

# FAITH <sup>AND</sup> VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### The House of our Eternity

(Eccl. 12:5—Hebrew English Translation)

For just a season we live here  
Though many seem our days to be;  
We soon shall pass to see and share  
The house of our eternity.

Short is the scroll of mortal day;  
So quickly doth its shadows flee,  
When from this life we'll pass away  
And go to our eternity.

Oh, friend! upon life's troubled road:  
Our Saviour's near to comfort thee,  
And make secure to lift thy load  
A house for thy eternity.

Take heed and hear the joyful sound  
The gospel of His grace so free.  
Make sure thy calling, and be found  
In thy house of eternity.

The beck'ning lures of fleshly thrills  
Let never thine attractions be:  
There shines upon the eternal hills  
The house of our eternity!

What bright arrangements hast thou made?  
Where will thine endless dwelling be?  
Will it be joys that never fade—  
The house of thy eternity?

In outer darkness far from light  
No more hopes of life to see  
Will be the lost who shun the right:  
Sad house for all eternity!

No need to share a fate as this  
And naked find ourselves to be  
When Christ calls us to share the bliss  
Of His house in eternity.

Prepare to meet thy God, I pray,  
And live in love and purity,  
And thou shalt see some happy day  
The house of thy eternity.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### Holiness in Youth

"It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." (Lam. 3:27).

This Scripture is not frequently exhorted upon, but of a truth, it is of great importance in these last days. The average young person today is involved in many evils in the name of what's happening, style, or just being grown. There is a high rate of crimes of all kinds among youths who are not past the age of twenty-one. Someone may say, "Youths are so disobedient these days and no one can tell them anything." In reply, the youths will say, "No one ever understands me." What is the answer to this seemingly monumental problem? Before we try everything else, let us go to the most reasonable source of answers, the Bible, which is the Word of God to mankind. In the book of 1 Timothy, chapter 4:12, it reads, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." Let's look at this Scripture, for of a truth it teaches holiness in youth. Webster's Dictionary says that an example is something for imitation, sample or model. This word "charity" encompasses the divine love of God. In spirit, we mean the spirit of kindness and humility; even the Spirit of Christ. About faith: we read of many great men of faith in the Bible. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. In purity, we are cleansed from all sin and we live holy in this life. To the pure all things are pure.

I once knew a young man who died at the age of about fourteen from an overdose of drugs. I knew two young men who died from gun shot wounds at the age of seventeen. One was shot in the eye, and the other was shot in the back. This happened in a heated argument over some girlfriend. Another young man was standing at a bar and had his head blown off at a time of strife. Also, there was another young person I knew who, while trying to rob a gas station, was shot to death with his own gun by the gas attendant. There was a young girl who, while standing in the parking lot during recess at school, was shot to death by someone passing by in a speeding car. I went to many of these youths' funerals and shared in the grief. Oh, young man, dost thou despise

holiness? Dost thou mock the righteous? Shalt thou, as those mentioned, die in thy youth? Where is thy hope? Oh, young man, be not void of understanding, for today there is a happy life in the holy way.

God loves young people. Young man, will you give your heart to God and show your friends that Jesus saves? Young lady, will you turn from lifeless vanity and be a woman of character and virtue? God has all that man needs, old or young. Many old saints have lived holy and upright lives and gone to heaven rejoicing. Young people can likewise live holy and go to heaven rejoicing. Oh, young man, be not ashamed, for how many young people are bold in drinking their alcohol, selling their drugs, lewd dancing, disco parties, and many other shameful evils? These things destroy the youth and if you follow the crowd you will likewise be destroyed. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life." Yield to God today for He gives thee clean living with bright anticipation. If you are already saved, be thou an example of His holiness. —Alexander Clark

### The True Sense of the Gospel

After the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt in the day of Ezra and Nehemiah, a day was appointed for the people to come together to worship God and hear the law of Moses read. It says in Nehemiah 8:8, that "they read in the book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." It was very important that the hearts and minds of this people be made sensitive to the laws and judgments of the Almighty God from which they, as a nation, had long been turned away. When Satan has his way in the hearts of men, they become dull and insensitive to the pulses of God's love and holiness. The gospel of the grace of God through His Son Jesus Christ is to restore the image of God to man and to revive and discipline his senses to the reality of spiritual things.

The writer in Heb. 5:14, states that "strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." One of the conditions of the unregenerated, unsaved soul is their blindness, deafness, and lack of spiritual perception of spiritual matters. The unsaved live in a realm completely dominated by the feelings, desires, hopes, and passions of the physical. Spiritual blessings and truths of Jesus Christ have very little bearing on the mind. To be converted to God and to be redeemed from that sinful state is to pass from that vain, fleshly way of life unto a life guided by the Spirit of God. Our senses must take on new and better things. Through reading and meditating on the Word of God and allowing Him to work in our hearts, our spiritual senses and perceptions are developed.

Any new and different activity one takes on in life is strange and difficult at first. That is because one's senses are not exercised to that activity. After applying one's self to the activity and exercising therein, it becomes easier and more natural. Little children look at Father and Mother driving the car and perhaps wonder how they can so calmly handle the car. When young people begin to learn how to drive, it is a difficult thing at first. As they continue

to exercise, it becomes easier, more natural, and they are more at ease about it.

It is the same with spiritual things. One has to exercise himself in spiritual activities to acquaint himself with their operation. After entering into prayer and making it a practice to pray, his spiritual senses begin to detect the joy and blessing of prayer. It is very difficult for an unsaved carnal person to read the Bible with fervor, and also to sit and listen to a sermon from an anointed servant of the Lord. It may be a strange and difficult practice at first to do that after one is saved, but if he will put forth the effort and try hard to discipline himself in that activity of reading and listening, his spiritual senses will begin to be more aroused.

Many activities and functions of the Christian life are so foreign to the physical inclination that it takes a strict conformity to Christ and a close walk with Him to be able to detect their value and importance. Let us list a few of these spiritual senses that are so vital and indispensable to the Christian. May we encourage everyone to diligently consider these things and to exercise therein. 1. Purity and holiness. 2. Modesty and cleanliness. 3. Sacrifice and self-denial. 4. Hospitality and giving. 5. Prayer and supplication. 6. Reverence, fear and respect. 7. Love, mercy, and longsuffering. 8. Faith and trust. 9. Zeal and endeavor. 10. Dutifulness and trustworthiness. 11. Meekness and humility. 12. Courage and cheerfulness. 13. Decision and determination. 14. Calmness and steadiness. 15. Peace and quietness. 16. Joy and rejoicing. 17. Kindness and thoughtfulness. 18. Hope and anticipation. 19. Expectation of Christ's coming. 20. Love and adoration for Christ. 21. Brotherly love and compassion. 22. Sympathy and tenderness. 23. Watchfulness and carefulness. 24. Worship and praise. 25. Patience and endurance. 26. Balance and consistency. 27. Separation from the world. 28. Forbearance and cooperation. 29. Love for God's Word and law. 30. Awareness of danger and evil. 31. Hunger and thirsting for God. And there are many more!

Can you detect any of these senses that need to be sharpened in your life? Remember, it is through exercise that they are perfected. —Leslie C. Busbee

### TEARDROPS

There's beauty in the cross of Christ  
Seen through repentant tears,  
They help us see the glory that  
Will last down through the years.

There are marks of teardrops all along  
The path where saints have trod,  
For teardrops, mingled with their prayers,  
Have brought them close to God.

The soul's made pure by suffering  
As unto God it cries,  
Our vision is much clearer when  
There are teardrops in our eyes.

And when we get up to heaven,  
I wouldn't be surprised,  
To find the jewels in our crowns  
Are teardrops crystallized.

—Howard Alexander

## To What Church Should I Belong?

"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ." (1 Cor. 1:12). This text declares that there were contentions among the Corinthian believers. Some wanted Apollos, some Cephas, and others wanted Christ.

Paul rebuked them for doing so. History repeats itself. If this had happened to them in their time, how much more present is it today? Many say, "The Pentecostal church where I belong is the one, true Church." Others say, "My Baptist church is the real one." Still others say, "The independent church that we organized is the true Church." All of them absolutely claim to be the genuine, legitimate, and well-founded Church of the Bible. This only shows their carnality and ignorance of the truth.

Hettie Anderson in the May, 1983 *Faith and Victory* issue entitled "Divisions" said, "Yet we see many professed followers of Christ and zealous workers in His cause, who try to excuse sectarianism and the multitudinous divisions of the great army of Christian workers on the earth. Such people say, 'We can't all see alike and God never expects us to;' and for this reason it is well that the body of Christ should be divided, and part should say, 'I am of Paul,' others, 'I am of Apollos,' some crying one thing and some another until in this great Babel of confusion, strife, envying, and bitterness, it is little wonder that skepticism and infidelity are so prevalent."

