

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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From Glory to the Manger

The Lord looked down from Heaven's door
Upon the earth and all its din;
He heard the groan of spirits sore
Bowed down beneath the yoke of sin.

With love He formed a gracious plan
And moved to carry out His will,
To rescue poor and fallen man
From sinful depths to Zion's hill.

He condescended down to earth
To take upon Him human seed;
The Virgin Mary brought to birth
The Saviour that we truly need.

Just think! From Heaven Jesus came:
The Word of Life's created morn;
From heights of love's eternal fame
Within a manger to be born.

Oh, is it true that God did thus
To reach our souls so far below?
Would He such mercy show to us,
To visit us in all our woe?

Oh, yes, my friend, the Saviour came
And trod this earth's short little while
To bear our sorrows, sin, and shame,
And cleanse us from deceit and guile.

Rejected was He by the throng
And slain upon the cruel cross;
His tomb was watched by soldiers strong,
He suffered all this pain and loss.

But, upward on that glorious morn,
Our Saviour rose in victory
With hope our spirits to adorn
And grace to make us fully free.

Then back to Heaven's mansions bright,
Where once He was, He did ascend:
Let us go forth and shine His light
Unto the earth's remotest end.

—Leslie C. Busbee

From An Old Scroll Concerning Jesus' Birth

The following account was copied from a book entitled, "Caesar's Court." This book had been printed first in 1895 and then in 1927. There is no copyright on the book so we take the liberty to print part of it. A minister, W. D. Mahan of Boonville, Mo., personally supervised the copying of parts of old manuscript from scrolls that are thousands of years old found in the Vatican in Rome and Constantinople and has proof they are genuine. We submit it to our readers for what it might be worth to you. Surely it is very interesting. This account was written to the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the governing bodies of the whole Jewish commonwealth.

There was a greater court composed of 70 and the lesser of 24. Then the highest court that decided all appeals was a court of elders and priests of 12. The chairman was the High Priest. The commonwealth was divided into districts and each had their own legislative bodies presided over by a high priest. Our government in the U. S. is on this order.—Editor

JONATHAN'S INTERVIEW WITH THE BETHLEHEM SHEPHERDS

Sanhedrin, 88 B. By R. Jose. Order No. 2

"Jonathan, son of Heziel, investigates the shepherds and others at Bethlehem in regard to the strange circumstances reported to have occurred there, and reports to this court:

"Jonathan to the Masters of Israel, servants of the true God: In obedience to your order, I met with two men, who said they were shepherds, and were watching their flocks near Bethlehem. They told me that while attending to their sheep, the night being cold and chilly, some of them had made fires to warm themselves, and some of them had laid down and were asleep; that they were awakened by those that were keeping watch with the questions, 'What does all this

mean? Behold, how light it is!' that when they were roused it was as light as day. But they knew it was not daylight for it was only the third watch. All at once the air seemed to be filled with human voices, saying, 'Glory! Glory! Glory! to the most High God!' and 'Happy art thou, Bethlehem, for God hath fulfilled his promise to the fathers; for in thy chambers is born the King that shall rule in righteousness.' Their shouting would rise up in the heavens, and then would sink down in mellow strains, and roll along at the foot of the mountains, and die away in the most soft and musical manner they had ever heard; then it would begin again high up in the heavens, in the very vaults of the sky, and descend in sweet and melodious strains, so that they could not refrain from shouting and weeping at the same time. The light would seem to burst forth high up in the heavens, and then descend in softer rays and light up the hills and valleys, making everything more visible but more clear like the brightest moon. I asked them how they felt—if they were afraid; they said at first they were; but after a while it seemed to calm their spirits, and so fill their hearts with love and tranquility that they felt like giving

After Melker had addressed the people in a loud voice, he and all the old Jews went into the synagogue and remained there praising God and giving thanks.

"I went to see Melker, who related to me much the same as the shepherds had reported. He told me that he had lived in India, and that his father had been a priest at Antioch; that he had studied the sacred scrolls of God all his life, and that he knew that the time had come from signs given, for God to visit and save the Jews from . . . their sins; and as evidence he showed me many quotations on the tripod respecting the matter.

"He said that . . . three strangers from a distant land called on him, and they went in search of this young child; and they found him and his mother in the mouth of the cave, where there was a shed projecting out for the sheltering of sheep; that his mother was married to a man named Joseph, and she related to them the history of her child, saying that an angel had visited her, and told her that she would have a son, and she should call him Jesus, for he should redeem his people from their sins; and he should call her blessed forevermore.

The light would seem to burst forth high up in the heavens, and then descend in softer rays and light up the hills and valleys, making everything more visible but more clear like the brightest moon.

thanks more than anything else. They said it was around the whole city, and some of the people were almost scared to death. Some said the world was on fire; some said the gods were coming down to destroy them; others said a star had fallen; until Melker, the priest, came out shouting and clapping his hands, seeming to be frantic with joy. The people all came crowding around him and he told them that it was the sign that God was coming to fulfill His promise made to their father Abraham. He told us that fourteen hundred years before God had appeared to Abraham, and told him to put all Israel under bonds—sacred bonds of obedience; and if they would be faithful He would give them a Saviour to redeem them from sin, and that He would give them eternal life, and that they should hunger no more; that the time of their suffering would cease forever, and that the sign of His coming would be that light would shine from on high, and the angels would announce His coming, and their voices should be heard in the city, and the people should rejoice; and a virgin that was pure should travail in pain and bring forth her first born, and He should rule all flesh by sanctifying it and making it obedient.

