of the gospel brought forth in the Evening Light, and remained in the Church of God for the remaining years of her life. Sister Hunter was not idle in God's kingdom; she went about doing good.

Funeral services were conducted by Sis. Beverly Reed, assisted by Bro. Adriel Bowman.

Kathleen Melson Clarkson was born July 28, 1913, and passed from this life on January 17, 1984, at the age of 70 years 5 months and 20 days.

On March 8, 1930, she was united in marriage with John Clarkson at Chandler, Okla. To this union were born four children.

Sis. Clarkson was saved in November 1935. She had a wonderful experience in the Lord, and that remained her life's testimony. The family's thoughts are of what a beautiful mother and companion she was. She devoted her entire life to her family's happiness and her love for God. Yet, she showed much love and concern for others.

Sis. Clarkson is survived by her devoted husband John Clarkson; one daughter, Sharon Lorraine of Edmond, Ok.; three sons, Harlan Edmond, Ronald Owen, and Richard Allen, all of Edmond, Ok.; five grandchildren; and other relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Leslie Busbee and O. C. Porter on Jan. 20 at the Baggerly Funeral Home Chapel, Edmond, Ok.

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

Lessie Smitherman Davenport was born in Randolph, Ala., on February 28, 1898, and went to be with the Lord on December 25, 1983, at the age of 95 years 9 months and 28 days.

In the year of 1905, she was united in marriage to the late President Davenport, to whom she was married for 61 years. To this union ten children were born, five of whom preceded her in death.

In the year of 1933, she had a hungry desire to be with God's people and searched from church to church for them. God honored this desire and permitted her to come in contact with Bro. and Sis. Sim Williams who were instrumental in leading her to the Church of God. When she came to the assembly of the saints they sang the song, "In the Light of God." Her heart bubbled over with joy—a joy that never ceased to flow.

The Lord endowed her with a special gift of faith, and she fully trusted the Lord for the healing of her body for over 60 years, and remained true to the end. Mother Davenport was used of the Lord to pray for the sick, encourage the down-hearted, give admonition, support the ministry and the work of God in general. Mother Davenport, known to many as Grandma, will be greatly missed, but the godly influence of her life will live long.

Survivors include four sons: Waymon of Perris, Ca., Delno of El Centro, Ca., Edward and Leonard of San Bernardino, Ca.; one daughter, Alta Hobbs of Rialto, Ca.; 27 grandchildren; 61 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren; two nieces; three nephews; and a host of saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Calvin Hobbs, assisted by Sister Beverly Reed. Interment was at Mt. View Cemetery, San Bernardino, Ca.

OUR MOTHER

A light was given our mother one day,
Given by God as a guide through life's way;
She held it in hand with real love divine,
As a servant of God, helper of mankind.

Unyielding, she met the battles of life
And faced them with courage amid the strife;
She never let go the torch she obtained
For by God's grace she prevailed and reigned.

She chose the good part, as Mary of old:
Ministering to others, both body and soul;
Never failing to answer duties' call,
No matter the task whether great or small.

Her words of wisdom given from above
Were tempered with kindness, compassion, and love,
As were the prayers she so often prayed,
Asking the Lord some sinner to save.

Her beautiful life, so virtuous and true,
Was guided by God, who has carried her through.
The torch that she carried so valiant and strong
Will be missed by those it guided so long.

We thank you, Mother, for your faith in God.
We'll seek to follow Him whose path you trod.
We thank you for your life, the strength it gave;
A message from God, who kept you saved.

So goodnight, dear Mother; we love you—all:
Children, grands, great-grands, large and small;
And not us only, but all those who knew
Of your life in God so virtuous and true.

It's hard this message of love to close
As you now rest in such sweet repose;
So we'll finish when we meet on the other shore
Where parting of loved ones will be no more.

Love, —Edward and Olive Davenport

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

Mother Davenport's Last Testimony

Mother Davenport attended Sunday School on Sunday, Dec. 18, as usual; seldom was she absent. In the 11:00 o'clock service, after prayer she called hymn number 356 from the *Evening Light Songs*, "The Last Great Day." For several years she would tell us that the Lord told her to warn the people that Jesus is coming soon.

After preaching service she gave a clear exhortation on the importance of listening and taking advice. She related an incident that happened many years ago:

She was in a hurry to get home after being in service. Father Davy had asked her to stop by for a visit, but she was in a hurry. He insisted that she stop awhile and visit, which she did. Later when she did leave they came upon a very tragic accident, in which was a fatality. As she looked upon the scene, the thought came to her that it could have been them had she not obeyed.

She also told of the tragic end of the relative of one of the neighbors which had occurred the precious weekend. This relative was a promising young man, but did not listen to his mother; he gave her lots of trouble and ended up being killed.

How little did we know this was to be her last words of warning. After service dismissed, she went forward to put money in the offering, but fell against a sister who was sitting on the front seat. After being prayed for, she had to be helped to her seat; however, the stroke had already taken effect. She never regained consciousness, but the Lord was so very faithful in granting her desires. She did not want to go to a hospital, and although some of her family believed differently, they abided by her wishes, for which we were thankful. She so often mentioned that she did not want to linger and be a burden for others. She

was only ill from Sunday to Sunday; the Lord took her home on Christmas Day. Praise the Lord!

—Sis. Alta L. Hobbs

MEETING NOTICES

REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CALIF.

The saints at Bakersfield, Ca., extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 10 through Sunday night, Feb. 19, 1984. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at 1:00 p. m., on week days, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday.

Please pray for the success of the meeting and that the Lord will send those of His choosing to help in the meeting. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone 395-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Mays, 421 S. Brown St., Bakersfield, Ca. 93307, phone 805-325-2730, or Bro. Archibald Sherman, Jr., 3400 Rayburn Way, Bakersfield, Ca. 93306, phone 805-871-1636.

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

SPECIAL SERVICES AT SHREVEPORT, LA.

The congregation at Shreveport, La., extends a cordial invitation for you to worship the Lord with us on the weekend of March 17, 18, 1984. It is planned, Lord willing, to have a special service of singing on Saturday night, followed by Sunday School and worship services on Sunday morning. Dinner will be served on the grounds following the Sunday morning services.

The address of the chapel is 4222 Greenwood Blvd., Shreveport, La. Should anyone need further directions, you may contact Bro. Arnett Carver at 3608 Maywood Dr., Shreveport, La. 71119, phone 318-635-2214, or Bro. Lee McMillan at 4883 Camellia Lane, Bossier City, La. 71111, phone 318-746-2812.