There are many ministers of Babylon today that call themselves "non-denominational," "inter-denominational," and "non-sectarian," so that they can lure somebody to worship with them and later on feed their innocent souls damnable heresies. The Church of God in reality is anti-denominational and anti-sectarian. She never entertained divisions. Our dear Bro. Leslie C. Busbee said, "Causing division and dissension among the people of God is a serious offence to the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the flesh, and all who participate in false doctrines contrary to the truth will be lost eternally."

The Church of God is an organic structure in which "God Himself has set the members in His body all complete," and it is "organized by Jesus only." The Church does not need the help of the creeds of men. It is not an organization as sect churches are. The Church is unconquerable and is of divine, heavenly origin that will survive the end of all things. It was built by Christ and is composed of saved people only. Jesus Christ is her only Head and the source of government is through the Holy Spirit. Members are inducted into the one Body of Christ; hence the Church is only one and never divided. Holiness and a sanctified life are her standards.

To what church should I belong? I'd rather belong to that Church which is without spot and blameless; the Church that is from sects and creeds made free. This is the Church you should belong to. "Christians all should dwell together in the bonds of peace. All the clashing of opinions, all the strife should cease. Let divisions be forsaken, all the holy join in one, and the will of God in all be done." Amen!

—Bro. Xavier G. Prado

## "Faith Is Mighty"

We know the power of Satan and his cunning devices and how he can appear as an angel of light changing his voice from a roaring lion to a sweet, tender voice of a lamb. We are told in John 10:10, that "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. [Doesn't that sound like the devil?] I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Praise the Lord!

We know the devil is trying to destroy all of God's Church, and I know of no better way than to weaken our faith. Faith is mighty and will conquer. "And this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." 1 John 5:4. The devil knows that if he can weaken our faith, we have nothing to fight with.

The devil may not start with making you doubt the saving grace of God, but he will get you to thinking, "Why doesn't God work now as He did in years gone by?" Soon you will begin to lose your faith for healing. He will not stop there. He is out to steal your faith. We know healing is in the atonement, "for with his stripes we are healed." Shall we doubt the power of the blood? No! "There's power in the blood for our release. There's power in the blood to bring soul peace. The merits of His blood will not decrease; there's power in the blood of Jesus." Yes, praise the Lord, His blood will save and keep from sin. His blood that was shed from those stripes will heal. Matt. 8:17, says, "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

The devil will blind our eyes, and we cannot see when good cometh. In Rev. 3:18, Jesus said for us to "anoint thine eyes with eyesalve that thou mayest see." We must keep our hearts filled continually with the Holy Spirit. It is by the Spirit we see Jesus in all His fulness.

Any voice that would lead contrary to the Word of God is not God's voice. Song 290 of the *Evening Light Songs* says, "Dear Shepherd, I hear and will follow thy call. I know the sweet sound of thy voice. Protect and defend me, for thou art my all, and in thee I will ever rejoice." I took note that the writer said, "Dear Shepherd, I hear and will follow thy voice."

The devil would like to confuse our mind if we begin to ask, "Why? Why? Why?" Dear ones, this is no time to ask why and try to understand the workings of God. It is time to humbly submit and say from the heart, "God's way is best. I will not murmur." When we begin to ask why, the devil will give us wrong answers and confuse our minds. Let us keep our eyes on Jesus and follow the precious Word of God. He has said, "Have faith in God."

If after we have faithfully trusted Him, He sees fit to take us out of our troubles to that blissful home above, what could be more precious? There are so many things to face in this evil world. Why would we want to stay here when He has a sweet abode for His people? I want to go there, don't you? We must arm ourselves to suffer that we might reign with Him.

May God strengthen the Church of God, give us endurance, and help us to be true to Him.

Pray for me to be true, —Sis. Margaret J. Eck

# 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 camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS154-660)

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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.

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## EDITORIALS



We send greetings to all in the name of the One who is the Creator of the heaven and the earth; the One who bestows good upon both the just and the unjust. What a wonderful God we serve. He is the Creator of all temporal things and is also the author and finisher of our faith. He can change sinful man into a holy and undefiled follower of righteousness.

Once again the cycle of time is bringing the close of another summer. Preparations are being made for the beginning of another school year. There is a great responsibility involved in operating the Christian schools and we need to support those who do with our prayers that they may have divine wisdom to deal with every situation they face.

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Although we were unable to attend the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs because of duties here at the Print Shop, we were glad to hear some good reports from that meeting. We trust that the good received will be of lasting benefit to souls.

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We offer our sincerest condolences to the family of Sis. Mattie Simpson of Tulsa, Okla. Sis. Simpson passed away suddenly on August 1. May God sustain this family in their loss.

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Bro. Randall Flynn and his family have felt led to move to Loranger, La. Bro. Randall has been a worker here at the Print Shop for 11 1/2 years. We appreciate this period of service that he has given to publish the gospel. May God richly bless him, his wife, June, and their family for this sacrifice in the work of the Lord and also in their continued service to God.

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On June 26, my family and I, along with Bunnie Craddock, our niece and co-worker here at the Print Shop, left to attend the camp meeting at Loranger, La. We spent several days there in the home of Bro. Nelson and Sis. Genece Doolittle. We appreciated this opportunity to see the saints and worship with them on their new campgrounds. Leaving there, we drove to the Green Bank, W. Va., camp meeting and stayed in the home of Bro. Tony and Sis. Jeanne Samons, where we once again enjoyed the fellowship that is common among those who have a love for God and each other. There were a number who attended the meeting besides the local congregation and God blessed in the services. From there, we returned home, thankful for God's protection to us over the many miles of travel.

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Now available is a 24-page booklet by Bro. Daniel Layne. This book contains his testimony of deliverance and includes several pictures. If you are acquainted with someone enslaved by the habits of sin, this would be an excellent book to get into their hands. The price is 25¢ each. Please include 37¢ for postage and handling for three books or less. For those who order four or more books, the postage and handling will be our regular rate of 65¢ for the first dollar and 7¢ for each additional dollar of the total order.

Bro. Dwane and Sis. Connie Sorrell are currently involved in a court proceedings because of the death of their daughter Vicki. They are to have a hearing the 29th of Aug. Remember them in prayer that God will sustain them in the midst of the battle, work on the hearts of those in authority, and give the Sorrell family complete deliverance.

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We did not publish a paper for the month of August and therefore had accumulated quite an amount of material for this issue. We have printed as much as possible in this paper, some of it in a condensed form. We do want to encourage you to continue to send in material and as we have space and opportunity, we will use it for the edification of our readers. We thank each one for their support.

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The Church of God is a beautiful, heavenly ordained institution. In a darkened world that is filled with unbelievers, false prophets, and hypocrites, the Church of God still shines forth free of creeds and denominationalism.

The Bible has much to say in describing the Church and setting forth its glory, but it is the devil's business to dim its light and make fuzzy its distinction.

One way to discern the Church of God is by its name. A denomination is organized when a group of people, agreeing on one or more particular doctrines, whether right or wrong, band together and incorporate these particular doctrines, many times even into their names. People have taken such things as baptism, belief in pentecostalism, prophecies of the Revelation, and many other teachings, made it their call to rally and their test of fellowship, and formed a denomination. The Church of God is the one, true Church, not because of one particular doctrine which unites the members, but because they stand for all the Word of God equally and have the Spirit of God, which is love, to bond them one to another.

We find the early morning Church, which had to contend with such groups such as the Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Herodians, Essenes, Stoics, Epicurians, and others, remained free and did not take any distinguishing name upon themselves. In Acts 24:5, Paul was accused of being a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. In the 13th verse, Paul replied that, "Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me." Then in the 14th verse, he simply calls his beliefs "the way." They could not put a distinguishing name upon him. In Acts 19:9, Paul's teachings were simply referred to as "that way." When Paul was known as Saul, he was commissioned to go and persecute those who were of "this way."

Jesus prayed that those which God had given Him might be kept in His name. There was no other title or sub-title mentioned anywhere in the Bible for the Church to go by. Some think that since there are so many churches that use the same name, there should be a distinguishing sub-title. If you desire to be known apart from all counterfeits, just possess the true love of God in your heart. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35).

God's Church is a big Church. It accepts all those who are saved from sin and leaves out all those who

are not; it takes in all that is in the Bible and rejects all that which is not; it is motivated by the love of God and it shines in a darkened, sin-cursed world. Let us seek earnestly to be a part of that holy organization.

—Wayne Murphey

## In Memorial

Vicki Darlene Sorrell was born Nov. 16, 1979, in Guthrie, Okla., and passed from this life June 20, 1984, at the age of four years, seven months, and four days.

Vicki was a tender-hearted child and loved the Lord. She early learned the value of prayer and would enjoy it when her mother knelt by her bedside and prayed with her before she fell asleep at night. Although her life in this world was short, she leaves many pleasant memories in the hearts and lives of those who knew her. We do not question the wisdom nor the power of the Lord in calling this beautiful rosebud home. Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not."