"Whether this is true or not remains to be proven in the future. There have been so many imposters in the world, so many babes under pretended miracles, and all have proven to be a failure, that this one may be false, this woman only wishing to hide her shame or court the favor of the Jews.

"I am informed that she will be tried by our law, and, if she can give no better evidence of her virtue than she has given to Melker she will be stoned according to our law, although, as Melker says, there never has been a case before with such apparent divine manifestations as has been seen on this occasion. In the past, in various instances, virgins have pretended to be with child by the Holy Ghost, but at the time of their delivery there was no light from the heavens, and no angels talking among the clouds and declaring that this was the King of the Jews. And, as to the truth of these things, the whole of the people of Bethlehem testify to having seen it, and the Roman guard also came out and asked what it meant and they showed by their actions that they were very much alarmed. These things, Melker says, are all declared in the Scriptures to be the sign of His coming."

God's Preferred Wealth

The children of Israel were looking for the Messiah. According to the ancient prophecies, the time was near at hand. The Anointed One was to set up His kingdom and most Jews hoped that He would bring an end to Roman rule over their land. However, of this matter, King Herod must not have been too enlightened. Herod the Great was a good public speaker but the people had learned that he concealed a jealous and wicked heart with his smooth and deceitful tongue. In Rome, Augustus Caesar liked King Herod because he was a great builder, good tax collector, and was capable of stopping uproars among the people he ruled.

Though the people resented King Herod's iron rule, their country did improve in material living conditions. During his 37 years as King, Herod the Great built and rebuilt many cities, establishing beautiful temples and palaces in most of them. Caesarea on the Mediterranean Sea was one such lovely city that King Herod entirely built. It had a huge harbor for passing ships, a big theater, and a magnificent temple which were all dedicated to Augustus Caesar.

Besides his own large and costly palace in Jerusalem, King Herod also built a big fortress for his own pleasure and future burial. It was four miles southeast of Bethlehem. Situated on a round hill, this palace fortress was made of the most expensive material available. With 200 steps of white marble leading to the main entrance, the palace was indeed a beautiful sight to behold. The inside rooms were large and fully furnished with elaborate furniture collected from many countries. Herod the Great named this place Herodium.

Desiring to keep the Jews content, Herod the Great had Solomon's Temple repaired, gave more land for the court, built convents around the temple, and put a sturdy wall around it all. Then in long speeches, Herod the Great told his Jewish subjects that he was praying to God that the kingdom would enjoy greater and lasting improvements. Many streets and highways were now paved and patrolled for robbers and neighboring countries kept respective peace with Israel because of King Herod's wealthy gifts to their rulers. Herod the Great told the people that in order for this improvement to continue, everyone must pay their taxes.

It was because of another decree of taxation that Joseph and Mary made their long trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem. After riding 70 miles on the back of a donkey, Mary's strength was wearing out by the time they reached Bethlehem. Night was coming, the air was cool, and the narrow streets were crowded with people pre-

paring for their night lodging. Joseph went to his family's house to seek a room. All the houses were crowded, he was told, and no one had any more room. Surely someone could have given up their place for a tired mother-to-be, but perhaps false rumours had spread about Mary. Who would believe a young peasant girl's story when she said an angel had spoken to her and God had given her this child? Mary had learned to be quiet.

When Joseph lead her to the humble stable, perhaps a low cave where the animals were kept, Mary did not murmur but soon laid down to rest. Maybe the spiders had their webs in the corners and a family of mice weaved in and out of the hay. The sheep and cows may have been curious and Mary may have gently brushed their noses now and then. When the baby boy was born, Mary herself carefully wrapped him in swaddling cloth.

Joseph and Mary were attending to the baby when the shepherds came that night. These simple shepherds were excited for they had seen the glory of the Lord. They told everyone their story and many wondered at it. Mary pondered it all in her heart.

Eight days later, the baby was named Jesus, as the angel had commanded. Thirty-two days later Mary went to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer sacrifice according to custom.

Then the wise men came from the Far East. Being Chaldean astrologers from Babylon, they had seen a new star and had followed it over one thousand miles to this very place. They were so pleased to see the Messiah! They offered Him gifts; incense as their God; gold as their King; and myrrh as God was with them in the flesh. The wisemen told Joseph and Mary about their visit with Herod the Great and that they were warned in a dream not to go back to him. So they departed another way to their country.

That night the angel of the Lord told Joseph to take his family to Egypt because King Herod would seek to kill Baby Jesus. The trio hurried away, thankful for the gold which bought their needs while living in Egypt.