Your brother in the Lord, —Lee McMillan

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

TENT MEETING IN PENNSYLVANIA

We thought it would be good to publish an early notice of our tent meeting here in Pennsylvania, which is scheduled to be held, Lord willing, June 8-17, 1984. We are already looking to the Lord to burden some of His children to come help in our meeting. We strongly feel that a good meeting can be prayed down, so we are asking that the saints everywhere pray with us. See if the Lord would have you come and labor in this area. . . .

Do pray for our little congregation here, that we will all stay faithful and be all that the Lord would have us to be.

For further information, please write or call Bro. Kinney Farris at Rt. 2 Box 891, Duncannon, Pa. 17020, phone 717-567-3982, or Sis. Virginia Myers at Rt. 2 Box 1033, Duncannon, Pa. 17020, phone 717-834-4595.

—Bro. Kinney Farris

Without God, whom would I praise for the strength, for the mentality, and for the very mind to go about life's duties as I ought?

—Shelia Hawkins

CASSETTE TAPES OF SONGS AVAILABLE

Songs recorded from the *Evening Light Songs* book are available as follows:

- Tape No. 1 Song Nos. 1-18
- Tape No. 2 Song Nos. 19-37
- Tape No. 3 Song Nos. 38-56
- Tape No. 4 Song Nos. 57-76
- Tape No. 5 Song Nos. 77-95
- Tape No. 6 Song Nos. 96-113
- Tape No. 7 Song Nos. 114-132
- Tape No. 8 Song Nos. 133-151
- Tape No. 9 Song Nos. 152-169

Songs on the above listed tapes are recorded mostly by the Sorrell Quartet, with a few being recorded by Harlan Sorrell singing all four parts, and song numbers 127 and 165 by the Murphy Allen family.

Echoes From Glory tape numbers 1, 2, and 3. These songs are recorded from a songbook published by the Gospel Trumpet Co. in 1893. Tapes 1 and 2 are recorded by Carol Sorrell and Harlan Sorrell singing two parts each. Tape No. 3 is recorded by Harlan Sorrell singing four parts.

Salvation Echoes tape numbers 1 and 2. These are songs recorded from a book published by the Gospel Trumpet Co. in 1900. Most of the songs on these tapes are recorded by Harlan Sorrell singing four parts.

Song theme tapes available:

Songs for Easter by the Sorrell Quartet and Harlan Sorrell singing four parts.

The Love of Jesus by Harlan Sorrell singing four parts.

Songs of Comfort and Encouragement by the Sorrell Quartet.

I'm Happy As I Can Be by Harlan Sorrell singing four parts.

Holy Ghost Inspired Singing from the National Camp Meeting of the Church of God, Monark Springs, Mo., July 1983, tapes 1, 2, 3, and 4.

All tapes are good quality, 60-minute cassettes, and are recorded stereo. The price is \$1.50 each plus \$1.00 for postage per order (not per tape). Please order tapes by title and/or number. Address all orders to: SONGS OF THE EVENING LIGHT, c/o Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1 Box 118-A, Myrtle, Mo. 65778. Make checks payable to *Songs of the Evening Light* or to the undersigned.

Please notice that the numbers of songs per tape have slightly changed on the *Evening Light Songs* since the original list was published. You will notice that tape No. 8 now ends with song 151, whereas the original tape No. 8 ended with song 146. For the benefit of those who ordered a complete set of the original tapes Nos. 1-8, I am offering a tape No. 8-A, which is a short cassette containing only song numbers 147-151. This will supply the missing link between your tape number 8 and 9. This tape is available for \$.80.

Yours for the songs of Zion,

—Harlan Sorrell

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

LIFE'S EVENING GLOW

As the vanishing clouds at sunset reflect the rich colors of the evening glow, so the dark trials through which we are passing now, will, at the close of life's day, reflect the real brightness and beauty of our lives and indicate that our tomorrow will be a fair day.

—F. W. H.

Prayer Requests

Va.—“I would like to ask that anyone who will, pray with me on some matters of personal importance, and pray for God’s guidance in some decisions I must make. God is opening several doors in my life and I need His help in doing my best with these opportunities.” —Wayne Henderson

Mo.—“Pray much for me. I have a husband (who is sick), and I am up day and night with him.”

—Mattie Baney

Okla.—“I had to move due to a heart attack. . . . I’m requesting prayer for myself and for my daughter and her family. She wears a back brace and is in constant pain. Her husband and son need a job.”

—Evelyn Smith

India.—“I request you to pray for me. My eyesight is poor. I need the touch of the Lord Jesus.”

—Moore W. Laloo

N. C.—“Please pray for my healing.”

—Tex Peden

Mo.—“Please request prayer for us. We have been passing through ‘deep water and stormy seas.’ ”

—Bro. and Sis. Egbert Allen

Canada.—“Please have an agreement of prayer for me. I have leukemia.”

—Lily Greb

Md.—“Pray for my unsaved loved ones. Pray God to send a buyer for my place.”

—Sis. Marie Taylor

Ore.—Sis. Grace Jones needs prayer as her feet are giving her trouble.

Ohio.—“Please remember me and my daughter in prayer; I also have a very urgent request.”

—Sis. H. Hiles

Va.—“Please continue to pray for my healing and also for my husband, Earl.”

—Avis Tinsley

Colo.—“My eyes are bad. Please pray for me.”

—Thomas Davis

Pa.—Sis. Cora Slifer needs prayer for the healing of arthritis.

La.—Bro. N. P. Futch has pneumonia; pray for his healing. Sis. Brown also needs prayer.

—Sis. Goldsberry

Mont.—“Please pray for our son who has heart trouble; also a lady friend is suffering and needs healing. Remember our unsaved loved ones, also.”

—Bro. and Sis. A. Elhard

Okla.—Pray earnestly for the complete healing of Sis. Jeanne Busbee’s eye. She is completely trusting the Lord for her healing.

La.—Sis. Nellie Carver has been suffering much with her eyes recently; also, Bro. Nathan Carver is still in the furnace of affliction. Pray the Lord will be pleased to send the healing they need.

Okla.—Remember Bro. Sam Abbott in prayer. He is quite frail in body.