In this hour of deep sorrow it is a comfort and consolation for me to be able to tell you today that Vicki's home has been one of love. Her father, Dwane, is a hard-working young man. He and Connie love the Lord and their children. His family looked forward to his homecoming at the end of the day. The evenings were enjoyable times when Dwane and Connie and all their family were together. This young mother does not spend her time on a public job where her children are left with others who have not their good at heart, but Connie devotes her time in caring for her family and in teaching and training her children in the ways of the Lord. There were special songs which they learned. Vicki's song was "Victory in Jesus." In the place of the word victory, "Vicki" was substituted, making it "Vicky in Jesus." Her name was sometimes lovingly referred to as "Victory." I am glad to tell you today that I believe Vicki is in Jesus and has won a great victory. She is at rest with our dear Saviour. Our land and nation will be better prepared for the challenges of tomorrow and to face the problems which confront us if our children are taught to fear God and to keep His commandments.

She is survived by her parents, Dwane and Connie Sorrell of Guthrie; one brother, Lyndall Dwane; two sisters, Susan Diane and Jennifer DeAnn; grandparents: Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Miles, of Guthrie; and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sorrell of Thayer, Mo.; and great-grandparents: Beatrice Eck, of Guthrie, Carl Miles, Sr., of Oklahoma City, Okla., Marie Miller of Thayer, Mo., and Audie Sorrell of Thayer, Mo.

The funeral services were held in the Guthrie Church of God chapel with burial being in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Guthrie, officiated by Bros. Leslie Busbee, Willie C. Murphey, and Wayne Murphey.

### Note of Appreciation

To all the dear saints of God: We would like to express our thanks to all of you for every act of kindness which you have shown. We appreciate the cards, telephone calls, food, and the flowers. We have

felt the strength of your prayers and are depending heavily upon them for the guidance of the Lord in the days which are ahead. God bless you every one!

—Dwane and Connie Sorrell

### Come Unto Me

" 'Come unto me,' " said the voice of my child,  
 'Come unto me, and ye shall have rest'—  
 Jesus said that, didn't He, Mommy?  
 Jesus just loves little children like me.  
 He always wants us to come to Him  
 For joy and for peace, doesn't He, Mommy?"  
 So soft, so tender—I could hear her voice  
 Repeating the phrases I had taught her  
 When she was yet a girl at my side,  
 When she was yet a girl at my side. . . .

Beneath brown lashes long, and so lush,  
 Her light green eyes would sparkle with life  
 When we would discuss her memory verse.  
 Then at church when Sunday School was through,  
 With haste my child would come to greet me:  
 "I did say my verse," she would declare.  
 " 'Come unto me,'—Jesus said that, didn't He, Mommy?"  
 Her soft, pink lips would arch in a grin  
 And a dimple would dot one chubby cheek,  
 When she was yet a girl at my side.

"Come unto me," said a voice to my child,  
 "Come unto me—I just love little children."  
 "Darling? Did you hear a tender voice calling?"  
 Jesus said that, didn't He, darling? Darling?"  
 I came from dreaming to question my child  
 Only to realize the girl at my side  
 Had already slipped away to answer His call.  
 Somewhere with Him she went away smiling;  
 Some way of hers must have pleased Him so much  
 That He wanted her an angel at His side.

—Connie Sorrell

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**Mrs. Mattie Louis (Knight) Simpson** was born December 8, 1911 in Marshall, Texas. She was one of 8 children born to William H. and Mary E. McClellan Knight.

Mattie was reared in a home where she was taught to love and trust God. In 1964, Mattie made a vow to the Lord and enlisted in His service.

She attended school in Tullahassee, Okla. and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School.

She was united in marriage to Henry Crawford Simpson of Tulsa. To this union were born two children: Norman T. Simpson of Goulds, Florida, and Mauntel E. Jones of Dallas, Texas.

Her life was devoted to caring for her family and working for the Lord. Her favorite prayer was that she would rear her children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Her life's ambition depicted her favorite song, "Heaven holds all to me." She dearly loved her brothers, sisters, and all and prayed much for their salvation.

The call came from heaven's portals Wednesday, August 1, 1984. At the call of, "Come home, my child," she fell asleep in the arms of her Saviour, and is evermore to be with the Lord.

Her father, mother, three brothers, and one sister preceded her in death. Her memory will be cherished

by her husband, Henry C. Simpson of California; her son, Norman; her daughter, Mauntel Jones; one brother, Frank Knight; two sisters: Bertha Long and Gwendolyn Nealy; an aunt of New York, thirteen grandchildren, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Tulsa, Okla. Church of God Chapel on August 4, 1984. It was officiated by Bros. H. H. Hargrave, Charles Lowe, and Ed Wilson. Interment was in Pleasant Grove Cemetery in Tullahassee, Okla.

#### Note of Appreciation

Our family deeply appreciates the expressions of love, kindness, and concern shown to us in the loss of our loved one. Your support and prayers have meant so much to us.

—The Family of Mattie Louis Simpson

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**Mrs. Gertrude Newton Conley** was born in Hillsboro, Texas on March 30, 1901, to the late Felix and Lizzie Newton, and passed from this life on May 23, 1984, at the age of 82 years.

Mrs. Conley received her early education in Texas. She moved with her family to Boley, Okla. where she met and later married Mr. Benny Conley, a union that lasted one month short of fifty-five years. To this union eleven children were born. After living in Tulsa, Okla. for some time, she and her lovely family moved to Fresno, Calif. in 1944. The youngest of their children was born in Fresno.

Sister Conley united with the Evening Light saints in the Church of God at an early age. She remained faithful to God for the remainder of her life. She was a devoted wife, a loving mother, and kind friend. She showed compassion to everyone she knew. Besides aspiring to raise and educate her own large family, she and her husband opened their home for the care and comfort of the aged, and later for foster children after her own children had established their homes. This was a service she and her husband continued until their retirement. Her husband preceded her in death in 1975.

She leaves to cherish her memory three sons: Kenneth M. and Joe L., both of Fresno, Calif., and Ronald D. of Modesto, Calif.; eight daughters: Lillie M. Stubblefield, Rose Kelly, Betty Joe Phillips, all of Fresno, Calif., Violet Hackett, Willodean Murrill, Shirley A. Kidd, all of Sacramento, Calif., Elizabeth Meyers of Pacoima, Calif., and Bennie Ellen Hogan of Los Angeles, Calif.; forty-three grandchildren; thirty-one great-grandchildren; a paternal aunt in Fort Worth, Texas, and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and kind, loving friends.

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#### Note of Appreciation

We are taking this opportunity to thank everyone for their love, concern, sympathy, and prayers for us during our recent hard experience which was Byron Pruitt's tragic death. His wife still needs prayer for the problems which have arisen because of the accident. Also, we thank each one who has sent offerings, etc. All this is deeply appreciated, and may God bless each one.

Our love and prayers,

—Maybelle Pruitt and all the family

## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### FRESNO CAMP MEETING REPORT

We are happy to report that God has visited Fresno once more with a special visitation. Our camp meeting was blessed from the beginning. The Father spread such a "feast" for us.

The last Saturday night was a scene to make the angels rejoice as most of the ones present sought the Lord for help and salvation. There was much rejoicing in God for His mercy and great love.

Our hearts are burdened that these new babes will stay encouraged to follow the Lord all the way.

—Lavern Moles

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### MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

We praise the Lord for visiting us once more and giving us a Holy Ghost anointed meeting here in Myrtle, Mo. How refreshing it was to see the dear saints coming in from various states across the country. The Lord blessed in the preaching of His Word and the Holy Spirit was faithful to deal with souls. A few responded and sought the Lord at the altar of prayer. Some new contacts were made and some attended their first saints' camp meeting here at Myrtle this year. The precious seed of God's Word was preached by the anointing of the Holy Ghost and it fell upon many hearts. I truly feel that it will bring forth fruit in years to come.

—Harlan Sorrell

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### TENT MEETING

There have been plans made for a tent meeting to be held in Enid, Okla. Lord willing, it will begin Sept. 9, 1984, and last as long as the Lord leads.

For additional information, contact Bro. John Sisk, 1605 S. Adams St., Enid, Okla. 73701, phone (405) 234-6250.

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### WICHITA FALL MEETING

The fall meeting at Wichita has been set for September 14-23, 1984. We are looking to God in every way and to give us just what is needed. We are asking Him to anoint and send the ministers of His choice to deliver the Word with power and authority to help every soul who attends the meeting.

We ask an interest in the saints' prayers for the meeting.

For further information contact Keith Marsh at 501 Topaz, Wichita, Kans. 67209, or Raymond Johnson at 1921 Piatt, Wichita, Kans. 67214.

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### AUTUMN GOSPEL SINGING AT MYRTLE, MO.