At the royal palace, Herod the Great was in his 70's now and had very ill health. All his life King Herod constantly feared that one of his family members would take his life. Because of this, during his reign King Herod had murdered his own wives and sons besides hundreds of innocent people who were merely accused of plotting against him. In his old age, this jealous fear overcame King Herod and often threw him into distemper fits wherein he would give rash commands. It was during the last month of

(Continued on page 16)

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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This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14, 15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Exodus 25:2; 1 Chron. 29:9; 2 Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

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EDITORIALS

"And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:8-11. What a beautiful message of hope to a care-worn, sin-laden world! Christ's appearance to the world was announced with great splendor. As we note His ministry, we have to conclude that He was surely worthy of such publicity. This was possible because God's approval and anointing was upon this plan of salvation. It was shown initially by the divine deliverance of the message to the shepherds. We find God's approval manifested at Christ's baptism as well as at His death. Christ once said, "I do nothing of myself." John 8:28.

There have been others who came into the world, cried their own virtues, conquered cities and spread their doctrines, but none that have brought the healing of the soul which Christ did. How vain, worthless and transitory are doctrines of men that are without God's inspiration.

How glad we should be that it was a divinely inspired message that heralded the coming of the baby Jesus into this world.

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We will soon have available bound volumes of the eleven issues of the *Faith and Victory* paper for the year of 1985. The price is \$1.00 per book, plus 65¢ for postage and handling. We are accepting orders now.

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Sis. Maude Hornbeck, a worker here at the Print Shop, returned home on Nov. 15. She has spent several weeks in California with her sister, Wilma, who has been very ill and still needs much prayer.

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The book, *The Cleansing of the Sanctuary*, which has been out of stock for some time, has been shipped to San Antonio and is in the process of being bound. We expect to have it ready for sale before long. The back orders for this book will be filled promptly.

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The price of the *Faith and Victory* paper has remained the same since Dec. 1956. Due to the cost of materials and the cost of living, we

feel that it is necessary to raise the subscription price of the paper. According to a cost analysis, the price of just the paper and postage, at the present time, amounts to 99¢ for one subscription per year. Several other costs that are connected with the printing of the paper are not figured in with that. **Beginning the first of January, 1986, the *Faith and Victory* paper will cost \$1.00 per year.** You may write to this office for information on the cost of a roll of papers to one address. This price change will not affect any present subscriptions until they expire and must be renewed.

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At the close of this year of 1985, Aunt Maybelle and I would like to thank each one who has helped in this work for God. We are much encouraged to continue printing the gospel. We are grateful also for the dedicated workers here at the Print Shop who have offered their time and skills to the work. At this time, the Print Shop family consists of: Maybelle Pruitt, Bob Sallee, Bunnie Craddock, Linda Craddock, Charlotte Huskey, Wanda Luehring, Bobby Wilson, Maude Hornbeck and myself. Bro. George Hammond has also been very faithful to help us when he is in Guthrie. Another valuable person to the work is Sis. Bertha Miles. She has devoted much time to the bookkeeping. Sis. Rebecca Shaffer's assistance with the book work on the missionary accounts is also much appreciated.

Although we cannot properly reward each one who has worked here and those who have supported this effort with their finances and prayers, we pray that God will.

Sincerely,

—Wayne Murphey

GREETING CARDS FOR SALE

Sis. Audrey McPhail of Agoura, CA, has had a burden for the availability of suitable greeting cards. Consequently she designed and has had printed several different greeting cards. Now available for sale, is an all-occasion greeting assortment. This packet includes one each of four different cards. The front of the cards have beautiful nature scenes done in process color, along with a Bible verse. The inside contains inspirational messages or readings. Also available is a packet of four Christmas cards. They are designed similarly to the all-occasion assortment. The cards sell for \$5.00 per packet. This effort is being made under the name of "Faith and Truth Inspirations" and **orders may be addressed to: Audrey McPhail, 28705 Wagon Road, Agoura, CA 91301, Phone (818) 706-8220, or Leona Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331, Phone (818) 896-5331.**

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

BAKERSFIELD REVIVAL REPORT

We thank the Lord for a timely and profitable revival with Bro. Eddie Wilson and family in attendance.

The messages went forth under the rich anointing of the Holy Spirit, and as we were exhorted in one of the messages, many were delivered from burdens at the altar of prayer. Attendance was very good and the fellowship of the Spirit was so precious. The Word is bearing fruit and we anticipate it bringing forth more fruit continually. Praise the Lord!

—Bro. Robert C. Mays

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OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 79th annual Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, OK, beginning December 20, and continuing through December 29, 1985. A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

The chapel is located on the corner of 6th and W. Warner Ave. The dining hall and dormitories are located in the same block for your convenience. All who come will be cared for.

We are praying for, and expecting the Lord to send Holy Spirit-filled ministers to preach the Word of God and to help anyone to present their spiritual and physical needs to the One who came to heal the broken-hearted, and to set the captives free from sin. Saints, come praying with a burden for those in need of spiritual and physical help. These are critical days in the world's onward march to eternity, so let us labor faithfully while "it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work."

The expense of the meeting will be met by free-will offerings. All contributions for the meeting should be sent directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Route 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. For further information, contact the pastor, Bro. Leslie C. Busbee, at 417 N. 11th St., Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone (405) 282-2421. The chapel number is (405) 282-5499.

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GOULDS, FL REVIVAL

The December Revival meeting at the Church of God in Goulds, Florida will begin, Lord willing, December 22 through December 29, we'll be having daily and nightly service. We extend a warm welcome to all who the Lord will have come.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. H. H. Hargrave, (305) 258-4102, or Sis. G. McPhail, (305) 255-6354. Chapel (305) 251-3873.