“While this greatest of physical blessings [when mortal has put on immortality] is reserved for some future time, the Lord has been pleased to grant us *divine healing* as a sort of forerunner of immortality. The will of God in this respect is well expressed in the desire of the beloved apostle: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper *and be in health*, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2).

“This blessed truth is established in the Word of God, and I trust that the reader, if afflicted,

will by faith avail himself of the precious privilege of being divinely healed. I am aware that this doctrine has been ignored by many; but ‘what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the word of God without effect?’ It is not what men believe or do not believe, that is to settle the great facts of truth, but it is *what the Word of God says*.” —F. G. Smith

Taken from *What the Bible Teaches*

We trust the foregoing words will be a blessing and encouragement to you. The stripes Jesus suffered were for our healing. He has not forgotten what He suffered for us; may we ever look to Him with unwavering faith. “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” John 20:29b.

—Randall Flynn

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

MISSION REPORT FROM INDIA

S. India (Dec. 26)—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all the dear saints in America: We send warm New Year’s greetings to all the brethren and sisters in America in the wonderful name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your letter dated Dec. 7, 1983, and the enclosures were noted with many thanks. May God richly bless each donor for the Lord’s work in India.

We thank the Lord for His wonderful dealings with us this past year, and also in the past. He has been good to us and we will be faithful to Him in the new year also. We pray God to supply good “teachings to our hands to war and our fingers to fight” in the new year, as we are going to face a lot of trials and persecutions in the future. Also, we pray God to supply us a new burden for the salvation of many perishing souls. We look back 1900 years and defame Nero because he stood on his palace balcony, fiddling while Rome burned. We professing Christians of this 20th century are standing on the balconies of our time—merely singing—while our world is on fire. We have to kneel down now. May our eyes be wet with much crying over the lost souls everywhere about us. When the city of Shushan was perplexed, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and cried with a bitter cry (Esther 3:15; 4:1).

We are almost ready for our 18th general convention scheduled for Jan. 18-22, 1984. After the general convention, we will have local conventions in all local congregations until April.

We appreciate your prayers and support for the progress of our ministry. Our prayers are for the growth of the Church in America and in other countries. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in His humble service, —John Varghese

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MISSION REPORT FROM GHANA

Ghana (Dec. 9)—Dear Sis. Pruitt and loved ones: I greet you in the sweet, holy name of our Lord Jesus, trusting this finds you well and enjoying the beautiful season as we remember the time our Savior was born in Bethlehem. Glory be to His name! . . .

Your letter brought much joy into our home for your concern for us here. Thank you very much for

the contents, and the *Faith and Victory*. In the same mail were letters from Sis. Keiser and Bro. Hammond. My heart was overjoyed after receiving such good news that Sis. Keiser is coming Jan. 8. We are thankful to the Lord for taking care of all situations, and we still commit her into His hands.

It is about 3:00 a. m., and the atmosphere is calm with everyone sleeping. I have to be traveling to Kumasi, about 60 miles away, but must get this letter written before I can join the early-bound cars. It is very hard traveling on such mornings, but I must get there for some transactions concerning the work here. I have been doing lots of traveling. Thank God, there are several here who have promised to work hard any time I am away for a day or two.

Wife, Christiana, had a peaceful delivery about sixteen days ago and was taken to her home at Afrancho where another congregation is established. Have been visiting her every morning . . . the baby is fine and have named her after our dearest Sis. Dorothy Keiser. The child's name is Naomi Keiser. We thank each one for their prayers. We are now parents of two. Our son, Calice, is four years old and is now in the kindergarten. . . .

We felt the Lord's presence in our prayer meetings last Wednesday with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It's so nice to be moved with the Spirit. Everyone here was blessed with some being baptized by the Holy Spirit. Praise God! . . .

May the Lord continue to bless and guide you. You're all dear to us here. I can't stop mentioning your sincere love for us here in the Lord's field.

Yours in the work, —Jim Akwasi

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

SAFE ARRIVAL IN GHANA

Ghana, W. Africa (Jan. 10)—To the dear saints at the Print Shop and scattered abroad: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus.

My trip to Ghana began on schedule. The trip was long and uneventful—except that someone stole a scarf out of my bag while I was taking care of my ticket in St. Louis.

I arrived in Accra, Ghana, on schedule. Bro. Jim Akwasi, his two sisters, his Uncle Duku Agyemong, and two young preacher brethren were there to meet me. All of my baggage didn't come in with me, so on Thurs. morning we'll have to return to the airport to get the things when the next flight comes in.

This morning Bro. Jim and I went to the Dept. of Ministry and inquired about an extension on my visa, to labor as a worker on the field. They had settled to give me two months, but for the price of \$500 (American dollars), granted me one year. There is a price attached to everything these days, but just one soul saved for God will be worth all the prayers, labors, and offerings that have gone into this effort. We also went to Jamestown today and bought 60 Bibles in the Twi language. . . . By Friday morning we are hoping to go to Akumadan—Ash, where our work actually begins. Duku will be taking us by car. I'm planning to purchase 200 pounds of rice to take to the saints there while I'm here in Accra. . . .

Don't forget the work here—we need the prayers and support of the homeland. Will write again soon.

With Christian love, —Sis. Dorothy Keiser

MISSION REPORT FROM THE PHILIPPINES

San Jose City (Dec. 27)—Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings of Christian love in the precious name of Jesus. How precious is His name, which means Savior. Through Him we now have peace, hope, and joy. We feel the glory of heaven in His kingdom and the love of our heavenly Father to His dear family; but how sad it is to think that many people have not found Him.

We received your very kind letter with your donation. Wife, the children, and I were so happy and thankful again for your unwearied love for us. The children were able to buy for each one a new dress. We shared some with the workers, and they were so happy and thankful because they were able to buy some things and food for their families. They asked me to send you their heartfelt thanks.

I don't know why people are spending so much money for the lust of the flesh this Christmas season. This was not the purpose of God sending His Son to the world.

The lot across the road seems to be the one chosen by the Lord wherein we shall put up His church building. The owner of the lot across the road raised the price, but it seems the Lord is leading us to this place. Prices are rising fast because of inflation. We have already made an agreement with the owner to give the amount you sent us as a down payment. They are now working for the clearance of papers. These are two lots and the price is 65,000 pesos (approx. \$4330.00); the remaining amount can be paid in two payments in 1984. We trust the Lord will continue to finish this project and use His children as a whole to work together for this cause. The saints here are all very happy and each one is planning how he can help.