Lord willing, we will have our annual autumn singing on Saturday night, October 6, 1984. This will be followed by all-day services on Sunday, October 7. We extend a hearty invitation to all to come and be with us on this weekend. Pray that the Lord will bless and anoint these services and that souls will receive spiritual enrichment.

—Harlan Sorrell

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### ALL-DAY MEETING

The Springfield, Mo., congregation has announced that, Lord willing, there will be all-day meeting on

the fifth Sunday in September, which is Sept. 30, 1984. Everyone who can come is not only welcome but urged to do so. Come and enjoy the blessings of the Lord.

If you need further information, contact the pastor, Bro. James Bell, Rt. 1, Box 928, Springfield, Mo. 65803, phone (417) 833-1901.

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### MONARK TAPES FOR SALE

Bro. Clifford Smith has available on either a loan or purchase basis, tapes of the Monark, Mo. Camp Meeting.

Available are two tapes of singing and almost all of the sermons. Bro. Smith also has available quite a few sermon tapes of Bro. Ostis Wilson. You may receive these tapes on a loan basis free of charge, or purchase them for \$1.75, which includes the cost of postage, by addressing your order to: Clifford Smith, 4795 Gardner Rd. S. E., Salem, Ore. 97302.

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### SINGING TAPES FOR SALE

Bro. Harlan Sorrell has announced that he has six tapes of singing that were recorded at the Monark Springs Camp Meeting this summer. The tapes are entitled "God's Happy People." They are as follows:

Tape #1—Songs from 1st Sat. night service

Tape #2—Songs from 1st Sun. morning and afternoon

Tape #3—Songs from 1st Sun. afternoon (con't) and night

Tape #4—Songs from 1st Sun. night (con't) and Mon. afternoon

Tape #5—Songs from Mon. night

Tape #6—Songs from Mon. night (con't) and Tues. morning.

The price per tape is \$1.50. The postage and handling is \$1.00 per order (not per tape). Order from: Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1, Box 118-A, Myrtle, Mo. 65778.

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### AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SAINTS

To whom it may concern: I feel like I owe an apology to the saints, and I humbly ask their forgiveness. I have failed the Lord greatly and in so doing, I have also failed the saints. I have totally repented of a dire need in my soul which had existed for many years. It seems I had never really come face to face with myself. The devil had taken complete control of me and consequently I lost out with God.

I thank the dear Lord for His mercies to me and for forgiving me of all wrong doings. I earnestly desire the prayers of the saints that I will be faithful to the end. I desire to be a blessing to all. I truthfully regret the wasted years. I desire the Lord to lead and direct my life. Remember me in earnest prayer. I regret all past mistakes bitterly.

—Willard Underdown

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### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear saints: I am very sorry I did not hold up the standard of divine healing. I have failed the Lord and I have failed the saints, but I have repented before the Lord and begged Him earnestly to forgive



me and to save me. I feel assured that the Lord has forgiven me and saved my soul again. I am asking the saints to please forgive me. The Lord has been faithful to me and He has been dealing with my soul for which I do thank Him. I have discontinued my pastoral duties in the Wichita congregation.

I do appreciate the love of the saints and thank you very much for the cards, calls, flowers, and love offerings that I have received. I have especially appreciated your prayers. Again, I am very sorry and please pray for me that I will be faithful to the Lord and to the saints to the end.

Regretfully yours, —Bro. Lewis Williams

#### BOOK WANTED

Bro. Jim Mazerolle is in search of a book of poetry that D. S. Warner wrote. If you know where a copy of a book of this description can be attained, write to Bro. Jim at 46195 Brooks Ave., Chilliwack, BC V2P 1C2 Canada.

#### CHANGE OF OKLA. STATE TREASURER

We have been notified of a change in the Okla. State treasurer. All contributions and correspondence should be addressed to: O. C. Porter, 7 Karl Drive, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, who is the temporary treasurer.

#### Prayer Requests

Tex.—“Continue to remember us in prayer. My husband is better. My nephew also needs special help from the Lord.” —Louise Strickland

Okla.—“Pray for Sis. Necie Regans, the young people, and all the saints.” —Mary Jones

Mo.—“Please pray for my daughter. She has cancer of the lungs.” —Opal Wilson

Ind.—“I need healing of my ears; remember me in prayer.” —Nova Lewis

Ark.—“Please remember me as my nerves are bad.” —Pearle Steele

La.—“I need healing for my eyes.” —Gladys Cashio

Ind.—Bro. Earl Bliss needs healing of his eyes and other afflictions.

Okla.—“We need your prayers.” —Elbert Johnson

Tex.—“Please pray for my great-grandson who is afflicted.” —Sis. Nellie Lovell

Ore.—“Pray for the complete healing of Fred Gatke.” —L. Trimble

Ark.—“Please pray for my eyes. They pain very much at times. Pray also for my wife’s healing.” —A. C. Gilleland

W. Va.—“Pray for us. Also pray for our brother-in-law to find work.” —Sis. Avis Tinsley

Ghana.—“Pray for my wife who is very ill.” —Bro. Jim Akwasi

Miss.—“My brother, Warren, and I need prayer very much.” —Dorothy Bridges

Ind.—“My eyes are going blind; please pray for me.” —Olga Bokrandt

Tex.—“Please remember me in your prayers.” —Sis. Lessie Speed

Mo.—Remember Sis. Ruth Murphey in prayer as she is in much need of healing.

Ore.—“I still need prayer for complete healing. Also, continue to remember Bro. Charles Elwell. He is better, but still weak from the heart attacks.”

—Ruby Hutchinson

We know that as long as we are in these fleshly bodies we will have sickness, pain, and afflictions of various kinds. Remember, God is taking note of all things and He is permitting these things to come our way for a purpose. In Psa. 34:19, we read, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.” We know not how He will deliver every time, but we can rely on His promises because they are sure and true. We have experienced God’s divine healing so many times so that we cannot deny His healing power. Let us rely more fully on God’s wonderful promises and trust Him for all things. “Oh, Lord, our faith increase.” —Maybelle Pruitt

#### FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

##### Ghana Reports . . .

Greetings of Christian love to all in Jesus’ dear name.

We are in our rainy season now. It does hinder church-going some. We don’t have roads, nor cars to ride in. In fact, everyone walks, so when the heavy rains come, people just stay home. There is mud everywhere, but everyone is so thankful for the rain which has been bountiful this year. Everything is so lush and green. Things grow quickly here. You can just put the limb of a tree in the ground and it grows. Bro. Jim has done a lot of “limb” shrub and flower planting. He started before we moved into the mission house and everything looks really nice. It takes quite a while to clear as the land-stumps come out gradually.

I want all the saints to know there is no war going on here. The whole world is corrupt and Ghana has her share of it, but the door is wide open. I am free everywhere. There has never been anyone even to see my passport. I am possibly safer here than in the United States. Just pray that the doors will stay open to the gospel.

I am very happy for the way God has worked in Ghana. Bro. James Badu is picking up the work at Afrancho. He has given up a higher education course for the pastorship. He is a single brother, 24 years old, but I feel he will be married soon. Bro. Appiah has taken the work at Tano Kwaemu and Bro. Jim Akwasi is here. There are five young brothers that I have great confidence in along with the other teachers and preachers amongst us.

We are planning another street meeting this week end. A man from an apostolic church here is loaning us the loud speaker system. I know by the time you get this letter that the meeting will be history, but we desire your prayers for the work here always.

We are having to wait about three months to get checks cashed here so we feel it will take some time longer to build the church house. Furnishing the mission house was drawn out so long that everyone was worn out, so we feel it would be better to wait until we have enough funds to finish before we start to build. Meanwhile, we can concentrate on the work. There is always much to do. My work won’t be done by January, 1985. If I feel by November like I do



now, I will ask for another year in Ghana. By then I will have to see about my flight. If I can stay another year, we'll see the church house built and God can give us another work or two. Just pray that God will have His way in hearts. We have not long to labor at the most. My years of service are fast fleeing away. I keep well and have gone to native food and river water. I do love it here and could spend the rest of my natural life here if need be. God is so good to us.

With much Christian love to everyone,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

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Dear Sis. Pruitt and all the dear saints scattered abroad: I am writing this letter to thank all the dear saints for their prayers and support for the work in Ghana.

We thank the dear Lord so much for taking care of all the situation which brought about much confusion amongst the saints about Sis. Keiser's welfare. There has been no war and we are all fine in the year of 1984. This has really proven your greater love for others.

I know we are all preparing for a great battle with the devil and there is no better way to prepare for this battle than to hide the Word of God in our hearts.

In natural war, the soldiers are equipped with swords, guns, shields, and many other things they think necessary for protection from the enemy. Our greatest enemy is Satan, and the greatest battles are fought in our hearts. Let us therefore equip ourselves with the whole armor of God as our Bro. Paul wrote to the Church at Ephesus. Praise God for His Word.

