

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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A Prayer for Sinners



O God, let people everywhere,
All nations and each race,
Behold the coming Judgment Day
When all shall see thy face.

The day when time will be no more,
When all man's works shall fail,
And all have gone to their long home
Where prayers cannot prevail.

'Twill be too late then to repent,
When God says, "It is done!"
And oh, how sad will be the cry—
Of souls who've sealed their doom.

They'll go down to a lost, dark world,
Unknown, without a friend.
Of all the folks who here were dear,
Not one will help you then.

Oh souls, the picture of this plight,
Allow your mind to see;
The suffering then, without an end—
The loss in hell-bound misery.

God has for you a precious plan;
He made a way to heav'n.
Oh, come to Him now while there's time,
Repent, and be forgiv'n.

Prepare for that coming Judgment shock,
On that left hand be not seen.
Come to Jesus, the cleansing fount,
Through His blood be made clean.

God, in His mercy, calls for you;
He died for one and all.
Please turn to Him and humbly bow
And heed His final call!

—Gladys Cashio

Being Like the Bees

Some time ago, I read a story about bees. The Bible says to consider the ant. We can also profit from considering the bee. I have some bees, and I find it interesting to watch them keeping busy all the time. I have learned that there may be as many as 80,000 in one hive. In the midst of them is one queen bee. Without her, the colony has no future. Each one of those bees has his special duty to perform. Some go out and gather in the food. Then there are the guards that protect the entrance. They even have undertaker bees to carry out the dead ones. There are some that carry in water to regulate the humidity, and there are some that stand in the door and fan their wings to send out a scent so that if one becomes lost, they can recognize the scent of their own hive. Every one of them has a job to do. They all produce good, sweet honey.

"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him." 1 Cor. 12:18. In order for a bee colony to work, each bee must fill its place. In order for the Church to perform at its best, every segment must be in its place and functioning. Although each bee is an individual, they work together to make up one complete unit. They all look to the queen bee. We all have one Head which is Christ. We are all to be subject to Him.

"And the eye cannot say to the hand, I have no need of thee. . . . Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary." 1 Cor. 12:21, 22. We can see that as He did the bees, God has set the Church up as a working unit. Every member is necessary and every member has his job to do without murmuring and complaining. When it is like this, it will produce a sweet-smelling savor just like the bees produce sweet honey. We must work together and co-operate one with the other. When it comes to our own personal salvation, we are responsible. When we work for the Lord, we must work together. God will not recognize my work if I separate myself from the Body and try to work alone.

We think of the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. None of us would think about them not being in perfect harmony. Jesus prayed, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father art in me, and I in thee, that they may all be one in us: that the world

may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21. We can see what He had in mind: a united body of people working as one, just as they did. It must be that way. "And he gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." Eph. 4:11, 12.

We can see God's wisdom in that He gave different gifts for different jobs. All are for the edifying of the Body. First, the ministry must be in unity with the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. That will cause them to be in unity with each other, recognizing one another's gifts. That way the Church will be edified. If you have a prophet in your congregation, you have a wonderful gift. He is one who can see the future. If God sent a teacher, what a blessing! If God has called you to be a pastor, you have a great responsibility to feed, protect, and lead God's sheep. If you want a good revival meeting, call on the evangelist. When we are operating like this, the people will be in unity also. "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account. That they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." Heb. 13:17. If God has given you a God-sent pastor, you must co-operate with him or her, if you want to be blessed of the Lord. He will no more bless one who goes out on their own, than He will a minister who tries to go alone. We must work together. We do not compromise in order to work together, but we stand for all the truth. Then we stand with all others who stand for the same.

We had a Bible Study along these lines. We listed it this way: the Father, Son, Holy Ghost, ministry, members, and children are all working together. Yes, the children are part of the Church! It is the Church's duty to train our children. We cannot separate the children from the Church; they are a part of the Body! The Lord revealed to me when I was skeptical about the Christian School here at Green Bank how that when the communists desire to take over a country, they forget about the older people and start with the children and train them in their way. . . . Then God brought to mind about how much more we should be trying to train ours up in the truth. The school here is proving to be a real blessing to our children. We can see the change in them after one year. We thank the Lord that He has given us a building to worship in. We have our school in the basement and are hoping to expand soon.

Yes, let us all be workers together with the Father, Son, Holy Ghost, ministers, saints, and our children. Praise God! I have my whole heart in this thing. I'm glad to be saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. Thank God for the truth.

"Steady as you go,"

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons

Of your color or race you had no choice,
In selecting your mother or father no voice;
But the road you take as you go along,
The choice you make between right and wrong,
The words you speak and the deeds you do,
Are decided by nobody else but you!!

—Sel. by Alice Rhoades

Who Will Go?

"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him." Acts 8:29—31.

My soul is deeply troubled today as I see many hungry souls searching for the truth, but there is no one to guide them. They desire someone to "come up and sit with them," but all they find are sectarian professors who cannot help, and so they continue wandering in the desert of Babylon. We freely rejoice in God's dealings with us as we worship the Lord, and fellowship with the saints in light. But is God pleased as we serve and edify ourselves while souls perish? How shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?" Rom. 10:14, 15. There are some whom God has prospered with good jobs and businesses. Did He do this so that we could own bigger homes or cars, and live more comfortably? Unto whom much is given shall much be required. God has blessed some with an anointing for His service. Did He do this just for us to be more blessed in a comfortable congregation?

The call to consecration and service is now going out to His people, but only in a still, small voice. Those who have ears will hear. The pillar of cloud is lifting from the tabernacle and moving forward. Will you follow where He leads? This gospel must go out at all cost.

The devil says, "Be comfortable; people do not want to come this narrow way." But Jesus says, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Prov. 29:18.

Please pray for us.
Your fellow servant,

—Ed Schier

Work of the Church

The work of the Church of God is twofold: 1. To care for and perpetuate itself; 2. To evangelize the world. It can prosper only as it keeps this twofold mission in view. A congregation that becomes self-centered, that cares for nothing but local prosperity, is almost sure to decline spiritually, and misses its mission of assisting in carrying the gospel to a lost world. Missionary work was prominent in the apostolic Church, and was steadfastly pursued in obedience to Christ's command: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). But the accomplishing of this great work required the sacrifice of men and of means. A noble army of consecrated men and women who "loved not their lives unto the death" went forth to struggle against the powers infernal and win the triumphs of the cross. The Church of God poured out its money in order to meet the demands of the hour, even going

so far in some cases, as at Jerusalem, to sell all their property and devote it to the interests of the cause of God.

The same thing is needed today. The work of God needs men and women who are consecrated to evangelize the world, even at the cost of personal comforts and advantages; and the Church of God must awaken to the fact that giving of means for the support of God's work is both their privilege and their duty, and that it must be done. "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14). Those who minister to the people in "spiritual things" must receive the benefit of the people's "carnal things" (verse 11). The work demands this; God demands it; and all the pure and holy in heart will say "amen" to the will of God.

—F. G. Smith

(Taken from the book *What the Bible Teaches*)

An Indigenous Church

Indigenous—"Originating in and characterizing a country or region." What does it take for a church to become an indigenous church in a foreign country? Sectism has long decried such an ambition but very few have accomplished it. The Church of God is by nature native to whatever region God appropriates His salvation to any group of believers, being able to establish, nurture, and perfect His perfect love and plan wherever He desires.

Jesus said in Matt. 28:19, 20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. . . ." It is for us to plant the seed and teach the ordinances of the Church of God. It is then necessary for the local church to take the responsibility of its continued care and growth and God will give the increase.