Please give our love to all the workers at the Print Shop, and all the saints in the U. S. A.

With many thanks, —M. S. Tangunan & family

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

REQUEST FOR HELP IN CANADA

Dear saints: We are encouraged and trust this finds each of you the same. . . . It's a real struggle for the new places as the devil shoots hard, but the Lord is working in many ways. Lord willing, we expect by faith to begin a new work in Vancouver, B. C. We found a brother there who is walking in the Light. He said it has been years since he could have fellowship. . . . We need your prayers. If anyone feels that God is leading them to move here and help us, we would be happy. There is more work and souls than we can deal with as effectively as we would like. We love all of you. —Bro. and Sis. Paul Sorrell and family

o

"O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether."

Psa. 139:1-4

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

We are on display before the world, angels, and God. What are they seeing when they look at our lives?

From the Mailbox . . .

Ohio—Dear friends in Christ: My subscription has not expired yet, but here is a dollar for another three years of the *Faith and Victory* paper. I read in the *Faith and Victory* "Good-Night or Good-Bye, Which?" I cried for an hour; thank you for always telling it like it is.

Please pray for my daughter and family. She is awfully sick. . . . Also, pray for God to heal me. I thank God He knows all about my health and what I am going through. Thank God forever, is my heartfelt prayer.

Christian love, —Catherine Saccani
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ark.—Greetings of Christian love in the name of our Savior, the Lord Jesus, to each of the workers there in the Print Shop. Oh, how I praise the Lord for the Bible truth you put out in the *Faith and Victory* paper. We get much soul food from reading it.

May the dear Lord bless and guide you in everything that you do in this year of 1984.

—A. C. Gilleland
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Miss.—Dear Sis. Maybelle, and saints everywhere: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men." Col. 3:23. ". . . Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40. We send greetings of love and all of its attributes that are given to us.

I'm still suffering, but with praises I'm holding on. It has been said that the darkest hours are just before daylight. Do keep praying for me, and I will for you.

—Ethel Lowery
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Mont.—Greetings of Christian love in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of lords, and King of kings. I'm so glad I learned to trust Him. I'm thankful He saved my soul and sanctified my nature in my young years.

I trusted the Lord that He would have the right Christian man somewhere when my time came to be married, and He did. When I was nineteen years old in 1925, a friend came to my parents' place with a young Christian fellow, saying that he had someone to meet me. I didn't know what to answer, so I said, "I have to pray about this; I need some time." They left, and in a few days here he came with his father. The two fathers (mine and his) knew each other a little, having met in town and business. Both were Christians. Well, we celebrated our 58th anniversary on Dec. 1, 1983. The Lord blessed us with four daughters and one son, who are serving the Lord. . . . One grandson is not saved, and one daughter's husband is not claiming salvation, for whom we request prayer. . . .

We love the *Faith and Victory* paper and enjoy reading the testimonies and answers to prayer. May God bless all the workers in the Print Shop in a mighty way.

With love and prayers,
—Bro. and Sis. August Elhard
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ala.—Dear ones: Greetings in this brand new year! God is so good and merciful to us. In spite of

disappointments and sickness, we have much to be thankful for. My desire is to serve Him better in 1984 than ever before.

May God bless all of you.

Yours in Christ, —Leora Frink
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Okla.—Dear ones at Faith Publishing House: We send greetings to one and all this new year, 1984. May the Lord give strength, wisdom, discernment, and means to keep the printing work going another year. We appreciate the literature. At times it is all the encouragement we get.

We enjoyed the two days we were at the Assembly Meeting in Guthrie. It is so good to meet with God's children and hear the messages and testimonies of others.

We visited among some of the isolated ones for about six weeks before Christmas. We were thankful to find such courage and determination to hold up the truth and trust the Lord for healing. We heard some outstanding testimonies, and are thankful for those who are standing for the Truth. We are encouraged to fight on in this battle. Our labors will soon be over, and we want to hear Him say, "Well done, thou faithful servant."

We desire the prayers of the saints that we be filled with His Spirit at all times, and be led to know what His will is for us. Our heart's desire is to see more workers in the harvest field, and will do all we can to send them.

Yours in Christ, —Edith Wall
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Ind.—Greetings to the dear saints at Faith Pub. House: Trust all are well. I enjoy the good paper you send out; I read it over and it encourages me to go on.

Sometimes discouragement comes my way, especially when my body is in pain, but then when I read of others that go through it without murmuring, it makes me try more to be humble.

God has been so good to me. Please remember my unsaved loved ones, and I need your prayers for needs in my body as well as to keep humble before Him who suffered and died for us that we might be saved. I do want to do His will at all times and be able to help someone else in need of Him.

Yours in Christian love, —Mary J. Rogers
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Christ's Pardoning Love

Lo, I saw my loving Saviour
On the cross on which He died,
Then my heart broke into weeping,
"Lord, do save me!" then I cried.

How He sent His longing Spirit
I know not nor do I care;
But I know He gave me pardon,
Yes, thank God, He answered prayer.

When I learned that He had cleansed me
From every stain of sin,
I then felt so light and happy,
For God's kingdom I was in.

Now I never cease rejoicing,
And so peaceful is my life,
Since my Saviour in me dwelleth,
For He ended care and strife.

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Okla.—Dear ones in the Lord: We want to thank and praise the name of our Lord. He is so precious; He's my Savior and King. Peter said, "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, . . . a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word. . . ." 1 Pet. 2:7-8. We see many dear souls stumbling at the precious Word of God, but God has put a love in my heart for His Word. "O precious, precious Bible, God's messages of love; ever lifting fallen mankind to higher plains above. 'Tis the message of salvation to the Gentile and the Jew, I'm acquainted with the Author, and I know the Book is true."

The Word tells us, "Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee." Job 22:21. In Jer. 9:23-24, we read, "Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." I am so thankful for the Holy Spirit to dwell within and to teach us the ways of God, and guide us in all truth. We see so many dear souls deceived and mixed up in their belief of God's Word. If they would humble their hearts and let the Holy Spirit be their teacher, they would see how Jesus can save and keep them free from sin each day.

The weather has been so very cold and snowy, that we decided not to go to the Assembly Meeting, but we prayed each day for the Lord to bless all that did go. Bro. Eck's eyes have failed so much that it's hard for him to get around, so felt it best to stay home. He would appreciate the prayers of the saints for his eyes and that he will not lose his sight. His trust is in the Lord. He does not want to reproach the Lord or His people by turning to the aid of man. He intends to be like Moses of old, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." Heb. 11:25.