Praise the Lord that the battle is not ours. Pray for this new work in Ghana and for all His chosen pastors.

—Bro. Jim Akwasi and congregation

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#### Reports from the Philippines . . .

Dear Bro. Hammond: Greetings to you and all the saints in the U. S. A. in the precious name of Jesus, our only hope of life in this world. We are so happy to receive your very kind and encouraging letters. Thank you so much again, dear brother, for the check and for the *Faith and Victory*. We are most happy to hear that you arrived in the U. S. safely and healthy in the loving arms of our dear heavenly Father. We look forward for the future that your many sacrifices for us and for the mission work in the Philippines will reap a bountiful harvest of souls.

I'm so happy to report to you that we are having a baptismal service on Sunday afternoon. More souls are being prepared to be baptized. Our concentration of work is now in the city and we have many schedules of Bible studies.

It is so expensive to build the church because of the high cost of building materials. We have already laid the foundation and a wall around up to the windows. We stopped working now because we don't have any materials, and we were not able to get the building permit yet from the engineering because we don't have money to pay the permit and other requirements. Please continue to pray for this building project, dear saints, for we hope to gather on our camp meetings and other services of the saints to study the Word of God and to praise our Lord.

We are very sad to hear of the very tragic ac-

cident of Sister Pruitt's oldest son. We are praying fervently for her that God will give her strength and courage to bear the heavy burden she is now carrying. We are so sad also to hear of the Sorrells' hard trials and persecutions. Please give them our heartfelt sympathy and assure them of our fervent prayers.

May I say again, thank you so much, dear brother, for your unmeasurable love for us. May God bless you so much! We are waiting for you in August!

Your brother in the Lord,

—M. S. Tunganan and the saints

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Dear Bro. Hammond and saints: Greetings in love and holiness in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Sanctifier. May these lines find you and all the saints rejoicing in His blessed care. The world is full of troubles, conflicts, discouragements, and frustration, yet to the children of God these cannot move them. We have the faith, so we are victorious over these things. We are overcomers under His grace and guidance. Hallelujah!

I received your good letter and the enclosures were very much appreciated. Thank you and all the saints who shared their love and concern for the spreading of the truth and soul salvation.

I'm very happy to know you can come back to the Philippines. May the Lord's blessings be upon you and keep you so that you again can labor with us and help encourage our brethren here.

We now have a newly-opened outreach in a nearby island. The aunt of my wife who came here last month and sincerely accepted the truth, came here yesterday and told us that she has the burden to work for the Lord. She was a Sunday School teacher in another church, and she has already separated herself from them, and now has a small group gathered in her house.

I have a testimony to the Church. I'm feeling very happy and I can't praise God enough for the complete healing I received from Him. I suffered chest pains for weeks and had gone for a "check up" but the results were unremarkable. The pain continued so severely that I thought I would die. Three days ago, however, when I woke up early in the morning, I shouted praises and thanksgiving to God because all the pain was perfectly gone! Yes, I now realized that the Lord had done something for me. He put that burden in my chest because I was to learn a lesson from Him. After so much prayer, the Lord told me to love all my brethren and everybody with an unfeigned love. That means to love them purely and without reservations. I thank the Lord for rebuking and humbling me. May I be more useful and effective in His ministry. I rededicated my new life to Him and I am determined to be more submissive to His calling and commandments. Thank you for your prayers and also to the whole Church of God who stand in the faith of our Lord Christ, the Saviour and Healer. Amen.

This is all for now, and may God bless the camp meetings that more souls may be won to His kingdom, the Church of God. Thank you.

Your brother in the Church,

—Bro. Prado and family

Dear Sis. Pruitt and all the saints at the Print Shop: Holy greetings in the sweet name of Jesus, our soon-coming King. I do hope and trust all is well by the grace and mercy of our loving Father.

We feel impressed to write and express our sincere thanks to God and to you for the love gift that you sent us. We received it with deep appreciation. Praise God! Hallelujah!

We were very glad to have Bro. Hammond with us in our area and we enjoyed fellowshiping with the flock of believers, especially with the native people. We worshipped Him in Spirit and in truth, thanking God for those who stayed faithful to Him and His work.

Rejoice with us for the chapel that has been newly constructed. We are able to hold services there already. Bro. Hammond had witnessed how the Lord moved in our Church and the native people are open to the gospel and the doctrine of the Church of God. We are trusting God to save more lost souls. Yes, He never fails. He always comes when we need Him most.

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, love, concern, and for their gift to us. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. May God bless all of you working at the Print Shop both materially and spiritually, so you can continue your good work for Him. Regards, and we hope to meet you again by the next mail.

With love and prayers in Him,

—Pastor Ilde P. Detuya and family

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#### Nigerian Reports . . .

Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings of love to you and all the saints in the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

My dear sister, I am writing to assure you that the Church of God which is in Lagos is growing by the grace of God daily, most especially on the side of the doctrines of the Church of God. Many people wanted to read our doctrinal books and know the truth, but they have none to give out. Bro. Emmuel Dodubo is one of our members who is feeding the Church there. The Church is short of almost everything materially. I beg of you to put this matter before the Church there and consider the Church of God at Lagos. May the Lord be with you.

Yours in Christ,

—B. Ben Taylor

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Dear Bro. Hammond and all of the Holy City: Greetings in the conquering name of the Lord Jesus. We know not what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. God has promised to be with His people all the way, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Thank you for your letters. All were received, but they were very much behind schedule.

A revival of seven days' duration was held which ended June 30. Through it, pride, envy, resentment, impurity, etc., were given to Him who bore them on the cross, in order to be whispered to again what He once said on the cross, "It is finished." Take sin to the cross, see its sinfulness, confess it to God, and reckon it gone. Through the value of the blood of Jesus, come out cleansed to walk in the highway in

complete oneness with the Lord Jesus. How willing we are to hazard even our lives for the gospel's sake. A purer flame should burn upon the altar of our hearts and like the fire burning upon the altar long ago, it should never go out. (Lev. 6:13). The Church is in sore need of vessels of consuming zeal who will not be afraid nor ashamed to fling the cross in the face of a Godless world. May ours be an inextinguishable flame. Amen. When we seek Him, we shall find Him. We have found Him, and are now the spiritual lights He made and set in the firmament of His holy Word to give light to men.

With love and prayers,

—Titus Enu

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#### From India . . .

Our dearly beloved Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. George Hammond, and all the dear ones in the Print Shop and the dear saints abroad: We send our loving greetings to you all again in the precious name of Jesus Christ. Thank you very much for your kind letter dated July 7, 1984, and the enclosures were noted with much appreciation and gratitude. It was with a real shock that we happened to read in the *Faith and Victory* about the sad news of the death of our dear Bro. Byron Pruitt in an automobile accident. We send our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and especially to Sis. Maybelle Pruitt. May God give her much grace to suffer all these losses. May God wipe out the tears of his dear wife and daughter and the grandchildren. As David said, there is only a step between man and death.

The Church in India as a whole is doing fine and is in progress in the duty of spreading the Bible truths. Your prayers are the main cause of our strength and existence. Our manifold temptations are just the threatening side of manifold treasures. If we overcome the tempter, we shall return in power. In great temptations we are being favored with a shining opportunity, and we are to count it all joy. Let us fight the good fight of faith, assured that every victory will make us nobler soldiers. Let us fight in the holy fellowship of the Captain of our salvation, who, Himself being tempted, turned His wilderness into a place of springs. He will so strengthen His disciples that their wilderness and solitary place shall be glad and their desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. Praise the Lord! "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." (Heb. 12:3).

Let us see through the eyes of prayer always. Please pray for the many needs of this land.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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#### REPORT FROM BRO. DAVID PIERRO ON TRIP TO NIGERIA

Dear Print Shop workers and fellow saints: Greetings in the name of the Lord. Last fall (November, 1983), two of my sons, my father, and myself took the opportunity to visit the saints of Nigeria, especially those of Bendel State.

The saints there all gave us a warm welcome in both town and country. They were very hospitable and deeply concerned that our stay in Nigeria should be free of serious problems. They offered many pray-

ers on our behalf before, during, and following our stay. God protected us while there and brought us safely home again.

We stayed at the town of Abbi which is about 18 miles from the congregation at the town of Kwale. There at Abbi, Bro. Titus Enu owns a large home at which we stayed. Bro. Titus and the saints from Kwale and surrounding towns visited us almost daily. We had more than a half dozen of our *Evening Light Songs* books. We tried to teach them some of our songs. Along with their songs and prayers they brought us an abundance of food: rice, cabbage, lettuce, sweet potatoes, bananas, oranges, grapefruits, beef, fish, cans of evaporated milk, as well as many other fruits and supplies.