Paying a native pastor is to encourage hirelings who no longer look to God for their help but rely upon man. This has never been a practice of the pure Church of God. This is a very hard thing for a native pastor to do when he takes a stand for the truth as most of these foreign countries are very poor and the pastors have families to support. They have usually been getting a regular allotment from the denomination they were in which usually amounted to several times the amount any of their parishioners made. Pray for these pastors who want to stand for the truth that God may take the little bread they have and multiply it for His glory as they are leaving their places of income behind with their denomination. They are banding together as much as they can to aid one another. They would appreciate light-weight modest dresses for women and children. Also they could use light-weight medium sized pants and shirts for men. They can be sent to: Bro. Xavier Prado, P. O. Box 168, Cagayan De Oro City, Philippines 8401.

The Church of God will only prosper in any locality as God is allowed to work according to His truth. God's way cannot be substituted with man's way. If the Church is allowed to build in God's way, it will stand and be a light, comfort, and strength to souls on their journey to heaven. We may help to

build meeting places, buy vehicles, or help in other needed ways in the church that is starting, but it must ever endeavor to completely trust in God and obey His Word.

The Evening Light truth is really new to many countries and we have the greatest opportunity to spread and teach the real truth of God's Word that He has revealed again to the Church. Souls are hungry for the real food of the Word of God. We have an opportunity to teach these souls the truth in many countries, and teach them God's way of building His Church. We need to spend more to send missionary teachers to these countries to help them learn the right way. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth reapers and supply the funds to send them. Jesus is still building His Church in truth as He did at its inception and in the same way. God bless all the saints in these last days to double every effort in whatever and wherever He has placed us and equipped us to do. The time is surely short and God is opening new doors to reach souls. May God grant us the time and determination to fulfill His pleasures.

—Bro. George Hammond

The Lord's Farm

Not only is there a "garden of the Lord," but there is also a "farm of the Lord's." "For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building." 1 Cor. 3:9. In the margin, instead of husbandry, it reads "tillage." In the Emphatic Diaglott, which contains the original Greek text with an interlinear translation, also an arranged column, in which this text reads, "For we are God's co-workers; you are God's field; you are God's building." But in the word for word rendering, it reads, "Of God for we are fellow workers; of God a farm, of God a building you are." In the margin of the Revised Version the clause reads, "Ye are God's tilled land."

We as the children of God, are His farm, or tilled land. In our hearts, He sows the good seed, which is the Word of God. Here He plants His Spirit, which brings forth fruit. He is glorified by His farm producing much fruit. The fruits grown in His field are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, righteousness, truth, etc. These He cultivates that they may be produced in perfection. "Perfect love," "perfect peace," "fulness of faith," etc., are the rich fruits of His fertile field. We are God's farm down here in this sinful world. On this farm He grows the fruits of heaven. He is glorified by making a display of the precious fruits of the fields of glory in our lives.

Oh, glorious thought! It animates my soul to the greatest diligence to bring forth these fruits in as great abundance, and in as great a degree of perfection as possible. May the Lord make your hearts a very fertile field. O ye professed followers of His, are you bringing forth much fruit? Are you a "tree of righteousness," heavy laden with the fruits of the kingdom of God, or have the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choked out the good seed and left you a barren waste?

—C. E. Orr

—Sel. from *Gospel Trumpet*, 1903

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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 camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660)

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EDITORIALS

Once again we have been able, by the Lord's blessing, to bring to you another copy of the *Faith and Victory*. The continual purpose of this printing is to be of help to souls. I sincerely believe that there is adequate counsel and admonition printed in the books, tracts, and papers that we have available to lead all honest souls to heaven. We solicit your help in placing this literature in the hands of those who need it. In stock are over 125 different books and more than 300 different tracts. Write to us for a free list of all the material available. In this issue is a partial list, also.

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The books, *The Revelation Explained*, by F. G. Smith, and *Touching Incidents*, by S. B. Shaw, are currently out of stock. We hope to have more available in the near future. We thank you for your patience as you wait for your back orders.

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In the July issue of the *Faith and Victory*, we mentioned that we were considering discontinuing the *Beautiful Way* papers for children. We do appreciate those who took the time to respond to the notice. There will be no immediate changes. New arrangements for the continuation of this publication are being considered. Should such a change occur we will give plenty of time.

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As many of our readers are aware, Bro. Dwane and Sis. Connie Sorrell, of the Guthrie congregation, have been charged under Oklahoma law with second-degree manslaughter. This charge resulted from the death of their four-year-old daughter, Vicki, on June 20, 1984. The state of Oklahoma, in 1983, passed legislation in the attempt to rule out prayer or spiritual means as a medical treatment for children who have an illness that could result in permanent physical damage. The failure to provide remedial care in the death of a minor is considered negligent homicide.

On Sept. 7, 1984, it was ruled that there was sufficient evidence to bond the Sorrells over for a trial by jury.

The trial will probably commence in the spring of 1985. The Sorrells are a worthy family and Bro. Dwane has been required to miss work in order to appear in court. A fund has been established to help defray court costs and related expenses. Those desiring to contribute may address correspondence to: Faith Pub. House, P. O. Box 518, Guthrie, Okla. 73044, designating it for the Vicki Memorial Fund.

—Wayne Murphey

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Partial List of Items Available

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

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

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Lest We Forget by Sis. Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢ each, or three for \$2.00.

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

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In Memorial

Maude Grace Britt, daughter of Oscar L. and Louisa C. Britt, was born in North Platte, Nebraska, on December 7, 1902, and departed this life at the Senior Citizen's Nursing Home in Guthrie on August 29, 1984, at the age of 81 years and 8 months.

Maude moved with her parents and two sisters from west Oklahoma in the year of 1919 to a farm seven miles south-east of Guthrie where she lived until 1939, when she and her parents moved to 1906 W. Mansur in Guthrie.

Maude attended the local congregation of the Church of God and was a faithful member until prevented by failing health.

Survivors include her nieces and nephews: Kenneth Bock and Mrs. Cleo (Cledith White) Ochs, Guthrie; Mrs. Paul (Christine Bock) Eck, Meno, Okla.; Ted and Ronnie Bock, Tulsa, Okla.; Harold and Ruby Wilkin, Cortez, Colo.; Mrs. Hazel (Britt) Holliday, Lompac, Calif.; Cecil Britt, Lancaster, Calif.; and Mrs. Frances (Britt) Burglund, Ventura, Calif.; twenty-four great nieces and nephews; forty-one great, great nieces and nephews; and nine great, great, great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one brother, three sisters, and a sister who died in infancy.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Leslie Busbee and O. C. Porter. Burial was in Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

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Cynthia E. Bowman, daughter of Ashton and Mattie Bowman was born July 10, 1954 in Wichita, Kans., and departed this life July 9, 1984, when one day short of being 30 years old. Her father, A. J. Bowman, preceded her in death.

She attended school in Wichita and graduated from North High School. She had attended Washburn University, UCLA, USC, and WSU. She lived in California for several years before returning to Wichita. She was employed as directory assistant for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company at the time of her death.

She leaves to mourn her passing: her mother, Mattie Bowman; one sister, Shannon Jamerson; four brothers: Ferrin E., of Wichita, Adriel of Sylmar, Calif., Herbert Clay of Mission Hills, Calif., and Oliver Clay of Los Angeles, Calif. She also leaves fourteen nephews, ten nieces, one great-niece and a host of cousins, other relatives, and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the Wichita Church of God chapel by Sis. Shirley Knight and Bro. Charles Lowe. Burial was in the Old Mission Cemetery, Wichita, Kans.

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Mrs. Anna Jane Mason, 83, died Monday, Sept. 3, 1984, at the Golden Rule Nursing Home at Shawnee, Okla.

Services were held at 10:30 a. m. on Wednesday at the Gaskill Funeral Home Chapel with Bros. Willie C. Murphey, assisted by Orie Young, officiating. Burial was in the Fairview Cemetery.