We do enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper so much, and we pray that God will keep His good hand on the work and bless it for the salvation of souls.

Yours in the truth, —Sis. Margaret Eck
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Kans.—Dear saints: Another new year is spread out before us to use wisely in God's service. It is another space of time set before us to daily prove that we love our heavenly Father and want to obey Him and keep His commandments. My desire is to be faithful and more diligent this year in the service of the King in helping souls come to God, and then to keep in touch with Him.

It seems this is a time when the world is drawing hard, and people give up their salvation so easily and for such frivolous reasons. The devil has so successfully blinded the eyes of people that very few can see the truth or see the real need for it. Many recognize the need to be associated with a church, but find it so hard to surrender to Bible salvation and a sin-free life. It seems so hard for people to deny self because they have been taught to love self and have great

pride in themselves; therefore, they feel disarmed and naked when they deny self and give up their ways and seek to really trust God. I am so glad, however, that the Word of God is true and we can die to ourselves and our ways, and just let go and let God. He has all power and can do all things. I do love and trust Him, and desire to let others know that God is always able to do anything, and that we can lean totally on Him. Praises unto our God!

I do thank the Lord for His many blessings, lessons, and help during 1983. It was a good year for me and my family; all glory goes to God. I trust that all at the Print Shop had a successful spiritual year, and that God blessed each one abundantly for the sacrifices made to the work. May God continue to bless each one in this new year, and may He continue to bless souls everywhere through the literature printed and sent out from the Print Shop.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Pa.—Dear saints at Guthrie: Greetings in this new year that God has given us. When I think of how He died for me and rose again so that we may be free from sin, I cannot thank Him enough. He watches over us, supplies our needs, and has given us many precious promises. Praise His name!

We are having very cold weather here; not as bad as other places in the U. S., but it is hard on the elderly. I live in a high-rise apartment complex, subsidized by the government. It is really beautiful and they have given us so many nice things to enjoy. There are 101 people living here. We have had six deaths in the past six months; three from one floor. It makes one sit up and think and be sober. "Who will be next?" they ask. Anything of a religious nature is not allowed to be put around, and no one is to tell anyone about anything religious. I have asked God to help me to say what He wants me to. He says in His Word that He will give us the very things to say.

God bless you as you print and send forth the *Faith and Victory* paper. I do enjoy reading it, and it is surely a blessing. My eyes aren't too good, so can't read much at a time, but when I can, I take it up and read some more. God knows and cares. I do love Him with all my heart.

Your sister in Christ, —Eva Cox
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

Pray when you're happy,
Pray when you're sad,
Pray when you're heartsick,
Pray when you're glad!

Pray when you're up,
Pray when you're down,
Pray when you smile,
Pray when you frown!

Pray for God's mercies,
Pray for His grace,
Pray for God's love,
Pray for His embrace!

Pray without ceasing,
Pray always with praise,
Pray for His guidance,
All of your days!

—Edward M. Brandt

HOME LIFE



Marvin was a good boy—a joy in the home—living in the country and attending classes in a one-room school building. A brother and a sister who were of school age, along with twins who were younger, comprised the five children of the family.

The children would come home from school, happy and hungry, ready to do their part in helping with evening chores. On this particular evening, Marvin said he was not hungry. When pressed for a reason as he sat at the supper table, really downcast, he started to cry and then told of his trouble:

An airplane had flown low over the school building that day, and many pupils, in their excitement, rushed from their seats to the windows, as airplanes were rare in that locality at that time. When all had calmed down, the teacher let them know that she was unhappy with such behavior during the study period, and asked that all who had left their seats remain after dismissal time. Marvin said that he had left his seat, but just did not remain. He now felt that he had done wrong and was worrying about it.

His father told him he could make that right by going to the teacher in the morning and telling her about it. Marvin cried all the more and said he just could not do that. His father told him he should just eat his supper, and that he would go to school with him in the morning. The child then felt somewhat consoled.

The next morning it was a quiet and serious boy who went off to school with his father. As they approached the teacher, the father told her that Marvin had something to tell her, but Marvin really cried then, and could not speak. The father, being glad to speak for the repentant boy, explained. The teacher was very understanding and told Marvin how happy she was that he wished to be honest, and encouraged him to always live that way. She told him to run on and play with the boys until study time for all was well—he was forgiven. Marvin was happy and free again.

At another time this same lad had gone to a neighbor's with his father to do some work. They took a horse with them that was needed for the work. The horse seemed to become sick during the day, and it was considered best to leave the animal at the neighbor's farm. Marvin spoke as they journeyed home, saying that he was worried, for he feared the horse might die. His father suggested that they kneel right there and pray, asking the Lord to spare the animal as it was needed to be of help on the farm. After prayer Marvin said, "Daddy I don't feel as if that horse will die; I just don't feel that way at all." The next day the horse was just fine.

It is so precious for parents to order their lives before the dear children as Jesus leads. Marvin is a respected young business man today; the children of that home do have the marks of Godly fear upon them. "... for them that honour me I will honour. . ."
1 Sam. 2:30. —Rosella Scott

Keeping Rank

First, what is keeping rank? It means a whole body of common soldiers able to keep in line and in step, in regular formation.

Have you ever been privileged to see a large number, possibly hundreds or even thousands, of soldier boys in full uniform, marching and keeping rank? (1 Chron. 12:33, 38). There is nothing more beautiful than to see a great number in unity or oneness; everyone marching erect and in perfect step.

This gives us a vision of what the Army of the Lord looks like to those of the world who are looking on. It is a body of soldiers on the "battlefield," all arrayed in white uniform (Rev. 3:4, 5), with our Captain (Jesus) leading us along. All are in step with God's Word. What a beautiful sight!

Wait a moment. Have you ever seen a parade of soldiers marching with one of them out of step? All eyes of the bystanders go to that one who is out of step. They don't see those who are in step, because the one who is out of step is drawing the attention away from the others.

This happens also to God's army of soldiers. If one is out of step with God's Word, then the bystander looking on sees that one right away. He is pointed out to others, and they fail to see the ones who are in step because of this one who is out of step—he is distracting and drawing attention away from the others.