We enjoyed attending the church services each Sunday at Kwale. I especially enjoyed the prayer services. They sang many songs from a repertoire of some 200 songs which God inspired Bro. Titus to memorize or write. They sang from that large group of songs without the aid of books in the language of that area which is Ukwani. We also sang some songs in English from a small hymnal. For each service there was also a translator who translated the preacher's words into English or Ukwani—whichever was needed. The services were very Spirit-filled.

We made several trips into the surrounding countryside to meet and worship with saints who lived too far to walk or ride bicycles to Kwale—probably 15 or more miles off in the woods. Bro. Titus had the only automobiles of the Kwale congregation. One of his cars was inoperable because replacement parts were not available in that area. He has since located the needed parts for that car in a large city several hundred miles from Kwale. Meanwhile, his second car broke down also about a month or so after we left. Consequently, Bro. Enu has been trying to walk or hire taxis in order to get around to carry out his duties.

Bro. Titus told me that his vision is to evangelize all of Nigeria and far beyond. So far means of transportation and adequate support have been lacking. In order to get the money which they need to do this large work for God, the saints hope to begin farming on a large scale, using modern tools and methods. There is plenty of open land, and the water supplies are excellent both in wells and rivers.

Although we drove for hundreds of miles in southern Nigeria, we saw no farms which exceeded two acres in size and we saw no farmers using tractors or other modern equipment (not even roto tillers). We saw vast quantities of open land. We saw no one trying to irrigate, although splendid opportunities seemed to exist. Their custom seems to be to depend strictly upon rainfall for the watering of their crops. We have heard that the Nigerian government has begun developing a few large farms; and is trying to encourage individuals to begin farming on large plots in the modern way.

The cities in Nigeria are growing very quickly, since the farmers have not been able to supply sufficient food. Consequently, much food is imported. Last year we read that over two billion dollars' worth of food was imported into Nigeria. During our stay there I was quite shocked at prices, especially those for food. Here are some of the prices I remember: a

small watermelon—\$8.00; one pound jar of honey—\$8.00; one pound of sugar—\$1.33; live chicken hens—\$13.00; live turkeys—\$75.00; live pygmy goats—\$133.00; a grown cow—\$1,330.00. A huge amount of rice is also imported.

We returned from Nigeria spiritually refreshed and with a clearer understanding of some of the material needs and opportunities which exist there. I will be happy to share any additional information I have concerning conditions I observed or experiences I had in Nigeria with anyone who has a special burden for the work there, if they will write me.

If there were any who had desired the information in this report, please accept my apologies for not having sent it to the *Faith and Victory* paper sooner.

With Christian love, —Bro. David Pierro

## From the Mailbox . . .

Dear Sis. Pruitt: Greetings in Jesus' dear and precious name! What a wonderful Saviour we have. He is full of compassion and tender mercies. His great goodness endures forever!

Yes, here in this life, we have many burdens, sorrows, and tears, but our sorrow will be turned into joy, our tears into laughter, and our burdens into a song. Yes, my heart longs to be in that glory world and oh, what a great and glorious reunion that will be!

Sis. Pruitt, I'm sorry I didn't write you sooner, but our sympathy and our thoughts were with you when your son was so tragically taken from this life. We do trust that God has greatly comforted your heart. Death brings grief into all our lives, but someday soon we will gloriously be reunited with our dear loved ones. There won't be any sorrow, grief, or tears there. "Won't it be wonderful there?"

We just thank the Lord for all His gracious and bountiful blessings.

Continue to pray for us.

Yours,

—Agathe Friesen

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Calif.—Dear saints of God: May the peace of God reign in each purified heart. "Blessed are the pure in heart. . . ." It means much to have a pure and undefiled heart in this evil world when we are surrounded by wickedness on every side. The way to heaven is at best a pressing way, but it is a way of peace and a way of joy in this world of sin and sorrow. Oh, praise God for the joy and contentment He gives to His trusting children. God's way is surely best. We cannot see our pathway clear before us sometimes but by trusting Him, He will bring us out in a wealthy place. We have the assurance, security, and safety of the present and the future when we trust God with a pure heart, bless the Lord. He promised never to leave us nor forsake us.

Christian love and prayers,

—Jim Kutra

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Ohio—Dear sirs: I am enclosing a small donation for your work there. I feel that your teachings are very necessary and fundamental for this day and age. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* very much and would like to continue receiving it. I would also like

to receive a list of the publications that your publishing house puts out.

I am 89 years of age and have been a Christian since 1915. I believed the truth as taught by the "Church of God" at that time. I am glad to read a paper that still teaches the same truths I heard many years ago. So many today are not teaching the old time truths.

Thank you very much for the paper and may God bless you and your work.

I am your brother in Christ, —Grant Hammond

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Calif.—I want to thank you for all the books I have collected over the years. I have enjoyed them so much. They have become a part of every-day guidance in my life.

May God bless you all, —Sis. Lois Underwood

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Ohio—Gentlemen: As soon as I finished reading "Home Life" in the July issue of the *Faith and Victory* paper, I wanted to write you right away, but waited until this, my designated writing day.

"Give Your Child Security" by Sis. Marie Miles, is to me a true gem of Christian literature. This reminds me so much of the writing of the old pioneers; every word is pure gold. You can rest your whole weight on it. There is nothing in this article that you can't quite go along with if you are with the truth. There's nothing in it I'd like to undo or delete. . . .

—Burbridge R. Copeland

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

Calif. Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are glad that we have subscribed to the *Faith and Victory* paper! The articles, testimonies, prayer requests, mission reports, etc., are all very encouraging!

The Fresno camp meeting has just ended and we were blessed to be in most of those glorious, Spirit-filled services. The messages from God were very inspiring and they restored our faith in His works through the people in the Church of God.

With thoughts and love in Christ,

—Bro. and Sis. Ralph Pierro

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

Okla.—Greetings to all. This finds me still saved and pressing on for the Lord. The afflictions are great but God is also great and my trust and confidence are in the Lord. I'm not discouraged, but every day I'm pressing. I am so glad I can do my work and pretty well keep up my home the Lord gave me. I just live with a thankful heart. I'm so glad I can attend services three, and sometimes four times a week.

Please pray for my hearing and for my eyes. I love to work for Jesus. It's the joy of my life. For many years I could travel and take the gospel message. Now I am not able to go so much but I still keep writing letters and sending forth tracts in every direction. This is a work the Lord laid on my heart as a very young woman. I love to do it.

I am alone much of the time so I have much time to study, pray, and write for the Lord. Oh, there is so much to do. I don't want to idle precious moments

away. The Lord gives us life and breath to work for Him. Let us redeem the time for we are surely in perilous times. I do want to be a shining light in my home or wherever I may go that others may want to serve the God I love and serve. Pray for me.

In the Master's service, —Sis. Evelyn McCoy

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## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Mo.—Greetings in Jesus' sweet name. I am happy and thankful to be living in the grace of God once again.

My husband and I were saved and living for the Lord four years ago, but we backslid into the ways of the world and have lived in misery ever since. If I may be permitted, I would like to relate part of our experiences.

It seemed to all begin in March, 1980, with the loss of our fourth child at four months prior to birth. It was very hard to accept and shortly thereafter we became dispirited and fell out with the Lord. We suffered financial trouble as well as trouble within our home.

My family had been 35 years without a death so we were all in a heartbroken state when my 18-month-old niece died. If we could have foreseen the future we would have seen that this was only the beginning. We lost an aunt and uncle in March, 1982, and then another uncle in July, 1982. In August, 1982, we lost one of a set of twins at 8 days old. Thank God, one survived and is doing fine. After all this, my sister-in-law on my husband's side lost her life at 20 in a car accident, and left two small children behind. We also lost my grandfather in Dec., 1983.

I'm sure that there have been some good things that came our way in all this time, but looking back, I cannot remember any of them. All I can see is the heartache we and both of our families have received. God bless us all!

On July 15, 1984, our final message was received. My brother and husband were in an accident in our pickup truck. The truck, driven by my brother, left the road at a high rate of speed and turned over several times, hitting a telephone pole in the process. Both were thrown from the truck, with my husband being pinned beneath it by his left ankle. My brother had such massive injuries from the steering wheel and from being thrown out that he lost his life about three hours later.

When they came to tell me about the wreck, I could not believe what was happening for we had been "out on the town" earlier that evening. God alone saved Doyle's life.

They have investigated the wreck twice because they cannot believe that Doyle came through alive. He has a broken left foot and a pulled leader in his right leg. They can only splint his broken foot because of the large sore that was caused by the truck being on it. The truck was saved from being completely on him because it was resting on the electric guideline. His back, spine, hips, and neck were all jammed and then twisted. He is healing nicely, thanks to God and the prayers of the saints.

I would like to give special thanks and prayers to Bro. and Sis. Merrill Smith and to my mother-in-law.