Mrs. Mason, a retired waitress, had worked at the Aldridge Coffee Shop for 34 years. She was a member of the congregation at the Church of God chapel on Gordon Cooper Drive.

She was born on April 4, 1901, in Springfield, Mo., and had lived in Shawnee since 1927.

Mrs. Mason was preceded in death by two sons and their father, who died in 1925. She was married to James Milton Mason on Dec. 9, 1937. He died on Feb. 10, 1971.

Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law: Betty and Charles Smith of Shawnee, Okla.; two step-daughters: Lela Fennell and Lovie Smith, both of Oregon; a step-daughter and son-in-law: Bernice and Sandy Raynor, of N. Car.; three step-sons and daughters-in-law: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mason, Mr. and Mrs. Ivory Mason, and Mr. and Mrs. Hale Mason, all of Calif.; three brothers: Robert Queen and Alva Lee Queen, both of Tulsa, and Francis Queen of Calif.; five sisters-in-law: Georgia, Juanita, Thelma, Marie, and Minnie Mae Queen, all of Tulsa; seven grandchildren, twenty-five step-grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

PACOIMA, CALIF. CAMP MEETING REPORT

Dear saints: We thank God very much for salvation and for the outpouring of His Spirit in our camp meeting here at Pacoima.

It was certainly precious to see and feel the workings of the Lord. The messages were anointed and the Spirit was in the services from early morning prayer meeting until the close of the day.

Our Father's table was spread and there was much spiritual feeding for every hungry soul—saint and sinner alike. We are still feasting in our souls and we know that by God's grace we will be more like His Son as the result of getting this spiritual food to our souls.

Do pray for us that we always stay in the center of God's will.

—Sis. Leona Pierro

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FALL MEETING

The fall revival meeting for the Church of God at the Green Pastures congregation which is located at 57th St. and N. Denver, is scheduled to begin on Wednesday night, October 3 and continue through Sunday afternoon, October 7, 1984. We desire your earnest prayers that God will send ministers and workers of His choice and that the holy anointing of God will be upon this meeting.

For further information, call the pastor, Bro. Charles Chandler, phone, 769-7413 or 769-7419, or Sis. Frances Chandler, secretary, phone, 769-6628.

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ASSEMBLY MEETING AT JEFFERSON, OREGON

The Assembly Meeting on the Church of God camp grounds near Jefferson, Oregon, is scheduled to be held November 2-11, 1984. There will be three regular services daily. The meeting will be supported on the free-will offering basis, and the meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds. Everyone is cordially invited to attend these services.

Directions to the grounds are as follows: Go to the Texaco service station at the north edge of Jefferson, turn right on Marion Road for about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, then turn left on Skelton Road for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the chapel.

For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Ostis B. Wilson, 6505 N. E. Sunset Dr., Albany, Ore. 97321, phone (503) 928-7223. The chapel phone is (503) 327-9916.

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THE HOFFMAN FALL MEETING

The annual fall revival meeting at the Church of God chapel in Hoffman, Okla., will be held, Lord willing, October 30 to November 4, 1984. We are praying that the Lord will send ministers and workers of His own choosing. We extend a warm welcome to all.

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

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GOSPEL OUTREACH

The Lord willing, there will be an outreach for souls in the Pea Ridge, Arkansas area. These meetings are planned to start October 17, and continue through October 24. For more information, contact Sis. Lou Bray, Route 1, Box 162, Garfield, Ark. 72732.

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LORANGER, LA. ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Assembly Meeting on the General Southern camp grounds near Loranger, La., will be held, Lord willing, November 18-25, 1984, which is Thanksgiving week. We desire the Spirit of God to prevail in this meeting. A hearty invitation is given for you to come.

There will be accommodations for all who come. There is a dormitory for the sisters, and one for the brethren. Power and water hookups are on the grounds for campers. Motels in Hammond (approx. 15 miles away) are available to any desiring such. If you possibly can, please bring your own bedding. Meals will be served on the grounds, and the expenses of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings.

The camp grounds are located, from Loranger, two miles south and approximately three and one-half miles east on La. Hwy. 40. The grounds are approximately nine and one-half miles east of I-55 from the Tickfaw exit; take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40. For those traveling I-12, take the Robert exit, and go north on La. Hwy. 445, until you intersect Hwy. 40. Turn west on Hwy. 40 and go approximately one and one-half miles.

For more information, you may call Bro. Bob Forbes at (504) 748-4957, or Sis. LaVern Manuel at (504) 878-6176. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

—Nelson Doolittle

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NEW CASSETTE TAPES AVAILABLE

Evening Light Songs Tape No. 10—Song numbers 170-187.

Echoes from Heaven Tape No. 1—Song numbers 1-18. (Note: *Echoes from Heaven* may be purchased from the Faith Publishing House for the price of \$2.00, and is not the same as *Echoes from Glory*.)

Order these tapes from "Songs of the Evening Light" c/o Harlan Sorrell, Rt. 1, Box 118-A, Myrtle, Mo. 65778. The price is \$1.50 each, plus \$1.00 per order (not per tape). Make checks payable to "Songs of the Evening Light." —Harlan Sorrell

Prayer Requests

Calif.—Dear saints scattered abroad: I am requesting urgent prayer. It seems that the enemy is turned loose on us all because he knows his time is short. Praise the Lord, however, we all know the dear One who has all power in heaven and earth, and without Him we can do nothing.

May the dear Lord bless all the saints everywhere in a very special way, is my prayer.

Your sister in faith, —Lois Underwood

Mo.—"I need prayer for the healing of diabetes. I know God can heal it." —Mrs. Norma Allen

Ind.—Please pray for me. I can't get up and walk without pain in my knees." —Sis. Dessie Wilson

Ala.—"I need more strength in my body. Please pray for me and for my unsaved loved ones."

—Leora Frink

Mich.—"I have a special unspoken prayer request." —R. Hess

Nigeria—"I desire prayer for complete healing."

—Godwin Omyebuemyi

Ala.—"I have three urgent unspoken requests for which I desire prayer." —Sis. Pearlene Whitson

Ark.—"Please pray for me; my nerves and eyes are bad." —Kirtie Pullian

La.—"Please pray for me, dear saints. I need healing; I suffer so much." —Bro. N. P. Futch

Conn.—"Please pray for my healing, employment, and also for my sister's and my protection."

—Emma C. Williams

La.—Remember Bro. and Sis. Ben Goldsberry in prayer for the healing of their bodies; also for a son who was scheduled to leave for Saudi Arabia.

Remember all the missionary work at home and in foreign countries.

We have done no good thing to deserve the blessing of healing; Jesus made it possible with the stripes He bore. "He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities and the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5. We are so thankful that the Lord is interested in our bodies being healed as well as our souls, so we want to fully trust Him all the way no matter what comes. This teaching has been from the beginning of the reformation, and I feel that it will continue as long as time lasts. May God help all of us to trust and not be afraid. —Maybelle Pruitt

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CHRISTLIKENESS

Oh, that my tongue might so possess
The accents of His tenderness
That every word I breathe might bless—
To those who mourn, a word of cheer,
A word of hope to those who fear,
And love to all men far and near.

Oh, that it might be said of me,
"Surely thy speech betrayeth thee
As friend of Christ of Galilee."

—Sel.

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

FROM THE PHILIPPINES . . .

Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne: Praise and glory ever be to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. May this letter find you in health, joy, and peace in the service. We are overcomers in all things and are so precious in His sight.

Bro. Hammond, my wife, and I made a trip to a nearby island and stayed for three days. Many young people, most of them women, gathered around to listen to the truth. We were successful in sowing the truth that resulted in ten converts getting baptized. The previous days, we were in Gingoog City and had baptized three more new converts in the Lord.