Dear soldiers of the cross, let us be careful, watch ourselves, and see if we are in line with the Word of God. By doing so, others will be able to see the beauty and the oneness of God's army (the Church) marching along. (2 Tim. 2:4)

God's army is a beautiful army. It is arrayed in uniforms of white, and each day is pressing on to victories that lay before us (Eph. 6:11-18). We're never turning back; we've joined, or enlisted, in this army till we gain the last victory (death)—then comes our reward. There will be a crowning day—a day of rewards. If we are faithful soldiers, we will be awarded for our service. Our reward will be a crown of eternal life, forever with the Lord. (Read James 1:2; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Rev. 2:10.) What more could anyone ask for?

Each day while here on earth, we are in a spiritual warfare, but the Lord is our Captain, and He will guide us safely through to our victories. We must keep a close eye on our Captain, and be able to take orders and follow through with them. We have a Captain who has never lost a battle. This gives us great courage to keep our faith in Him. It gives us courage to keep pressing on and to "keep rank" in the Army of the Lord.

Note the words of the following song; may this ever be our determination and goal.

"I'M GOING ON"

"I mean to go right on until the crown is won;
I mean to fight the fight of faith till life on earth is done.

I'll never more turn back, defeat I shall not know,
For God shall give me victory if onward I shall go.

"Should opposition come, should foes obstruct my way,
Should persecution's fires be lit, as in the ancient day;
With Jesus by my side, His peace within my soul,
No matter if the battle's hot, I mean to win the goal.

"I see a shining crown awaiting over there,
I see a mansion all prepared and decked with beauties rare:
Shall that which intervenes deprive me of my right?
Nay, on I'll go until I reach that city of delight.

"Then forward let us go, our hearts with love aflame,
Our snowy banner borne aloft, inscribed with Jesus' name.
The hosts of evil flee, and heaven's open gates
Invite me now to hasten where Eternal glory waits.

"I'm going on, I'm going on,
Unto the final triumph I'm going on."

A soldier in the service of the Lord,

—Sister Imogene Taylor

Be True To Each Other

We all have trials and tests along the way some time in life. Not only the weak ones in the flock have trials, but the shepherds have trials and responsibilities and many a cross to bear, hence we should be true to each other when the trials come. After Jesus, the Good Shepherd had borne the cross alone, had labored faithfully among His disciples, and they had lacked nothing, in the trying hour in Gethsemane when He asked the disciples to pray with Him, they fell asleep and He was left alone to bear His suffering.

God's way is that if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it. This is because the Spirit in one member of the body of Christ is one and the same Spirit that is in another member. God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba, Father," and all being children of the one Father and members in particular of the body of Christ, and members one of another (Rom. 12:5), we truly feel the burden of our suffering brother or sister. If our brother or sister is in a trial we should wait upon the Lord in prayer until we have the witness that He has heard, and if we know that He hears us we know we have the petition we have asked of Him.

We can go with our suffering brother or sister and help bear the cross. We can pray and we can believe. Doubtless the reason many of us are true to our brethren only while all goes well with them, and shrink back in the trying hour is that we, like Peter, have not received all the grace and strength we need, and the fulness of the love of God in our hearts that will enable us to stand together when trials come heavy upon one in the fold. Jesus did not condemn Peter and the others for not keeping awake and praying with Him, but He knew if they did not pray they would enter into temptation. How much comfort and help we could be to our brethren if we would watch and pray with them in their trials, and at the same time we would strengthen ourselves against temptation.

One thing the enemy usually tries to introduce to our minds at such times is the thought that our brother must have failed in some way or done some-

thing wrong, otherwise he would not be suffering thus. If we will leave our brother's failures—if he has and—in the hands of the Lord and ask God to help him, and by our faithfulness be a help and encouragement, this will enable us to stand together as one. If we see him make a mistake we cannot be any help to him by putting him away from us and holding the fault against him, but if we believe that our brother or sister has a fault, we should at the proper time humbly mention it to him or her alone. With the honest heart, the pointing out of the failure or mistake is all that is necessary, and by uniting our prayers and faith it will soon be righted, for God will honor every sincere desire. Now, possibly, our brother or sister, whom we have thought to be in the fault, may see some mistake we have made and may be able to help us. Love on the part of both will remove all the differences between us. In place of making an attack on our brother or sister, we should make an attack on the accuser of our brethren. Our brother or sister has an honest heart and if shown the true, will drop anything that is not true. We are a hindrance rather than a help if we treasure up anything against another and say nothing about it.

We find that after Peter had entered into temptation and denied the Lord, he saw what he had done and repented; and on the day of Pentecost, after they had received the Holy Ghost, he became one of the boldest of the disciples and followed the Lord unto death. This should encourage those who have been overcome in trial. Let us be faithful to our brethren in the Lord and encourage them. Many are the blessings and words of comfort and encouragement we have received from them. Let us pray God to return the same to them when trials come. Stand true to each other.

—Sel. from *The Gospel Trumpet* June, 1911

Question and Answer Column

by

Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please comment on 2 Peter 3:6, which says, "Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished."

Answer: In the first place, let us notice that it was the "world" and not the "earth" that was overflowed with water and perished. There is a difference. The earth is this terra firma on which we live. The people who live on this earth constitute the world which God loved and gave His Son to save. 2 Peter 2:5, says, "And spared not the old world . . . bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly." The term *world* is also used to designate the system under which the unsaved portion of humankind operates. When Jesus said "Ye are not of the world," He did not mean that His disciples were not "of the earth, earthy" the same as other people were, but they were not dominated by the spirit, pattern of life, and mannerisms of worldly, unsaved people. When Paul said, "Be not conformed to this world," he meant for saints to not follow the course of the unsaved portion of mankind and imitate them in our life. All these texts as well as others which refer to the "world"

have no reference to the "earth," but to the people on it and their manner of life.

In Gen. 6:5, we read, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth." Gen. 6:12-13, says, "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." Where this text says "with the earth," the margin says "from the earth." This latter is clearly the correct rendering which is evident from what follows. In fact, Genesis 7:23 says, "... and they were destroyed from the earth." In Gen. 6:17, God told Noah, "Every thing that is in the earth shall die."

The seventh chapter of Genesis gives an account of the flood and a description of it. Verse 17 says "the flood was forty days upon the earth." Verse 18 says, "And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered." None of these texts mention the earth being destroyed. In verses 21-23, it says, "And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: all in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth."