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The California State Assembly Meeting will convene, Lord willing, at Pacoima, California, December 27, 1985 and continue through January 5, 1986.

Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. If possible please bring your own bedding. The expense of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Sherman, 12312 Osborne Pl., Pacoima, CA, 91331, Phone (818) 896-7593 or Bro. James Pierro, 11316 Glenoaks Blvd., Pacoima, CA, 91331, phone (818) 896-5331.

In Memorial

Virginia Mae Cunningham was born in Dublin, Arkansas, November 4, 1904, and went to be with the Lord on October 21, 1985. She was the second child of D. H. and Mallissa Wheeler. She and Joe Cunningham were united in marriage October 18, 1922. After living in Dustin, Bristow, and Kellyville, they moved to Mannford, Oklahoma in 1935, where she resided until her death.

She attended services at The Church of God chapel on Sapulpa Road for thirty years.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Pearl, her father and mother, and her husband, Joe. She is survived by a daughter, Bonnie Jo Adsit, a grandson, Ronald Adsit, and a great granddaughter, Melissa Adsit, all of Mannford. Also surviving are three brothers, Oscar and Ferrill of Bristow, Flournoy of Mannford; three sisters, Martha Moore and Mary Mead of Sapulpa and Gertie Wheeler of Bristow; six nephews, three nieces and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at the Smith Funeral Home in Sapulpa, OK, officiated by Bro. Richard Madden. Interment was at the 44 Cemetery, Bristow, Oklahoma.

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Willard Alvin Blackwell, the youngest son of Brother and Sister John K. Blackwell, was born October 14, 1926, Bristow, Oklahoma, and went to be with the Lord Tuesday, October 22, 1985, in Bakersfield, California, at the age of 59 years, 8 days.

Willard lived in Bristow, Oklahoma until he was 11 years old. In 1937, he, with the family, moved to Bakersfield, California, where he made his home until his death.

After being saved, Willard's long-time favorite song, "To Be Like Jesus", took on a new

meaning to him as he conscientiously endeavored to make it a reality. He fought valiantly for one year until the Lord took him home to Himself.

Willard's father and mother and one sister preceded him in death. He leaves to cherish his memory one brother, Grant W. Blackwell, of Bakersfield; five sisters, Maryetta Pierro, of Stockton, California, Henrietta (Pat) Francisco, Hazel Davis, Bernice Jackson, and Janice Herring all of Bakersfield, California; many nieces, nephews and cousins. He also leaves an uncle and many other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the saint's chapel at Bakersfield, with Brother Robert C. Mays officiating, assisted by Brothers Eddie Johnson, James Randle, Alvin Lucas and others. He was laid to rest in Union Cemetery here in Bakersfield to await the general resurrection.

Note of Appreciation

The family of Bro. Willard Blackwell wishes to thank each and everyone for the love and kindness shown to them during their bereavement. A special thanks to the local congregation at Bakersfield, for their encouragement, inspiration and faithful service to him during his last year. It was so precious to him as he experienced and enjoyed their loving care and concern. Thanks.

—Hazel Davis

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Velda Semira (Wilds) Ellis was born November 9, 1918 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Edward and Bertha Wilds. She grew up in Oklahoma, and her parents passed away while she was yet a young girl.

She was united in marriage to Ernest F. Ellis on March 10, 1937, in Clinton, Oklahoma. To this union eleven children were born: six daughters and 5 sons.

While living in Pomona, California, about the year 1949, she was delivered from the power of Satan and sin. She gave her heart to Christ and was born into the family of God. Not long after her conversion she moved with her family to the Pampa, Texas area, where she resided the rest of her life. She lived a consistent and faithful life for the Lord Jesus the remaining years of her earthly pilgrimage. She began to put forth an effort to meet with the saints of the Church of God, and on numerous occasions she would travel with her husband and children to attend the Guthrie, Oklahoma Camp Meeting. She had a great desire to be in services whenever possible. She also always carried a deep concern for the spiritual welfare of her family and others. She was a woman of prayer, and possessed great faith in God and His wisdom.

Her husband, Ernest, preceded her in death on June 8, 1976.

She passed from this life on October 25, 1985, at the age of 66 years, 11 months, and 17 days.

She is survived by six daughters: Stacey Stubbs, Alinet Eldredge, Jan Wood, and Ann Hulsey, all of Pampa Texas, Kathy Taylor, of Hereford, Texas, and Marsha Lermom, of Phillips, Texas; five sons: Kedron Ellis, of Salem, Oregon, Keldon and Weldon Ellis, of Pampa, Texas, Stephen Ellis, of Vernon, Texas, and David Ellis, of Pampa, Texas; four brothers: Orban Wilds, of Fremont, California, Keldon Wilds, of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Naymon Wilds, of Sutherlin, Oregon, and Calvin Wilds, of Reno, Nevada; one sister: Lilla Ferrell, of Kingman, Arizona; twenty-nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Carmichael-Whatley Funeral Home Chapel by Bro. Leslie Busbee, assisted by others. Interment was in Memory Gardens Cemetery at Pampa, Texas.