It is really thrilling and exciting to see precious souls embracing the truth and sincerely serving the Lord. The pastors here are more encouraged and have learned to depend much on the Lord. Bro. Hammond and I were teaching them to live out of what they have and to be self-supporting. I learned much from Bro. Hammond.

The first National Camp Meeting which was held in Gingoog City last July 28 and 29, was very successful and rewarding. Many interested souls came to attend as well as our brethren from other places. Young people were very much encouraged and have heard for the first time in their lives the truth of living a holy life. Ministers dedicated their lives to full-time gospel work to preach and practice all the truth they learned. The Word of God was preached with power and anointing from on high and has enlightened many. As a result, several souls were baptized after the camp meeting, both ministers and new converts. Hallelujah!

May the Lord work all things out for good. It has been my dream that the truth will get established in my country.

God bless you all. . . .

Your brother in the Church, —Bro. Xavier Prado
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Dear sons of God: Greetings to you all in the precious name of Jesus.

Praise the Lord! The miracle and power of God has been shown to us here in Suri Gao. The very strong typhoon called Nitaang hit our place, and thousands of houses were destroyed, including concrete buildings, but our little house of prayer remains the same with only a little disarrangement of our roofing. Thousands of people died, but the Lord protected us because He is faithful to His promises which are written in Psalms 91:3-7. The typhoon started at 10:00 p. m. on September 1, and lasted into the morning of September 2. What we did during the calamity was praise the Lord. . . .

Your brother in Christ, —Samuel R. Espinosa
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Dear saints at the Shop and at large: Grace, peace, and mercy be with you all in the greatest name in earth and heaven! Thank our God for His goodness to all His saints. Think it not strange when we go through the fiery trials of life. We have an anchor to our souls. Praise His precious name! We have come home with joy in our hearts to see what God has begun to do in the Philippines. Although it

was very hard to leave the dear saints there, we felt that the Lord has established a witness to the truth there. The pastors and other saints alike are determined to consecrate deeper for all the blessings of God. He showed His loving hand and heart in a number of healings that could not be doubted. On Sept. 15, a young man whose name is Jess, came over. He had a very bad foot on which he had severely injured his toes. They were swollen and very sore and looked so bad. He was fearful of it being very serious. We prayed for him and he came back on Monday, Sept. 17, without a sign of swelling or injury. Praise God!

On Sunday morning, Sept. 16, we baptized 12 people at Barrio Caridad. One Catholic couple whom Bro. Jeff had taught for two months decided to follow the Lord and were baptized. The man commented as we were in the car, "I'm so happy; I feel so clean inside."

The folks at Palestina finished their chapel this summer and we had services there on Sunday. They started with only 600 pesos (about \$30.00) and the Lord blessed them and supplied, and they finished it with little or no outside help. This is a beautiful example of what God can do through people with a willing heart. That is the only hope to establish the truth in any country—when God does it through faith. God is able to set up His Church anywhere in the world in those who will consecrate their lives to Him. He is no different anywhere in the world than He was with our forefathers of the faith 100 years ago.

It blessed our souls to see these dear pastors and saints deepening down in the Lord. The doors of opportunity are wide open. Bro. Jeff Redington stayed four months and the Lord truly blessed the young people. Sis. Ruth Tangunan and a neighbor girl, Helen, who quit school to work for the Lord, are working at Palestina with great blessings and many battles. Caridad is being cared for by Bro. Ponte who also is deepening down in the Lord. They ask our prayers to defeat the devil in all his attempts at hurting them. Some of the girls and older ladies are letting their hair grow and putting on modest dresses. The Lord is bringing the men to the light on dress and they are praising God. Bro. Villaneuva is working in the mountains at Puncan with some very dear saints there. The devil is trying to work in that congregation also, so please pray for them that they may all see the beautiful light of the evening time.

They are learning the *Evening Light Songs*, both at San Jose and down in Mindanao where Bro. Prado is laboring. Pray for Bro. Prado; he has a big task of helping the pastors who have come out of sectism to release their dependency on man and put their trust all in God. Bro. Prado has studied the doctrines and teachings well and is doing a wonderful job of teaching the pastors. The pastors all have a very good spirit and are trying to start up new works by faith which is certainly new for those who have been dependent upon man and organizations for so long. Bro. and Sis. Prado have consecrated themselves to a deeper walk with the Lord. Praise God! God is surely calling workers who will go and spend some time teaching these dear ones the truth. It is new to them but they grasp quickly the difference from sectism.

Bro. Gabriel, who was just saved, offered a copy

of the little paper Bro. Jeff had printed there to a man who said to him, "Oh, that is the Church of God; I know them." He lived in Puncan. He said, "Everybody is going to that religion." Sis. Ruth had been working there since 1980 when I was there before.

They surely appreciated Bro. Jeff's staying with them and helping them. There is a wonderful group of young people around San Jose as well as near Bro. Prado in Mindanao. There were about fifteen young people saved on the island of Comegai where Bro. Prado, Bro. Cagayan, and I went. One of the girls who was Catholic was denied re-entrance into the Catholic school where she had gone because she had gotten saved. Another one there was upbraided by her mother for leaving their religion, but they continue to witness. They need much prayer and instruction, but they listen whole-heartedly.

This is surely the time for the harvest. Pray that God will send forth reapers. The Church of God will not progress with paid hirelings but with consecrated workers. Man's money and carnal control can put up buildings and build organizations, but it is only God's grace and the spirit of truth and sacrifice that will build God's Church.

In God's service, —Bro. George Hammond

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REPORT OF MISSIONARY EFFORT

IN BAJA, CALIFORNIA

A recent letter from the Escobars states that the recent camp meeting in Chapultepec was blessed of the Lord.

Bro. and Sis. Escobar have a burden for the work in Chapultepec and were moving there so as to get the children in school. They plan, Lord willing, to keep service going each Sunday in Ojos Negros until such time as God sees fit to send a resident worker. The members of both congregations are much encouraged to press forward in their living for God.

If God should burden you to go to Ojos Negros as a worker and you need information, you may contact Sis. Opal Kelly at 1002 N. W. 90th, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73114. You who can reach the throne of grace, please help us pray that God will send someone with a burden and zeal for souls to be brought into the kingdom.

The Escobars' mailing address is still Ap. Postal #284, Ensenada, B. Cfa. Mex.

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SPANISH LITERATURE PROGRESS

Recently, as orders are being filled, the need became apparent for the reprinting of several tracts as the supply was exhausted. Yesterday, 1000 each of several of those tracts were delivered and put in stock.

At present, help is being given the Spanish printing by two sisters in the Church. This help of translating by others makes the work progress at a faster pace as more time can be given to setting material, paging up, etc., in my home.

As of now, more than 100 tracts and books are ready for printing when time permits. There are about 200 different tracts already printed and ready for distribution. We desire to obey the Lord and "be

not weary in well doing." This printing work is the burden God has placed upon our souls and we desire to be faithful. Pray for us.

May the Lord bless all who have helped to support this work by your prayers and offerings.

Yours for lost souls, —Sis. Opal Kelly

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From the Mailbox . . .

Canada—I would like to write a testimony of how God helped me out of the confusion and deception of human rationalism. In 1 Cor. 1:18-25, it says as follows: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: but we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; but unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

While I was at university, I studied many different subjects; some such as Criminology, Philosophy, Politics, Economics, and Psychology. However, I just want to mention briefly some things about the subject of Psychology. This topic was what interested me the most—the study of human behavior. There was much to learn: why do people think the way they think? what actually motivates people? what makes them tick? These are just some subjects.