Nelva Stanley, for their continued love, support, and prayers. It will take a while for us, as well as my family, to accept what has happened, but in time and with God's loving grace, we will be strong.

We were both saved at the camp meeting at Monark Springs on July 22 this year. I am humbled and thankful for all God has done to heal Doyle and keep our family together. I can never thank God enough for sparing Doyle and giving us one more chance. I know He is a giving and loving God to give both of us a life worth living.

Please remember Doyle and me and our three children: Alicia, Kevin and Linda in your prayers. May we keep strong in faith and live a good life. May God bless us all.

Yours in the Lord,

—Carol and Doyle Stanley and children

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

Mo.—Dear saints at the Print Shop and others: Greetings in Jesus' name. I have a testimony to relate.

Before I was saved, I was in and out of the hospital four times in three months. The doctor finally put me on medication to straighten out my heart. They said that if I missed taking my medication on time (which was every six hours), I could not be here long.

After God saved me, I had a burden about this medicine. I took it to the altar and left it there. I haven't taken anything since the Green Bank camp meeting. Praise the Lord!

I have only had one trial. When we were to go to Monark, the devil brought back the symptoms. We rebuked the devil, and by the time we started all was well. To God be all the praise. I thank the saints for their prayers.

Your brother in Christ, —Art Johnston

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

Va.—Dear Sis. Grace: I send greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. The song says to praise the name of Jesus. Could we ever praise Him enough for His goodness and mercy? If we praise Him now and forever we could still never praise Him enough.

I feel like this testimony is over-due. The Lord has proven faithful to us another time. I want to share this testimony with the saints. I want to tell of the Lord's goodness and to give Him the glory that is due Him. Praise His precious name.

Nine weeks ago my youngest son, Jeffrey, was riding a three-wheeler with my niece when he was thrown off and fractured his skull. A blood clot formed under the fracture. The doctors wanted to cut a 3-inch hole in the side of Jeff's head to remove the clot. They told us that if they left the clot, it could get bigger and Jeff would go into a coma. I called the Church at Green Bank, W. Va., and asked them to pray. I had previously told Charles (my husband) that I wanted another cat scan done on Jeff before they operated because I believed the Lord could undertake and heal that clot. . . . The doctors agreed to wait and not operate on Jeff. Only the Lord caused them to do that. Of course, they told us all of the risks that were involved in waiting. While they spoke these words, I just held on to God's promises.

Bros. Mart Samons and Mancil Doolittle came to the hospital and prayed for Jeff. My unsaved com-

panion got down beside that bed with the rest of us. He had opposed the truth in the past but he knew where he had to turn for help. He later told me that he has confidence in the saints and that he knows the Lord did hear and answer their prayers. He's a different man since that night. The Lord did hear and answer prayer. Our little boy got better! We sat by his bed for two nights, holding on to the Lord's promise and, praise God, joy came in the morning! Jeffrey did not go into a coma, but steadily improved. He is back to his old self. The Lord healed our little boy. Praise His holy name.

There is still more to tell. I will tell of His goodness and give Him the glory that is due Him.

I was getting ready to leave after spending a week attending the Green Bank, W. Va. camp meeting when I fell down the basement steps in Tom and Shirley Carpenter's home. I broke all of the bones in my left wrist. The Lord undertook immediately for the pain. My hand was bent and my fingers and thumb were jammed together. During prayer, the Lord helped me to open my hand and fingers, releasing them from that awful position.

We went to the hospital later that evening to have it set, but the doctor refused to set it. He said that he had to operate on it. He put a splint on it and sent me home. The next day my husband found a doctor who was willing to try setting it, although he told us it probably wouldn't stay in place after he set it because there were no good bones to support the broken bones. He said it would probably slip out of place. . . . I was x-rayed twice since then and the bones are still in place without the use of surgery or a brace! Could we ever praise Him enough? No, never! Praise His holy name!

On Thursday night of the Monark meeting I was in intense pain. I called Green Bank, W. Va., and Monark, Mo., for prayer. Shortly after I called out to Monark, my arm became warm, the pain left, and I haven't suffered since. We serve a mighty God. Our God is real!

Our God is able, and will deliver us. If we will be faithful to Him, He will be faithful to us. Pray for me. I want to press on to that final victory.

Much Christian love, —Nancy Wagoner

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Canada—Dear ones: Greetings in the name of the Lord whom we serve fervently, with a pure heart. This way is so precious to my soul tonight. By the grace of God, I am determined to walk in it all the days of my life. I love our Lord with all of my soul. He is all I have in this time world. Everything else is going to fade away or burn up. It has been brought even more forcibly to my mind lately the thought of the final Judgment Day. Then it will truly be only God and me. He is going to look deeply into my heart and soul and see if any impure motive or attitude is there that hasn't been cleared up. Oh, the thought—to be lost in the night, in eternity's night. . . . Psalms 139:23, and 24, says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in thy way everlasting." This needs to be in our prayer. The end is so close. We must make sure that we make it through and gain our crown. Oh, I so want to be there. I want to be able to look upon my Jesus' face

and know that I will spend all eternity with Him. How sweet and pure and lovely it will be. . . . Let us all be true to one another.

One of Jesus' little lambs, —Elizabeth Whittall  
o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Mo.—Dear saints: Praise the Lord today for victory in my soul! The Lord has laid affliction upon my loins but when He hath tried me I shall come forth as gold. "Though God slay me, yet will I trust him." What a statement Job made! He knew God could be trusted so he had it fixed in his heart to trust Him. He has allowed the trial before it can touch us, so we don't have to be afraid that it will be too hard to bear. See 1 Cor. 10:13.

The dear Lord is precious to me. It is 2:00 a. m. I awoke a while ago with the Lord flooding my soul with so many good thoughts that I felt I must get up and write them down. Saints, we don't have a thing to be discouraged about. "If God be for us, who can be against us?" I thought I would wait until I was completely healed to write my testimony, but this morning I feel like the Lord is burdening me to write it now. It is with much humbling of heart and spirit that I take pen in hand to tell you what God in His mercy and through His grace and power has done for me and my family, and what He can and will do for all who have it fixed as Job did. I do not in any way mean to sound boastful, only in the Lord. All glory and honor to Him.

I was saved and embraced the truth and the doctrines of the Church of God 41 years ago. Ever since that time I have trusted God for divine healing. Thirty-three years ago, Dale and I were married. He also was saved and had embraced the truth and the doctrines of God's Word, one of them being divine healing. This morning I can truly say that God has never failed us. He has done many miraculous healings in our home. We could write a book of the many healings and miracles that the Lord has done for us. The Lord gave us seven precious children, and then took one of them home to be with Him. We endeavored to raise the remaining six children for the Lord and taught them the same doctrines and standards of the Church of God that we believed and practiced. Thank the Lord that they are each one saved today and still holding to those same teachings.

The Lord permitted a leg disorder to develop a few months ago that has steadily grown worse. Four weeks ago He permitted me to have a bad heart attack. I felt that I was very near to crossing over to be home with the Lord. What rest and peace I experienced by being totally committed and saying, "Lord, have your way." Saints, if the suffering or trial gets to be more than you think you can bear, then call for prayer. The saints everywhere will get under the burden for you in prayer. The saints are dear people and will stand by you. I love and appreciate them so much. They have held us up in prayer many times.

The Lord has healed the heart condition, but has not seen fit to heal the leg condition yet. I am at this time confined to the bed and wheelchair, and have a lot of suffering. I have always been a very active person who loves to work, and so I must confess that being thus confined has been a supreme test, but, oh,

the lessons I am learning to be still. No, I would not have chosen this. A song says, "Had I the choosing of my pathway, in blindness I should go astray." I could not see the golden nuggets that were hidden in this trial before I entered into it. I wouldn't have gotten many songs and Scriptures had this trial not come. "He leadeth true, I will not question, though through the valley I should go; though I should pass through clouds of trial and drink the cup of human woe." God's way is best! Then there's the song, "Abide with me" that says, "Help of the helpless, Lord, abide with me." Yes, I'm pretty well helpless but He's my help! Praise God! I can make it by His grace and the saints' prayers. I thank the Lord for this trial He is permitting me to go through. This, too, will pass. If I hold steady it will be victory either way it goes—whether He takes me home or heals my body. Praise the dear Lord!

Thank all you dear saints for your prayers, gifts of flowers, cards, and phone calls of encouragement. They are all appreciated so much. Please continue to pray for me. I want to be faithful.

—Dora Doolittle

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#### PRAYER ANSWERED

The Lord has corrected the weakness discovered in our baby's body. The authorities have officially closed their case concerning him. We thank all the saints who prayed for us during our time of need.

Sincerely, —Adriel and Cecilia Bowman

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#### Question and Answer Column

by

Ostis B. Wilson

**Question:** I would like for you to comment on 1 Cor. 3:14, 15, where it says, "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."