Mother at Home

My mother is resting so calm and secure,
At home in yon beautiful land;
Where loved ones now gather so happy and pure,
To join that fair heavenly band.
She washed here her garments and made them
all white,
To enter that land of the blest,
And there with the ransomed, in songs of delight,
With Jesus forever shall rest.
Now dwelling at peace in yon heavenly cline,
Where none but the holy may go;
She joins the glad praise of the angel's divine,
Whose robes are all whiter than snow.
Aloof from all sorrow, and spirit set free,
She fears not the troubles of earth;
No dark clouds assemble to cover her brow,
And she fears not the shadow of death.
With hopes firmly built on things far above,
Her heart grew more eager each day,
To reach that fair mansion, and daily she strove,
To walk in His glorious way.
Eagerly longed for the bliss of that home,
Longed from earth's cares and sorrows
to cease,
Longed to look out o'er yon beautiful place
Where joy shall forever increase.
Contented and happy, forever she sees,
The Tree of Life blooming so fair,
The River of Life with its wonderful scenes,
And the streets are all gold over there,
The harps of the angels forever resound
The praises of Father and Son,
Leaves never fade, and the sun ne'er goes down,
O'er there in that Edenic home.
Mother, O Mother! we know that no more,

Thy voice shall be heard here again,
We often shall miss thee, thy aid to implore—
You've left us so sad and alone.

Temptations rough billows may lash us about,
Our bark on sins wave to destroy,
We need thee to help us to here steer aright
Lest drifting, we wreck in despair.

Although her form slumbers in silent repose,
And soon shall turn back to the earth,
Yet out from the stillness there seems a sweet voice
To echo great words of true worth;
Assuring me daily that she is not gone,
That I shall behold her again,
In robes that are washed so spotlessly clean
Forever with her to remain.

—Bertha S. Wilds

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Joe Stice was born August 20, 1918, in Oklahoma, and departed this life November 10, 1985 at Salem, Oregon, at the age of 67 years.

Joe liked people and had a good number of friends. He attended the saints' services at Jefferson, Oregon a number of times but not regularly on account of physical handicaps and frail health. He enjoyed coming when he could and his sister, Evalee Stice, always saw that he got there when he was able. He spent his last years in nursing homes and I visited him numbers of times and prayed with him and he professed Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Grace Stice, Salem, Oregon; one brother, Dale Stice, Eugene, Oregon; three sisters, Violet Sparks, Atlanta, Georgia, Shirley Hull, Oregon City, Oregon and Evalee Stice, Salem, Oregon; one step-daughter, Billie Bagger, Turner, Oregon and one step grandson.

Funeral services were held at the Virgil T. Golden Funeral Chapel, Salem, Oregon by Ostis Wilson on November 13, 1985. Interment was in the Rosedale Friends Cemetery, Salem, Oregon.

—Ostis Wilson

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Richard L. Watkins was born March 17, 1920 at Hubbard, Oregon and departed this life November 7, 1985, at Salem, Oregon, at the age of 65 years.

He lived for a time in Iowa, and in southern California, then returned to Oregon and located at Turner, where he spent the last 25 or 30 years of his life. In October, 1953, he was united in marriage to Nedra Wilkins in Hawthorne, California. To this union 3 children were born; two daughters and one son. He also had one son, Richard, Jr., and one daughter, Sharon, by a previous marriage.

He was a member of the Jefferson, Oregon Church of God congregation for many years

and he and Nedra were as regular in attendance as most anybody in the congregation. If they were not sick or away they could be counted on to be there. They were valued members of our congregation.

We were called to his home to pray for him one week before his passing. When we went to pray I asked him if he knew of anything that would hinder his healing. He said, "No." When we went to anoint him I asked him again if he was up-to-date with God. He said, "Yes, I am." This is our comfort now.

He is survived by his wife, Nedra Watkins, Turner, Oregon; three sons, Richard L. Watkins, Jr., Phoenix, Arizona, Darrell D. Wilkins, Woodburn, Oregon, Dale R. Watkins, Keizer, Oregon; two daughters, Shirley L. Doolittle, Green Bank, West Virginia, and Donna D. Watkins, Turner, Oregon; one brother, Leonard Watkins, Donald, Oregon, and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held by Charles Elwell and Ostis Wilson at the Virgil T. Golden Funeral Chapel in Salem, Oregon on November 11, 1985. Interment was in the Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon. —Ostis Wilson

Prayer Requests

IN—"Please remember my son, Jimmy. His nerves are very bad. Also remember my unsaved loved ones." —Sis. Dessie Wilson

OK—Gertrude Powers needs healing in her body. She has been ill for some time.

LA—"I have a bad leg, please pray for me. Also pray for my grandson who has high blood pressure." —Beulah Johnson

IL—"Please pray for my daughter, Brenda Wittington, who suffers from diabetes and complications." —Margaret Whitecotton

CT—"Please pray for my relative to be healed of cancer. Also my knee needs healing."

—Emma Williams

MO—Bro. Roy Blanchard needs prayer for healing of his body.