It seemed that there was a deep understanding of the human being. Sad to say, however, there is also a very dangerous philosophy for the soul of man behind Psychology. I thought that I was smart, but in reality I was a fool. I do not mean to denounce everything in the field of Psychology or what is practiced by psychiatrists, but the philosophies that are tied in with the field of Psychology do not reveal the real problem of the human soul. The degraded nature of man and the root of a lot of mankind's problems, the problem of sin, is simply not dealt with. The Word of God says as follows in Col. 2:8: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

After a while, there was very little difference for me between good and evil. After all, it is all just relative! One culture has one particular set of laws and another has a different set of laws. Then as I looked at Christendom as a whole, it presented a sad picture. I was simply nothing and did not want to profess anything.

After my studies in university, I decided to go on a world trip. I looked at how people lived under different religions. In Iran I saw a cold race of people under the Moslem religion; in India, under Hinduism, I saw terrible poverty, misery and disease; in Nepal I saw idolatry worship. "How dumb are the people," I thought to myself. In South East Asia I saw the

Buddhism religion being practiced. However, my own soul was in terrible bondage and in a miserable state of affairs. I was bound by the enemy of souls, which is Satan. . . .

Yes, it is a very serious matter when a person does not live according to the Word of God. He goes into spiritual night and darkness—this was also the case in my life. So can it be with whole nations!

One day, as I was by myself in the quiet of the countryside reading God's Word after hardly looking at it for many years, God had something to tell me. His Word was very powerful and had much to tell me. But then there was also a battle in my soul. The Philosophy and Psychology that I had studied were a great hindrance for me in becoming a Christian. Satan does not want souls to become free of his snares and traps! However, the Holy Spirit continued to work on my soul. I wanted to have many things explained before I repented of my ways.

Thank the almighty God, I fell on my knees and asked God to forgive me of my sins! The blood of Jesus can overcome anything. I became a new person that very minute!

Many things became clear and understandable after I became a Christian. I see how wonderful and what a right and privilege it is to be a member of God's Church, the Church of God, the Church that God builds and that is not founded on human wisdom, but whose foundation rests on Jesus Christ.

There was more in store for my spiritual life! I have in memory what the late Bro. G. Sonnenburg had asked me at one time: "Have you been sanctified yet?" I reached out for the experience of sanctification. I wanted to stand completely for Christ. Again I went into the quiet, and prayed fervently to God. At first I could not grasp it in faith, but then, thank God, I could grasp it and experience it. The Lord Jesus Christ gives us this life; why not give our lives voluntarily back to Him for His glory?

This second experience of sanctification is so needful for all children of God so that their lifeboat does not go under; instead, that they may have strength and courage to go forward.

May God help us all that we stay in the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ; that we do not mix them—add something to them, or take something away from them. Instead, let us all stand for the purity of the gospel with body and soul! In Jesus Christ are concealed all treasures of wisdom and understanding of God's Word.

Finally, I would like to close with the following Scripture in 1 Cor. 1:26-31: "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: but God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: that, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord."

—Heinz Hohenstein

Fla.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings to you and all the co-workers there at the Lord's Print Shop, also to all the saints scattered abroad, in the name of our dear Lord who saved us and is keeping us saved from sin. Praise the Lord!

I believe the Lord has laid it on my heart and in my mind to let you all hear from us here in Fort Lauderdale. He has wonderfully blessed us thus far. We are having some very difficult problems with the lights in the store front that we have rented for worship service, so we feel the leading and guidance of the Lord to try to buy a place for church service, which I believe will be better for us. Pray with and for us that the Lord will work it out in His own way. If any true follower of God out there who reads this has a leading of the Lord to help us, feel free to do so. We need your help in every way; we especially need your prayers. We surely mean to follow the guidance and leadings of God in this project. Also, if any of you feel impressed to come over and help us, feel free to come. We will be glad for your presence. We are thankful to the Lord for how He blessed us thus far with a small congregation of faithful ones. They are mostly middle aged and young people. God is using Bro. McIntyre in the capacity of watching and caring for the little flock.

I feel like my days will soon be ended in this time world. I will soon be called out into eternity. I need the prayers of all the saints that my labors here on earth will be worthy of that resting place that Jesus has prepared for me. He said in John 14:2, 3, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." I feel that promise is to me. I don't know where He will be, but I am satisfied to be there, for where Jesus is, 'tis heaven to me. Amen.

Please pray that the Lord will save my son and his family, my daughter and her family, and others whom we hold before the Lord. I do want to see some of my family saved before I leave this world.

We surely thank the dear Lord for all of you there who are spending your lives in sacrificial work for a perishing world of lost souls. You have our prayers and may the Lord ever bless the works of your hearts and hands, is my prayer for you.

P. S. I will be 90 years of age Jan. 30, 1985, if I live until then. I do thank God for this age. Do pray for us as we do for you.

Your feeble sister in service for God,

—Sis. Mattie B. Savage

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Calif.—Dear Brethren: Today finds me well and happy in my soul, for the God that saved my soul, guides and keeps me satisfied and contented. He is everything to me. Godliness with contentment is great gain, so is happiness great gain. This is a blessing that only God Himself can give. We are living in a world of sin and suffering but the God of all comfort can keep us safe in the fold of His love and we can have happiness abounding.

We find in today's world that we have to give up some things to live for Christ, but the treasures He gives in return cannot compare with the temporal and fleeting things of this short life here on earth. May God enrich our understanding about spiritual

treasures and blessings in His blessed Word. He leads in paths of righteousness which draws us close to Him. When we are able to see God in everything, we find a blessed closeness, which enables us to enjoy a stillness deep inside our innermost being which is called "peace." Cannot we give up a little more of our desires and plans to enjoy more of the depth of love and peace of God in our souls? Treasures sometimes cost a great amount of money, but Jesus paid the price for our salvation, a great treasure that no amount of money can buy. Let us guard this treasure in earthen vessels, and give no chance to the enemy of our souls to rob or cheat us of some of the blessings God has in store for us, if we trust and obey Him. His yoke is easy and His burden light. Praise His holy name! Let us pray for one another and uphold each other in prayer. "When suffering is shared, its weight is divided; when joy is shared, the triumph is multiplied."

May God bless and encourage each one of His children, is my prayer.

Christian love,

—Jim Kutra

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Tex.—Dearest Maybelle: I hope all is well with you. Truly God keeps His own. The mercy God gives is beyond our understanding and words, but how wonderful it is to know and feel His great gift of the blood washing and the Spirit filling our unworthy selves. God is merciful and holy. My heart stands in awe of our Lord God.

Tell all "hello" and I send my prayers for the workers and Print Shop.

Love always,

—Betty Anderson

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

La.—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the sweet name of our dear Lord and Redeemer. The Lord is so good to me; sometimes I think He is better to me than to anyone else. Of course he isn't, as He is no respecter of persons. I'm so thankful to be saved, sanctified, and satisfied with my blessed Saviour and His true and holy way—the Bible way. There is no other way from earth to heaven.

I am so thankful how the dear Lord worked it out for me to attend some of the camp meeting at Monark Springs this year. I had a longing to go at least one more time. While there, I started hurting in my back over on the left side. Some thought it was a kidney infection. The dear Lord touched me and I was able to attend the Myrtle camp meeting, too.

While there, I was anointed and prayed for and the Lord healed me. In two or three days every symptom was gone. It was so wonderful to be free of pain once again. I can truly give God all the praise, as I never have any thought but to trust the dear Lord completely. He is my only physician.

After arriving home I have had some high blood pressure, but the Lord has helped me again and my pressure is about normal. Oh, it's so good to trust the dear Lord for everything. He is One who can heal all manner of diseases and all manner of sickness. (Matt. 10:1).

I was so glad to see so many of the dear saints in these meetings that I had not seen in several years. I think of the great meeting we will attend when we all

meet in heaven where there will be no more good byes and no more tear-dimmed eyes. If the dear Lord permits me to live and time stands that long I trust to attend some of the meetings next year.