All this makes it clear what the destruction and the extent of it was at the time of the flood, and is an answer to 2 Peter 3:6. It was not the earth that was destroyed, but the living creatures including man upon the earth. The verses quoted from the seventh chapter of Genesis makes this entirely clear.

Let us, however, make no mistake about it—the day of this earth and all appurtenances to it will surely be destroyed by fire in that day. Going on from 2 Pet. 3:6, Peter presents the truth regarding the future of the heavens and the earth. "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." This will be the complete and total dissolution of all things literal. There is no such thing described or even hinted at in the description of the flood. Peter said in 2 Peter 3:7, that the earth is "reserved unto fire."

Satan's Damnation Roll

Recently, as I was awakening from a good night's rest, I had a peculiar yet clear dream of the coming fate of sinners and wicked ones. I remember seeing Satan standing and holding a long writing pad and pen. On this pad were thousands of names and categories of all kinds. As he glanced over each page with malicious, blood-thirsty eyes, he marked off in red the ones he had already damned. I remember getting a brief look at the list.

One of the first categories I saw was the "I'm Good Enough" list. Scores of names were on this list. Too many careless people today have too much confidence in themselves. They justify their wicked deeds,

and a feeling of complacency takes over the mind. When they are shown their real need of a Savior, they mock and ridicule. Oh, how sad to face the judgment unprepared to meet thy God! This also applies to ones around the saints who are always bickering, surmising, critically misjudging, and conjuring up ideas about the saints. They easily fall prey to an opinionated, conceited attitude. Let us be very wary of how we carry ourselves and feel about our brethren, lest our names be found in this category on Satan's list.

Next, I remember seeing a "Foxes" list. A fox is a sly, crafty person, one who is artful and sneaky. I am afraid there are many in our world today under this category. Our most secretive measures and endeavors are weighed by the watchful eyes of God. The ministers who are foxes handle God's Word deceitfully, and smooth over lies, paving the way right to hell. They accept sinners . . . saying, "peace, peace," when there is no peace. Some have been noted to use soft techniques to sway the sinners to follow them. They also bring reproach on God's cause by compromising and allowing the willful, open sinner to participate in the services. If we who know the truth prove to be a "fox" we will not pass the judgment bar. This type of person is very careful not to expose his real self, and in the end will be surprised to hear Jesus say, "Depart, ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels."

Murderers, adulterers, and fornicators swelled the list and all grossly ungodly sinners. I was not allowed to see another category, but there were many. No doubt there was a "Compromise and Sect-loving" group of people also on the list. Jellyfish people are always lowering the standards, taking down and indulging in this or that, allowing permissiveness in other things, and will no doubt land themselves in hell.

Once I dreamed of a man walking along with a wool bag over his head. This is what Satan is doing; he is "pulling the wool" over many people's eyes. He makes sweet bitter, and bitter sweet. If God has made the doctrines bitter or the way narrow and hard, do not try to turn it to sweet water. And what He has made sweet, do not allow it to become bitter duty.

Satan often deceives souls under the spirit of "an angel of light." When he sees flexibility or proneness to follow error, he will so befog the mind until one will not know which way to take. When one is in this condition, it will be much harder for him to realize he has lost out and is astray from God.

This is also a warning to God's ministers: don't be a man-pleaser—please the Lord. Don't think too highly of yourself, but always carry a submissive, listening attitude. If we can only learn to be in God's will, we will avoid making foolish mistakes and our names ending up on Satan's list.

Those who love our church, my church, my works, my pulpit, my ministry, or the Lord told me to do this, and we do it this way theories, will sadly find themselves on the "Sect-makers and Lovers' List." All the striving for superiority, emulating, and belittling the saints is of the devil and originated under Babylon. Saints, keep your eyes open—don't even take time to rub them—and may God help us not to be found on "Satan's Damnation Roll."

—Melvin S. Lennon

The Final Retrospect

There is a new grave in the cemetery today. An hour ago the sad-hearted mourners, with fast-falling tears, looked for the last time upon that familiar face. The light has gone out of the eye, and the sound of the voice is stilled forever. "Finis" has been written at the close of his life's story. He no longer is.

A few days ago he realized that the end was drawing nigh. Before that he had looked forward, and it seemed to him that his life might run on for years. But it was not so to be. The death-angel drew near, and he heard the sound of its coming wings. He then began to look backward, to see his life as a completed whole. He could now see life in its true light; for life does not appear the same when we look back upon it from the end as it does when our gaze is turned forward in the busy hurry of the days of health. When one is brought to the brink of the grave, life takes on a different aspect; it appears in its true perspective. We are usually so absorbed in the present that the past and the future have little place in our thoughts. Most lives are lived, not according to any plan or purpose, but according to the fleet influence of the present moment.

Reader, you and I are on the path to the cemetery. Some day, and it may not be far off, we shall look back over our lives from the end. Day by day, often with but little thought, we are building the structure of our lives. Yesterday we laid the foundation of today, and today we lay the foundation of tomorrow. Unless we lay a good foundation and build well thereon, when we look back upon our lives at the last we shall find much to regret. The wood, hay, and stubble of selfish works and selfish purposes will be burned up in the fire that will try every man's work.

How much of the selfish element enters into most lives! The ambition, the labor, the planning, is for self. If self prospers, what else matters? If self has ease and comfort, what matters it about others? If self is pleased, is not that enough? Self seems to be the mainspring of most lives; is it so in our own? When we come to look back at the last, we shall find no pleasure in viewing our own selfishness or its fruits. We shall not desire to retain it in our memories. We shall see that whatever was done through selfish motives was time and energy lost.

When we look back, shall we see bitter words, unkind deeds, and unfaithfulness to God and man? Shall we look back upon broken promises? on friends who trusted us and were disappointed? Shall we look back upon wrongs to our fellow men and sins toward God? It seems to me that the keenest regrets that ever come to a soul on earth are the regrets that come to him who, during his last hours on earth, has to view a misspent life.

How many have said, "Oh, if I could live my life over!" Alas! that can not be. My brother, my sister, you can live this day but once. You will look back in time and eternity and see this day just as you lived it. Not only today, but every day, when it is today, holds the same momentous responsibility. Let us live today as faithful to God and man, as true, pure, just, and kind as we shall in the last day wish we had lived. Do not think that tomorrow you will live better, and be more kind and true and gentle. Today is your day; tomorrow is out of your reach.