PRAYER NEEDED

The Golden Rule Home for the aged at Shawnee, OK, has recently been subjected to persecution from the Department of Human Services. There were several patients in the home, who, against their will, were removed by the authorities and placed else where. At a hearing on Nov. 8th, resulting from this incident, it was stated that the Home could not admit any new patients until a licensing hearing could be held on Dec. 18th. Obtaining this license has been a source of much difficulty in

the past. Earnestly remember them in prayer there, that they might be granted this State license and that the persecution might cease.

—The Editors

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

IN—To the saints everywhere, Greetings; I would like to give my testimony to all the Saints of God everywhere. Some have heard this and many have not. I believe everyone that is saved can remember the time they got saved and had the experience of God come into their heart. Some differ from others but all have had that experience who have met the condition.

I was born to a good Christian mother, who raised us pretty strict. We had worship morning and evening all the days of my life.

The war came on and although I was 33 years old, I got drafted. I went to Indianapolis which was the induction center. They shipped us out of there at night like a bunch of cattle, and no one knew where they were shipping us. We finally got off in Little Rock, Arkansas. All I heard for the next three days was, "On The Double!" This was the infantry and I didn't like it. On the third morning as we were out in a field taking our training, another soldier came running up and gave a slip to our Sergeant. He said, "Those of you that I call your names, form a line to my right. I was in that number. Although I didn't know where I was going I was glad to get out of there. That night about midnight we were shipped to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This was a much nicer Camp and I liked the surroundings. I was put in the mule pack, which was a supply outfit and non-combatant. I was glad for this but didn't like the mules. I had been raised up with horses but not mules. I soon found out we were dealing with some ornery critters, but were not allowed to do anything to them. One morning while grooming them I got kicked up in the air and when I landed, I landed beside another mule and it started kicking at me. I finally managed to get out of the way. Our Sergeant took my fatigue jacket off and by that time there was a knot like a hen egg swollen on my left arm. They sent me to the Hospital and took x-rays. I didn't have any broken bones but I got five days of no duty. They finally got rid of the Mule Pack and got AMC to make a little Jeep that they could fly in a helicopter. I finally ended up going to mechanics school.

I had done a lot of praying, asking the Lord to get me out of that mess. I had written to Mother asking her to pray for me. She wrote back and said, "I have been praying for you, now get down to business and pray for yourself."

I didn't have much confidence in my prayers. When I got in limited service the Officer in the Orderly Room said, "You will never be shipped overseas. They don't send Limited Service overseas." After four months of schooling I was made a mechanic for the battery.

I had promised the Lord if he would get me out of that Army I would get saved and serve Him. I never forgot that promise. After getting home and getting back to work, I went looking for a church where I might get saved. I couldn't find one that was walking like I was raised or the way Mother lived. I finally gave up, but the Lord didn't give me up. He began to deal with me. I was helping move a large refrigerator in a nursing home and tore something loose in my back. I got kidney infection and was laid up; couldn't hardly get around. My wife had to go to work which made me feel terrible. I went to three doctors without any help. Finally I went to the Veterans Hospital at Indianapolis and was there for 16 days. I came home like I went in. I was in this condition for a year. My two uncles, George and Grover Martin sent for Bro. Carver to come hold a meeting for them. They were staying in a trailer my Uncle Grover had put on my mother's property, close to where I was living. I didn't know any of the Saints. I was raised up in the old Gospel Trumpet movement, and at one time thought they were the only people on earth that was serving God in truth. I finally got disappointed in them and quit going. I thought all church people were alike. One night Bro. Cecil and Sis. Mae Carver came to my door and asked if they could get a pail of water. I told him to help himself and I sat back down on the davenport. When he got the water he brought it into the front room and sat down. He said, "I understand that you have been spending your time in the hospital." I said, "I was in the Vets' Hospital for 16 days but they couldn't do a thing for me." He said, "Don't you believe that God could heal you." I said, "I know God can heal me, but I don't know if He would or not. God healed me all the time when I was little." He said, "What makes you think God has changed." I said, "God hasn't changed, but we are not innocent like when a child." He said, "You hit the nail on the head. That is the only difference between you and God." After talking awhile he picked up the bucket of water and they left, but after opening the door he said, "We will pray for you." After they went out, I went to bed.

The next morning I woke up, got up and put my clothes on. I went down into the basement, fired the coal furnace and came running back up the stairs. I didn't realize I didn't have a

pain till I got into the kitchen and shut the basement door. I was stunned! I didn't have a pain in my back. I went over to the cabinet and got all those pills they had given me and threw them in the garbage can. I began thinking. I said to myself, "Those folks must be living awful close to God, that they could pray for me just once and God would heal me overnight."

I walked all the way to town, about ten blocks, which I hadn't done for about a year.