The dear Lord blessed here at Oak Grove, La., with a good camp meeting. The chapel was so large and roomy; there was plenty of room for all who came. The messages were well anointed and the Holy Spirit had His way in the meeting which made it a great blessing. Several were at the altar for various needs. There are several who still need to be saved. We are carrying a burden for these precious souls. Please remember these dear ones in prayer.

May God bless you dear ones at the Lord's Print Shop, is our prayer.

Pray for me that I'll be faithful unto the end.

Your sister in the Lord, —Effie Miller

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Ky.—Dear saints: We send greetings in the name of our Lord who has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. We praise God for the privilege we have to trust in such a mighty God. We are daily learning more how to cast our every care upon Him. He knows the intents of our hearts and understands us when others don't. We love Him with our whole heart and our greatest desire is to please Him with our lives. We so thank and praise Him for all His blessings to us.

On July 11, after returning from the Green Bank, W. Va., camp meeting, Curtis had what appeared to be a heart attack. It happened about noon and it was late in the evening before he got much relief. He thought perhaps the Lord was going to take him. In between the suffering, he would tell me things that I needed to do after he was gone. Then he assured me that all was well and he was ready to go. There came such a sweet peace and calmness over both of us. It was like you could almost feel the portals of heaven open.

Then the Lord gave him a divine touch. Up to then he said his heart felt like it was blown up and ready to burst. He had severe cutting pains. By morning, however, the severe pains began to leave his chest and he was much better.

He is still weak in body and has to rest quite often. He is also having a lot of trouble with blood clots in his left leg. We desire your prayers that the Lord will clear up the trouble in his body so he can be back in the work of the Lord.

We would like to take this privilege to thank the dear saints for their prayers and for the love offering that was sent to us from Monark. It was greatly appreciated. May the Lord richly bless each one of you, is our prayer.

Christian love, —Bro. and Sis. Curtis Williams

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JESUS NEVER FAILS

God in love has promised
Grace for every trial,
Strength for every sorrow,
Help for every mile.
And may He in sympathy and
Unfailing love impart
Help for each tomorrow and
New courage to your heart.

—Selected

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Can you help us with any understanding on 1 Cor. 15:29? We had this in our Bible Study and could not come to an agreement on its meaning.

Answer: I don't know if I can help much on this or not. I have not been very satisfied with my own understanding and explanation of it. I think it to be a quite difficult Scripture and Adam Clarke classes it the most difficult verse in the New Testament, and says that it has about as many interpretations as interpreters. It might be a little ambiguous for me to think I could give much enlightenment on it, but I do have some thoughts on it that I have not had before as I studied on it since this question came in. I will pass them on, and if they help any, fine.

First, I will insert the text. "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead?"

We can surely say with positivity that this text does not mean what some make it to mean; that if a person dies without having been baptized that a living person can be baptized for them, or in their stead. In this belief, some have been baptized numbers of times in behalf of different persons who have died without having been baptized. This contradicts the whole tenor of the Scriptural teaching on this subject and does away with, or circumvents the individual, personal responsibility of every person for his salvation and willful obedience to God personally and individually. Jesus said in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." This makes it clear that the one who does the believing must be the one who is baptized—not a substitute for him. 2 Cor. 5:10, says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Rom. 14:12, says, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." All of these Scriptures, and many more, make it clear that no one can do anything at all in behalf of another person's salvation after he is dead and gone.

So then, that interpretation is out and we must search in another area for the meaning of this Scripture.

The resurrection of Jesus and then of the saints at His second coming is a basic, fundamental, cardinal doctrine of the Christian faith. It is indeed the corner stone of our faith. Everything is founded upon that throughout the New Testament. The death of Jesus was sacrificial and redemptive but it would have been totally vain had He stayed dead in the tomb and not been resurrected. In 1 Cor. 15:16, 17, Paul argues that if the dead rise not, then Christ is not raised and if Christ is not raised, our faith is vain and we are yet in our sins. There could absolutely be no salvation for us without the resurrection of Jesus Christ and our belief in it. Rom. 10:9, says, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God has raised him

from the dead, thou shalt be saved." This makes it entirely clear that we must believe in the resurrection of Jesus to be saved. Also Rom. 4:25, says that Jesus "was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

Rom. 1:4, declares Jesus "to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. God had born record to Jesus as His Son at His baptism (Matt. 3:17), on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:5), and at the feast in Jerusalem (John 12:28), and other occasions. The final confirmation and seal of His Sonship was given in His resurrection from the dead. God raising Jesus from the dead attested to the fact that He was fully satisfied with His sacrifice and death. Isa. 53:11, says, "He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied." The sacrificial death of the sinless One satisfied all the claims of a holy law and the honor and holiness and justice of God Himself and God witnessed all of this by raising Him from the dead to die no more and making Him heir of eternal life. (See Rom. 6:9; Rev. 1:18).

Not only did He obtain eternal life for Himself, but for us also. "Whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:15). Read also Rom. 6:23; Rom. 5:21; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Heb. 5:9; and Heb. 9:12.

When Jesus incorporated in the commission to preach the gospel to the whole world the idea of baptism ("He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"—Mark 16:16) and commanded them to baptize believers in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19), He had something specific and important in mind. He did not say, "He that believeth and washeth the saints' feet," or, "He that believeth and taketh the Lord's Supper," or, "He that believeth and greeteth the brethren with a holy kiss," shall be saved. While all these things are important and are commanded, yet in the commission He singled out baptism because it maintains a relationship with this corner stone of our Christian faith that none of these things mentioned, nor any other thing, does.

The ordinance of baptism is an emblem of death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and an outward, public testimony of belief in it. In John 14:19, Jesus said, "Because I live, ye shall live also." The true believer in Christ lives his life and dies his death in this hope based on this direct promise of Christ and many, many more throughout the New Testament. By baptism, he gives public, open testimony in his belief in his own coming resurrection and his hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began (Titus 1:2).

Further, the ordinance of baptism testifies publicly and outwardly to an experience of salvation, an inward work of grace by which the believer has become dead to sin (Rom. 6:11), dead to the world (Gal. 6:14), and has been made alive unto God through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:11; Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13).

The ordinance of baptism symbolizes this experience of the believer in all of its aspects: death to sin, self, the flesh, and the world; buried in the water as a testimonial of this; and resurrected (raised up out of the water) to a new life in Christ Jesus. Paul says in Rom. 6:3-5, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his

death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall also be in the likeness of his resurrection." And again in Col. 2:12, Paul said, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."

Now to sum up: the ordinance of baptism symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection. It also symbolizes our own death to sin and our resurrection to a new life in Christ spiritually. It also symbolizes our approaching death (physically) and our coming resurrection (physically) unto eternal life. And in it the true believer witnesses his faith and belief in all of these three aspects of the plan and work of God and testifies to his experience of salvation through the operation of God.

The verse involved in this question (1 Cor. 15:29) being inserted right in the middle of an extensive discussion on this subject and taken in this context, leads me to the conclusion that it relates to this directly. All of the three aspects discussed here have to do with death and resurrection. Now, Paul argues that if the dead rise not, then there is no resurrection and our faith is vain and we are yet in our sins because Christ would not be risen either. Then why be baptized at all? The ordinance has no meaning at all if there be no death and resurrection. We would only be testifying to a false hope and witnessing a lie concerning our own experience which could not be without the death and resurrection of Christ.

I believe this is about the best I can offer on this question at this time. If any reader out there has a clearer explanation of it, I will be glad to hear from you. Then I can pass it on to the questioner.

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(Following is a letter addressing the question that we had in the September issue of the "Question and Answer" column.)

There have been men (honest-hearted men, in my opinion) who have been truly saved but had no knowledge of the true Church. They have gone out and built their life's ministry in some denomination (the word "denomination" means division which we know God is very much against), but with an honest heart have lived true to the end. These ministers themselves will be saved, but their works will be burned.