**Answer:** At the very outset I am frank to say that even though I have crossed the path of this Scripture and studied on it a number of times, I have not come up with any answer that has been very satisfactory to me. Perhaps I have come closer to it now while studying on it than at any time. However, I will cheerfully submit to you what is the best light and understanding I have on it at the present time. Also, if any of you readers out there have clearer light and a more thorough understanding of it, I invite you to write it to me and I will pass it on to the questioner in another issue of this paper. Thank you.

So with that said, let us proceed. First, I will pick up the context of the entire passage, beginning with verse 10. "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood,



hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." (1 Cor. 3:10-15).

In verse 10, Paul presents himself as a wise masterbuilder by the grace of God given unto him for this purpose. As a wise masterbuilder he laid a good foundation. Surely the first thing in a good, stable building is a good, firm, and stable foundation. "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord: is laid for your faith in His excellent Word." Paul actually did this setting forth of Jesus Christ (verse 11) as the foundation upon which to build our Christian faith, our doctrine, pattern and standards. This means to obtain and maintain a solid experience of salvation and to construct our spiritual lives. Paul presented Jesus Christ as the only source of salvation and said that faith in Him alone, without the works of the law, is the only means of obtaining it. He said, "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." (Gal. 2:16). Paul did not have any quarrel with the law as such, however, because he said in Rom. 7:12, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good."

Paul was not opposed to circumcision as such, either. We read in Acts 16:1-3 that he wanted to take Timothy with him in the work and he had him circumcised because his father was a Greek and there were many Jews in that area. Incorporating this into their salvation as a part of it, however, he stoutly opposed and denounced. Acts 15:1, tells of certain men who came down to Antioch from Judea and taught the Gentile converts that if they were not circumcised after the manner of Moses, they could not be saved. Paul and Barnabas stoutly resisted them which led to the apostolic council on this subject at Jerusalem. These men did not reject Christ as the foundation, but built on Him the ordinance of circumcision as a part of salvation. This was the thing that Paul had conflict with everywhere and in all his work with Gentiles and he denounced it as a perversion of the gospel in Gal. 1:7; 2 Cor. 11:4; 2 Cor. 2:17; Gal. 2:4; 2 Cor. 11:26; and 2 Cor. 11:13.

This perversion of the gospel and the corrupting of the Word of God consisted in their adding some human works (circumcision and the works of the law) to their faith in Christ as a part of their salvation. This was building on the foundation (Christ) "wood, hay, and stubble"—combustible material that would not stand the test of the fire of God's Word, and certainly not the fire of the Judgment. Unfortunately, that idea never died with those people, but has been the perpetual and continued curse and plague of professors of Christianity all down through the gospel age of time until now, and it is just as abominable and combustible now as it was then. All dependence and trust upon any good things we do, or on any sacrifices we make to obtain forgiveness from God or any favor from Him, is abominable to Him. The only

thing God recognizes is our faith in the merits of the shed blood of His Son Jesus, and the sacrifice He made. He said in Isa. 64:6, "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Paul understood this and said in Phil. 3:9, "And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith." "The righteousness which is of the law" is a righteousness of work and doing. (Rom. 10:5). Eph. 2:8, 9, declares that we are saved by grace through faith and not of works, lest any man should boast. This is the foundation Paul laid in all his ministry and for us to build upon it according to this principle, is to build gold, silver, and precious stones, all of which will stand the test of the fire of God's Word and Judgment. The plague and curse that destroyed the Pharisee in the parable (Luke 18:9-14), was his own self-righteousness which he trusted in and depended upon.

To build a life and experience with this kind of material even upon the foundation of Christ, is to build wood, hay, and stubble, which will not stand the fire test. For us to teach any doctrine or standard which does not coincide with the plain teachings of the pure gospel of Christ is the same. Unscriptural teaching (whether it's a major doctrine or a minor point), even though it be done on this foundation and in the name of Jesus Christ, falls in the same category. There are more than just a few doing this.

Let us consider, in conclusion, the awful and dreadful pronouncement of verse 15. "If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." It is certainly a crushing thing to think of—the whole of a person's work for his life-time being lost because he did not build solidly on the foundation which was because of some error and personal or private interpretation of Scripture he persisted in. God faithfully warns us that we will not be crowned unless we strive lawfully—according to set rules of procedure. (2 Tim. 2:5).

The most sobering thought of all is the very narrow margin by which such people may be saved and not perish forever. It is said that he will be saved "yet so as by fire." One translation says, "shall escape as through a wall of flames." Feature a picture like this: a burning building in which a man is known to be. A crowd of people are milling around outside, watching and waiting anxiously—can he be rescued? Suddenly they catch a glimpse through the wall of fire and smoke of a fireman there with the man on his shoulder. The crowd gasps and everyone holds their breath. Can they possibly get through? The fireman, well trained for such extreme emergencies, bends his body low and, with the man on his shoulder, dashes into the wall of flame and smoke, and plunges through to reach the outside gasping, staggering, and probably on fire—but safe on the outside. This is somewhat the picture presented to us here of one in this situation being saved. At a glance, it surely is not a certain thing. If a person has willfully and knowingly persisted in some error or held onto some pet something of his own in his life, he cannot be saved when his works burn. He must be totally ignorant of the truth and God's will on this point and totally innocent before God and he must



have his attitude right, if he is to expect any mercy from God in this time.

Note: The text says, "If ANY man's," not "ALL men's." God is working on an individual basis and God makes a difference. He teaches us in Jude 22: "And of some have compassion, making a difference." If He teaches us to make a difference, He surely must make the difference Himself.



## HOME LIFE

We are living in a day and age when there is very little time devoted to children by their parents. Many children grow up and never know real, true companionship from the ones who should be the closest to them and show them the way to live. Following we have printed two poems that we hope will be of encouragement, especially to fathers.

### If I Had a Boy

If I had a boy, I'd say to him, "Son,  
Be fair and be square in the race you must run;  
Be brave if you lose and be meek if you win,  
Be better and nobler than I've ever been.  
Be honest and fearless in all that you do,  
And honor the name I have given to you."

If I had a boy, I'd want him to know,  
We reap in this life just about as we sow,  
And to get what we earn, be it little or great,  
Regardless of luck and regardless of fate.  
I would teach him and show him the best that I could,  
That it pays to be honest and upright and good.

I would make him a pal and partner of mine,  
And show him the things in this world that are fine.  
I would show him the things that are wicked and bad,  
For I figure this knowledge should come from his dad.  
I would walk with him, talk with him, play with him,  
too,

And to all of my promises try to be true.

—Anonymous

### When Father Prays

When Father prays he doesn't use  
The words the preacher does;  
There's different things for different days,  
But mostly it's for us.

When Father prays the house is still,  
His voice is slow and deep;  
We shut our eyes, the clock ticks loud  
So quiet we must keep.

He prays that we may be good boys,  
And later on, good men;  
And then we squirm and think we won't  
Have any quarrels again.

You'd never think, to look at Pa,  
He once had tempers, too;  
I guess if Father needs to pray,  
We youngsters surely do.

Sometimes the prayer gets very long  
And hard to understand,  
And then I wiggle up quite close,  
And let him hold my hand.

I can't remember all of it—  
I'm little yet, you see;  
But one thing I cannot forget—  
My father prays for me.

—Unknown

## The Living Bible

The Bible is a living book. What it is to us depends on what we are to it. If we approach it with unbelief and sneers, it shudders like a wounded thing and closes up its heart, and we gaze only on a cold and gross exterior. We behold the form of its words, but discern not the treasures hidden in them. It appears cold and lifeless and repellent, and we go away depressed and unbelieving.

If we approach it reverently, trustfully, and confidently, it opens up to us its hidden depths. It shows to us its wonders. We may see in it unequaled beauties, unfading glories, magnificent vistas of thought; we may hear its voice of love, tender beyond words; we may feel the warmth of its affection, be uplifted by its hopefulness, and thrilled with the tones of its joy-bells.

If we open to it our heart's door and pour out our treasures of affection, it in turn, opens to us a great storehouse, and we may eat and be satisfied, and drink and thirst not. We may revel in its rich perfume, the rhythmic cadences of its music, the splendor of its heavenly light, and to us there is no question whether it is the living truth.

The Bible is to the Christian what the forest is to him who delights in nature. He who walks through the forest laughing, talking, and singing, hears not the sweet notes of the songster nor sees the wild things. He who would see and hear the things that delight the nature-lover must steal softly and silently along, watching his footsteps, hiding in the shadows, and thus he may see nature as she is. Likewise he who comes to the Bible full of self-importance with mind and heart self-centered sees not the natural beauty of the Bible. We must come to it effacing self, seeking not our own but the things of Christ, and we shall find it a mine of spiritual gold, a fountain of living water, a balm for every sorrow, a light in every dark hour.

—C. W. Naylor

(Taken from the book *Heart Talks*)