I went back home and on the way I was thinking, "Now I will have to keep my vow that I made with God," but I was so afraid. I don't know what I was afraid of, but I was afraid. My wife went to work and I went to meeting and took Sherry, my daughter, with me. She was about five years old. After about three nights, Bro. Carver preached on divine healing. I wanted to go get saved but the place was full of people and I was scared to death. We had taken my half brother's three children with us and they were sitting by the stove as it was cold. After the meeting I went to the stove to warm myself. I was thinking that another meeting went by and I didn't get saved. Bro. Carver came over and stood with his back to the stove. He finally said, "Praise the Lord! Earl, I know you want to be saved. Let's go up to the altar and get this thing over with." He took me by the hand and led me to the altar weeping. My mother and my uncles were around the altar praying for me. Finally Bro. Carver asked, "Don't you believe that God saves you?" I said, "I don't feel any different." He said, "What do you want? A boxcar to hit you." I said, "I have heard many folks say when they got saved they felt something hit them and they got up shouting." He said, "Oh, that? Well it doesn't effect everyone alike. All you have to do is believe God saves you and has forgiven your sins, then get up and tell it, and He will do the rest. The good feelings will come when you obey God." I did as I was told and when I got up and looked over at my Uncle George, he was crying and laughing at the same time. I began to laugh, a sweet peace came over me and I couldn't say anything, but finally I said, "I believe Jesus saved me." Then my Uncle came and put his arms around me and said, "Earl, you don't know how happy you have made me." I looked over at the children and they were crying. I went over to the stove and put my arms around my daughter and asked, "What are you crying for?" She said, "I didn't want you to go up there." She didn't understand what I was doing up there. God has kept me saved all these years and directed my path . . .

—Earl B. Bliss

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—3 YEARS FOR \$1.00

LA—Dear Saints everywhere: While reading our *Faith and Victory* paper today I was reminded of how the Lord had blessed us. On August 5, 1985, Lee was driving his motorcycle at about 45 m.p.h. when a dump truck pulled out about 30 feet directly in front of him. Unable to stop in time, Lee had to drive the motorcycle off the road to the right and as a consequence of this violent change in direction, the bike turned over, bumping and jolting along on the side of the road.

Thinking to be only bruised and shaken, Lee went through the paperwork, etc., regarding the accident, and continued on his way. He went to work as usual for about two days, but noticed a continued pain in his back and right leg. At the insistence of the truck driver's insurance company and his work, he went to the doctor to have x-rays taken, and for consultation. It was discovered that he had severe muscle strain and a bulging disk in his back, which, as the doctor said, would take a while to heal.

The pain continued, and Lee was off work for about a month and a half. Of course, the devil painted many dark pictures and we were afraid that the disk would rupture. The doctor became worried and admitted him to the hospital for tests, and we continued praying. The verdict arrived and we were thankful to hear that the disk had **not** ruptured, but Lee had to continue to rest.

We prayed so hard for his back to heal up! We knew that it was not beyond the power of the Lord and we trusted completely in Him. He gave us the assurance through it all that He would take care of us, and we decided that we would not worry and speculate, but simply trust in Him.

As time went on Lee's back continued to get better and better and soon he was released to full duty at the Post Office. We were so thankful! Then, just a few days ago, Lee bent over for some reason and he said that it felt like someone had taken the blunt edge of an axe and hit him in the lower back. We went to prayer immediately and asked the Lord to give him a touch. In just a few minutes Lee fell asleep and when it was time to go to work he was able to go. The next night, too, he said that his back hurt at work, but he prayed and the pain subsided.

Throughout the whole ordeal the Lord stood by us. Lee took no medication whatsoever and no operations were performed. We agreed to his admittance to the hospital for insurance purposes, but we continued praying and decided right from the start that no matter what was wrong we would trust in the Lord for help.

We have only been married a few short months but the Lord has helped us along every

step of the way! He has been so precious to us. When we had problems, we took them to Him and He took care of them. When we needed help, He answered prayer. When we were in need, He was there. Now we have another milestone to point to: when we needed healing, He provided it. As the song says, "He is so wonderful!"

Please pray for us; we truly desire to live for Him. He has been so good to us. Can we fail Him now?

Much Christian love,

—Lee and Grace McMillian

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Saints: The Lord keeps reminding me to slow down long enough to send in our testimony! Our hearts are grateful for God's mercy and love to us, but we as humans are so prone to get caught in the rush of things and not publish His goodness and answers to prayer.

Last December, I (Jan) was put to bed with back problems. Unable to get out of bed for three days, we spent many soul-searching hours. The Lord taught us lessons and reminded us of areas that we needed to work on in our spiritual lives. These times are ordered by God for our own good. The Lord faithfully answered prayer and raised me up. We're thankful we had the Lord to lean on.

The condition seemed to be a sciatic nerve problem. We have been told that it's a very risky condition when trusting man for it. We're reminded of the Scripture, Psalm 118:8, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." We have no complaints in the results of trusting in God! He is still a great God today.

Recently, our youngest child, Kristy, fell while playing and broke her arm. It resulted in a very serious compound fracture. Dark pictures of serious complications were painted for us. The Lord assured us with a Scripture to fight fear and unbelief. The Lord has mended her arm much faster than was expected and with none of the complications that were painted. We know God is the only one responsible for this!

The Lord has answered specific prayers, the last couple days. We would certainly hate to do without Him for even one day. "Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness." Ps. 48:1.

We appreciate everyone's cards, love, concern and prayers toward us. May God bless each one.

Pray for us—we desire to be faithful and meet you all in Heaven.

—Ed and Jan Johnston

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear ones at the Print Shop and abroad: Greetings of love to every blood-washed one in the precious name of Jesus.

The Lord is so precious to me that I don't find words to thank Him enough. Praise His dear name.

I would like to tell what He did for me this month (Oct., 1985). To start with I had a kidney infection. It was soon O.K. but I just kept getting weaker and weaker each day.