Something happened to a neighbor which made me more convinced that this was right. This man had been preaching for about 61 years. When he came down with a sickness unto death, he called some of his ministering brethren in and said these words to them: "Boys, we are going to give an account of what we preach. We preach the Enterprise . . . Church, and it is not in the Bible. We preach church joining and it is not there."

This same minister told another minister and me of a vision that he had. In his vision he saw a hill-side of corn. The first rows at the bottom of the hill were clean, but all up the hill were weeds and briars, except just a few rows at the very top that were clean. This was his own interpretation of his vision: "I

started out young in life preaching only that men must be born again and have their names in the Lamb's book of life. I later moved to the coal field for employment, and at this place was a church which asked me to join them and be their pastor. Now I see my mistake. I hope the Lord will let me get out so that I can preach the truth."

This article is written in the hope that it will enlighten someone in these awful days of unbelief.

Yours for Christ,

—H. M. Fraley



HOME LIFE

Many Christian parents, even those who have been warned about the spiritual dangers associated with the television, continue to allow their children to watch it because they feel it is educational. They state that the T.V. helps their child learn many things about the world they live in, and believe that it allows them to do better in school. If, however, parents took time out from their busy schedules to read up on this important subject at one of the larger libraries, they would find that studies are showing that the amount of useful information children get from T.V. is exceptionally limited. The number of hours spent in T.V. watching has been found to correlate negatively to academic achievement. In other words, the children who made the highest scores on standardized tests in school watched the least amount of T.V. Among children ranked at the bottom of their classes, it was not unusual to find youngsters who watched an average of six or more hours of T.V. per day. Many highly intelligent parents (including some who do not profess Christianity or even a belief in God) refuse to let their children (even teenagers) watch more than three to six hours of T.V. per week. They realize that most shows contain little, if any, value for their children.

In 1982, the National Institute of Mental Health issued a ten-year study on the role of the television in the lives of children. The committee found that T.V. did not provide material for imaginative play. Those who viewed many hours of T.V. had less ability to use their imaginations and had lower creativity. Their reading comprehension was lower and most of these children did poorly when asked to create a story of their own.

Children who watched T.V. even a few hours

each day found even simple writing assignments difficult. Even though many of the younger children had excellent receptive vocabularies and were able to understand what they heard, they usually had a great deal of difficulty expressing their own ideas on paper, which is what is required in school.

A number of other problems were found in this study, but the young child's inability to distinguish facts from opinions, and fantasy from reality should concern parents. Although most people incorrectly assume that children who are six to fourteen years of age are able to tell what is real and what is not as they watch T.V., most children are unable to do this before the age of 12 to 14. This finding would not seem surprising if one considers the fact that thousands of adults have written to Marcus Welby (an actor who played the role of a doctor of great abilities on television) asking for medical advice.

Another group of parents believe that they should allow their young children to watch "Sesame Street" and "Electric Company." The reports on "Sesame Street" are coming in and what they are showing is not comforting. "Sesame Street" is designed to catch the attention of the very young. It consists of a series of short, action-oriented sequences. This type format does not build the child's attention span. Although the young child will probably learn the alphabet, numbers, and a few other skills, the short attention span and hyperactivity he or she develops as they learn, often stay with them as they enter school. Primary teachers frequently mention the fact that each year they seem to have more and more students who appear bright but are unable to sit still and listen long enough to learn new skills. They experience difficulty in staying in their seats, completing assignments, and listening while others are speaking. The bright colors and rapidly changing scenes designed to capture and keep the attention of the preschool child cause many children to conclude that school is dull indeed.

Although television does steal time from reading activities, a second problem that is not often recognized by concerned parents is that all muscles, including the eyes, perform according to the way they are trained. Children exposed to "Sesame Street" and "Electric Company" may enter school reading words or phrases but their reading ability usually does not continue to progress as the parents had expected. When watching T.V., the eyes move mostly in a "scatter-pattern" but predominantly up and down. When reading, the eyes need to make relatively smooth movements in a left-to-right manner. Children whose eyes develop a strong "scatter-pattern" habit before eye motions for reading are learned, have great difficulty in learning to read effortlessly. If the child is still basically a non-reader at the end of the first or second year, the school may diagnose the problem as a learning disability. Even though the problem was environmentally caused, correcting it is both expensive and difficult.

The third thing to be said against allowing your child to develop the habit of watching "Sesame Street" is that most children who are regular watchers out-grow the program by the time they are four. They then "graduate" to other T.V. programs although most of them are written for adult audiences.

Although there are many other reasons parents should shield their children from T.V., a few of them include: 1. Becoming desensitized to all the violence, inordinate affections, and abominations that are becoming more prevalent in our country each day; 2. Finding that children have trouble focusing their minds on what training the parents attempt to give when the T.V. is off; 3. The addictive nature of T.V.; 4. Poor health habits fostered by commercials.

The Bible instructs parents to "train up a child in the way he should go. . . ." Parents must realize that this means **you train your child**. If they are spending more time in front of a T.V. than they are spending at your feet being taught about God, you should not be surprised when the child goes off in the direction of his most intense training.

Christian parents must realize that they have no one to apologize to when they refuse to allow T.V. sets in their homes. Children are gifts from God. He would not want us to knowingly cause a child to be handicapped and corrupted.

I do pray that someone who may have had questions in their minds about the T.V., will be helped by something that has been said. —Myra Moaning

—o—

Stop Just a Moment

One afternoon while I was busy sewing, my mind began to meditate upon time and how it passes by. Days go so swiftly into weeks, months, and soon into seasons—hot, cooler, cold, warm, then hot again, and on time goes, year after year. Just as the seasons follow a pattern, so does every day. In between each sunrise to the following sunset, a housewife will cook meals, wash dishes, wash clothes, clean house, perhaps sew, care for her children . . . every day surely will bring about its list of duties. The man of the house will go to work each day, do the same type of job as yesterday, deal with other people, face unexpected problems . . . and he comes home tired to a busy household. Life to school-age children means teachers, fellow students, and classes to cope with every day. Whatever age or person we are, we all stay busy doing something to fill the hours of each day.

A busy, fulfilling life is healthy for all of us but we shouldn't be too busy. What is being "too busy"? That's when we don't take time to pray (1 Thess. 5:17), when we don't wait upon the Lord for answers to decisions in life (Psa. 37:7), when we don't take time to come to church when we can (Heb. 10:25), when we don't reach out to help our fellow man (James 1:27), or when we give the Lord an excuse if He bids us to come and spend special time in prayer, reading, or meditation. This reminds me of a parable Jesus told in Luke 14:15-24. A man invited guests to a big supper he had prepared but when he sent his servant to tell them it was ready, each guest had an excuse not to come. They were too busy buying land, testing out new oxen, and one had just married a wife. None of these things were wrong to do but the guests were just "too busy." The host was angry at their rejection and he sent for others to come and dine at his table.

God doesn't want us "too busy" either. Our whole aim in life is not to collect earthly wealth but it is to collect treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:11-21). Our hearts

should be set on spiritual goals. Then our natural goals and earthly desires will follow. "Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." (Psa. 37:4). The most important goal we should have is to stay free from sin. Some day the school work, the house work, and the daily job will all be in the past. Our soul—our breath of life—will never die but will last eternally. Our first concern should be to prepare our souls to meet God at any time. I recall a song in the *Evening Light Songs* which is number 466A:

"Here is a question up to all on the earth,
Time will unfold to young and old,
What will your profit or your fortune be worth
To gain all this world, then lose your soul?"

"When you are lying helpless, speechless, and dumb,
Sad to behold, life's story told;
When you, like other dying mortals, must come,
To leave all this world a helpless soul—

"What will be your profit
To gain all this world—
Then lose your soul? What will be your profit. . . ?"