There was one of old who looked back over his life and summed it all up in these words: "Vanity of vanities; all is vanity." He was rich and wise; he was a mighty king, and had great honors; but he lacked that good conscience that comes from a life well spent. He had not held back his heart from the enjoyment of any pleasure. He had given free rein to his desires. He had lived a life of ease and luxury. He had but to speak, and he was obeyed. But, alas! when he looked back, there was nothing in the scene to give him pleasure. It was only "vanity and vexation of spirit."

There was another man who looked back and who told us what he saw. His circumstances were very different from those of the other. He was a prisoner. In a little while the sword of the executioner would sever the frail bond of life. He knew the time was near, and these are his words: "I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." His words are a shout of triumph; there is in them the exaltation of final victory. There is no tinge of regret, there is no tear of sorrow. What mattered it if his way had been rugged and thorny? What mattered the thousand perils that had threatened him on every side? What mattered the shipwrecks, the scourgings, the stoning, the opposition of false brethren and of the heathen, the dungeons, the cold, the weariness, the sorrows? He looked back over them all; and his soul, glowing with joy, burst out in language of supreme satisfaction: "I have fought a good fight."

Not once had he laid down his weapons. Not once had he faltered. Not for a day had he ceased to be true to his Lord. Therefore he could say, "I have kept the faith." Though many times he might have avoided trouble had he kept back the message of truth, yet how glad he was that in every instance he had been true!

Sometimes you will not find it easy to do right, sometimes you will have to sacrifice and endure, sometimes you will be reproached and mocked; but when you take that last retrospective view, the fact that you have been true will cause you to be glad, as was Paul of old. Then, be true today. Fill today with a full measure of faithful service. Think not of tomorrow, but do the right, in each today, and thus you may exclaim with Paul, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day" (2 Tim. 4:8).

—C. W. Naylor

(Taken from the book *Heart Talks*)

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

Heaven

We are going to kindly ask the reader to leave, in thought, this world for a time and come with us to take a view of heaven. We shall take it for granted that you believe that there is a place called heaven. Whatever else man believes, there are few who do not believe that out in eternity there is a place where man can abide forever—a place called heaven.

For our first view, let us take a look at the eternity of heaven. It is a place that has no end; it continues on and on forever. Of course you cannot grasp the fulness of this fact; but think for a moment

as far out into eternity as you can. They have no years in heaven, but you may think of it as a possessing years. Think of ten thousand years as compared with this short life. Then think of ten thousand times ten thousand, and you have one hundred million years. This is more than you can comprehend; but it is only the slightest atom of eternity. In fact, when this vast period has passed, not any part of eternity's duration is gone. The duration of eternity never grows less. Such a place can be the future abode of man. You can think of some who you believe have gone to that never-ending home; some of them maybe, who were very dear to you.

Next, let us view heaven as a place of purity, for such it is. It is the place where God has His throne. This fact is many times declared in the Revelation. John saw flowing out from this throne, a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal. This suggests to our minds something of the purity of the throne. John speaks of "the great white throne." Whiteness is a symbol of purity. He speaks of seeing a rainbow round about the throne, like unto an emerald. God who reigns there is holy. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts." Jesus, who is sitting on the right hand of God is holy; the angels are holy; all the inhabitants of heaven are holy. Heaven is so pure that "there shall in no wise enter any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie." Rev. 21:27. Those who are living in "adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like," cannot inherit the kingdom of heaven; because heaven is pure. This place, so pure, can be the eternal dwelling place only of the pure. "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Those who die in their sins can never enter heaven. It was for this reason Jesus came to this world to save mankind from sin.

Heaven is a place of love. In heaven everybody loves. This indeed makes us long to be there. In this world all do not love. In this world is hatred, malice, envy, strife, evil speaking, backbiting, whispering; but in heaven there are none of these evils. Picture to yourself a place where there are unnumbered myriads of angels—a multitude greater than any man can number of all nations and kindreds and tongues and people, all loving in the fulness of their souls. We all want to spend an eternity in such a place.

We also see heaven as a place of happiness. There is never a tear in heaven. Here there are tears; but there all tears are wiped away. This is no mere sentimentalism, but a Scriptural truth. "And the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces." Isa. 25:8. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Rev. 7:17. This is the place to sow; heaven is the place to reap. Here we sow in tears; there we shall reap in joy. It is not that we have none of the reaping nor joy here; but, more especially, is heaven the place of reaping. There is no shedding of tears there; there is no "going forth and weeping"; because, the Bible tells us, in heaven there is "neither sowing nor crying."

Neither is there any pain in heaven; and there they never die. O heaven, sweet land of purity, where

angels upon their harps of gold send forth symphonies that awaken raptures of which poor mortals cannot conceive! No sorrow can enter such a land of bliss. The sacred songs of the angels' rejoicing round the great white throne, the concord of vocal strains pouring forth from the immortalized, blood-washed throng—will thrill the hearts of the redeemed of all ages with transports of joy.

Heaven is a place of endless day; night never comes there; no darkness ever falls. God is the light; they need not the sun nor moon. Effulgent beams are shed forth from the eternal presence in pure, ethereal streams that so flood the celestial city that all the gathered darkness of hell cannot send forth one little shade of blackness into that region of transcendent light. An ocean of glory from the white throne rolls in resplendent radiance over the elysian fields of heaven; and all the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.

O reader, are you saved? Do you not wish to walk forever along the verdant banks of the crystal river of bliss; or through the fields of amaranth, wearing the robes of white and bearing upon your brow the crown of life? Such an undefiled, unfading inheritance is reserved in heaven for you. To obtain it, will you not meet the conditions of God's Word? —C. E. Orr

Selected from *Gospel Trumpet* 1911.

Nearer Home



One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er:
I am nearer home today
Than I ever have been before;

Nearer my Father's house,
Where the many mansions be;
Nearer the great white throne,
Nearer the crystal sea;

Nearer the bound of life,
Where we lay our burdens down;
Nearer leaving the cross,
Nearer gaining the crown!

But lying darkly between,
Winding down through the night,
Is the silent, unknown stream,
That leads at last to the light.

Closer and closer my steps
Come to the dread abyss;
Closer death to my lips
Presses the awful chrism.

Oh, if thy mortal feet
Have almost gained the brink;
If it be I am nearer home
Even today than I think;

Father, perfect my trust;
Let my spirit feel in death,
That my feet are firmly set
On the rock of a living faith!

—Selected