The value of a soul is great in God's sight. If we will spend time to learn of God's ways, our profit will be greater than we can comprehend. Not only will we gain eternal reward but surely we will help our children, our family, and others to gain heaven. Spiritual encouragement has an everlasting effect.

Within my heart, I pray that I will be worthy to make heaven my home. I want others about me to have more faith in God because I lived for Him. (Phil. 1:21). I never want to become "too busy" to do something for the Lord. Jesus took time to die on the cross for me. He took time to pardon my sins, and He takes time to deal with my soul. There is not any valid excuse I can offer when the Lord says, "Come, take special time to talk with me." —Connie Sorrell

Salvation, Superlatively Large

There are words in the English language and other languages, for that matter, which defy all educated efforts to define them; God, heaven, and spirit, for example, are not within the bounds of full definition. Salvation by grace is such a term. The writer of Hebrews speaks of Jesus as the author of "eternal salvation." How large is eternal, and what are its limitations? So, you see, before we are barely started in this weighty discussion, we have exposed the limitless expanse of the question. Christians generally think of salvation as God's forgiveness of our sins and His promise of eternal life, and, of course, that is the unqualified truth and our hearts go out to Him in deepest praise that it is so. To the thief on the cross, Jesus said, "Verily, I say unto you, Today thou shalt be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43), and, corroborating this statement of hope as applying to every redeemed soul, Peter tells us that we have an "inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven" (1 Pet. 1:4); "for he hath prepared for them a city" (Heb. 11:16). And many other beautiful texts confirm these verses.

But salvation is even larger than these two predominant and blessed facts. In truth, there is much

from which God wants to save us now, in this time and place. How much do you know about God and His holy Word? Not much, you are willing to admit. Well, He wants to save you from ignorance.

He wants you to be informed about Himself and His Word—the Bible. Of course, this will take personal application and some prescribed course of action. You probably will have to adopt some form of routine, but anything that is worthwhile costs a little. The sweeping cry of the Bible is to, "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Prov. 23:23). Why? The better we understand God, the sweeter the fellowship. The apostle Paul well knew that the one place to get our education is the Bible. That's why he told Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). Paul knew that God's Word provides a whole catalog of wisdom—a veritable university in authentic truth. No one may boast of an education who has slighted God's Word as so many professors of learning are doing today, contemptuously spurning the Bible. How can they ever expect to know the vitally essential and actual facts of life?

How can they ever gain "repentance to the knowledge of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will"? (2 Tim. 2:25, 26). Without the eternal facts of truth, how can they ever be "warned to flee from the wrath to come"? How hopeless and pitiable and perilous is the state of those who live only for themselves and the world! "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy . . . traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God" (2 Tim. 3:2, 4). How shall they ever escape the punishments of hell if they continue to "neglect so great salvation"? (Heb. 2:3).

And still, salvation is much, much larger. There is salvation from stumbling in life through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Oh, how some of us wish we had studied God's Word earlier in life and learned of the holy Spirit's power to guide! If only we had learned to "look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18). However, our state is not hopeless; God has provided the means for us to catch up. His great salvation provides us with everything we need to make it from here to heaven regardless of our present spiritual state. Salvation is as genuine as the air we breathe though it be not naturally seen. He gives us salvation (freedom) from fear, anxiety, and despair as we come to trust Him. It is clearly important that every "born again" child of God lives a victorious Christian life, for his own spiritual welfare as for the sake of those he lives with day by day. He is spreading an influence of "joy" and if he is failing in this, he is missing his spiritual mark. He needs to reassess just how deep his own sacrificial commitment is. To be the Christian he wants to be, he must have the assurance that he is where God wants him to be, and this he can only know by the process of these absolute principals; namely, he must have real, heart-felt **submission**,

obedience, and faith. When he knows he has accomplished these requirements deep within his soul, then he will have the "joybells ringing in his heart," and then his life will flourish for Jesus. Praise God, it is an "uttermost salvation." "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). What a surpassingly great salvation!

Still there is more. There is also salvation from want through the promise of His Fatherly care. And though this great gift of His divine favor deserves a full chapter of comment, we shall leave it with each individual to measure its blessing by his own daily experience in his walk with Christ.

But there is even more—much more. There is another vital salvation that is deserving of much more time and space than I can give it here. But only let me mention a few. There is healing for our physical bodies, and there is inner healing for our minds and for our spirit. And yet there is more! Like its Author and its endlessness, the salvation of the Lord is limitless in its numerous facets, and it fills my heart with rapture to contemplate this wonderful gift of God's love. There is a supremacy about this wonderful salvation that makes it superlatively large:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

—Earl Langley

Life's Time Clock

Looking into an old time clock one day to see why it had ceased to run, and not being able to determine its defect, I concluded it was old and had seen its best day. Sometime later, while meditating on "Time," I thought of the old clock, its mechanisms and excellent workings, and received instruction. Every part was designed to fit in its proper place. I thought of the articulate workings of the balance wheel and its flexible spring revolving in endless motion, and compared it to the endless heart beat within our human breast, which is the main-spring, the source of its power. I then compared it to Christ, the Main-spring of life in whom "we live, and move, and have our being."

Then I considered its enclosure—well sealed to shut out all foreign matter that would clog the wheels. As one particle can obstruct its timely movement, so intruding elements of these things which may appear small can cause malfunction. No visible or invisible object of carnal affections must be allowed to mar or hinder the function of our soul, mind, and heart, which are designed for service and duty. The very workings of our inner being were designed by the Creator for perfect operation and timing; even as the balance spring and wheel are regulated by the force and power of their winding spring.

I then thought of its lubrication which causes it to run smoothly and compared it to the Holy Spirit's anointing that oils all parts of God's divine mechanism within the function of the Church. As mechanically, oil flows to every part for lubrication in any machine, so divine love flows from heart to heart to

the edifying of Christ's body, which is the Church. Thus, all things run smoothly when all parts of its mechanism are well lubricated by the service of love.

I then gazed into the face of the clock and watched how its movable hands pointed to every second, minute, and hour of the passing day, and thought of how time waits for no man. To waste one day is to waste a part of our life. Then a shudder came over me, as the thought of death taught me to number my days. I realized that in our own human frailty there are no tomorrows of life. We are here today and gone tomorrow. And so, dear Lord, help me to be of service to mankind even as this faithful clock that for many years has served its good purpose. Help me to point to others that time is short, soon to run out, and "only what is done for Christ will last." "Help me to win some soul to thee; and love that soul through me."

The hands of our life's time clock move on and on, hastening us relentlessly to a long eternity. Soon the place of our earthly pilgrimage will know us no more. The hands of our life's time clock advance only because a divine mechanism of the Christ life is moving and motivating our very inner beings to a life of humble service to God and man. May we render every minute and hour of our short-lived days as long and faithful as this old time clock 'til He who holds the brittle thread of life calls us from time to reward. "Only one life—'twill soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last." "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal. 6:9.

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

BEGINNING AGAIN

Has your life closed down?

Have you given in?

Remember—not failure,

But quitting, is sin.

Take down the old sign

That reads, "Closed Down."

Give folks a surprise

That live in your town.

Put out a new sign

Where the old one has been,

And make it to read,

"I'm Beginning Again."

—Sel.

NEW SINGING TAPE AVAILABLE

The Green Bank, West Virginia Quartet has recorded its second sixty-minute cassette tape of gossel songs which is now available for your listening enjoyment. The tapes with twenty-two songs recorded in stereo may be purchased for \$5.00 each with all proceeds going into the work of the Lord. Send all orders to Toney Samons, P. O. Box 3, Arboreale, W. Va. 24915; or Mart Samons, P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, W. Va. 24944.

Note: Some tapes made in July have been found to be faulty. If you have already purchased one of these tapes and found it to be faulty, please return it to one of the addresses above for a prompt free replacement.