Bro. Willie Murphey had just left us Sept. 24 and that was the way he did; each day a little weaker. I made up my mind the Lord was going to take me like He did Bro. Willie. Oh, how close heaven seemed to be. I was all ready to cross over. I got up on Monday morning, Oct. 14, and I barely had strength enough to walk to the kitchen. (I have the habit of drinking a glass of juice when I first get up.) I think someone called Bro. Leslie and told him I needed prayer. He and two others that came with him, prayed and then he anointed and prayed for me. The Lord heard and answered. I began slowly to gain strength, but I felt down deep in my inner being disappointed. I really wanted to go on and be with Jesus.

Then I began to have a sharp shooting pain go through my head and ears day and night. It seemed they were worse at night, until sometimes it seemed more than I could bear. The Bible tells us He will not allow us to be tempted above that we are able to bear. Praise His dear name. There were two nights that the pain seemed to be worse. I believe it was on Wednesday night that it seemed a gunshot went off in my head. I heard it whistle across my head, then things were calm for a minute before something popped. It felt like something heavy had hit me in the head. Oh, how it did hurt. I just knew there was a hole in my head, but I could not find it. I even felt all over the roof of my mouth with my tongue to see if there was a hole in the roof of my mouth. I don't think I ever suffered such terrible pain.

I am writing this on October 30th and I have almost gained my strength back to normal, I'm doing all my work and caring for myself.

My youngest daughter, who lives in Guthrie, spent two or three nights with me, but the night of the pop I was alone. No, I wasn't alone as the Lord was with me. My son and wife live here close too, and they came in and sat with me during the day. They were all very attentive to me as I looked to God for a healing touch.

My sister said she knew a woman who had a pop in her head and she was blind the rest of her life. Someone else said they knew a woman that had a pop in her head and she had a stroke.

You think I don't have a lot to praise the Lord for? He is my all in all. I couldn't get

along without Him. I do thank and praise Him very much.

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." Ps. 23:1. Without Him I am nothing, and without Him I can do nothing. I want to see the end of a successful Christian race with victory in my soul. Praise His dear name.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Emma Dilley

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From the Mailbox . . .

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greeting you once again in the name of our dear Lord, Jesus Christ. Oh, the goodness and mercy of our Lord. I thank Him daily for His blessings on me. I surely do not want to ever fail of the grace of God or grieve Him in any way. I want to keep my heart pure, a fit dwelling place for the Spirit of God to abide in.

In these last days, with sin abounding on every hand, we need so to let our light shine that the world may see God in our lives. We thought of the Scripture in Isaiah 55:2, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness." As we put our heart and soul and all our effort in our salvation, how rich we are. God wants our all, and it is my desire to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord daily.

May the Lord increase our desire to do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Your brother in the Lord, —Jim Kutra

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OK—Dear Bro. Murphey and workers: Greetings in Jesus name. He paid the price for our victory over sin, flesh, and the devil.

I am firmly trusting in Jesus though I am in a fierce battle with affliction at this time. I am holding fast to the mighty unchanging hand of God. I am sorry to be slow in my duty to help in your publishing work—I appreciate the *Faith and Victory* to read. I've been getting it each month. It seems that we take many good blessings from God for granted. The Spirit of God moved upon me to do something . . .

Please remember me in prayer.

Many thanks with love,

—Sis. Julia Llewellyn

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NY—Sister Maybelle and saints everywhere: I send holy greetings to you in that precious name of Jesus. It gives me great pleasure to write to you and fellow saints everywhere. I really enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is a blessing to me. After I read them I pass them on to another saint, and she passes them on.

Jesus is soon to come and what we do we must do quickly. We see that time is winding up. Men are lovers of themselves more than lovers of God. I thank God that I am serving God, and not man. Jesus tells me to obey Him, and put not our trust in man. So please pray for me that I will continue to stay faithful unto Him.

With Christian love, —Henrietta Davis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Dear Readers of *Faith and Victory*: Greetings in the name of Jesus. We are so thankful to our dear Saviour for all the blessings of life. Especially for the home in heaven He has prepared for all who will accept Him to live and dwell in their hearts; to love and obey Him unto the end.

"Heaven is a holy place, filled with glory and with grace; sin can never enter there; all within its gates are pure; From defilement kept secure, sin can never enter there."

I read the experience or vision of a sister who was hanging in the balance between life and death several days, she said more on the eternity side. It seemed that a brother-in-law who had passed on several years before, came and got her, and lead her to the beautiful country where he was living. There she met friends and loved ones who had gone on before. She saw Jesus and many little children all dressed in white, and heard beautiful singing. There were beautiful mansions, beautiful flowers, trees with fruit on them, beautiful lawns, all so fresh, clean and pure, with no decay nor impurities of any kind. The water of the river and lake was so clear, pure and beautiful; all so different and far surpassed that of earth. She said she did not have words to describe the grandeur and beauty of that place. I thought, Oh, how pure we must be to enter that place, Heaven. I want to go there, so I must watch to keep all seeds of impurity out of my heart lest they spring up and grow. There is nothing too great to give up, nor too hard to do to gain a home in Heaven. There is only one other place to go and it is just the opposite to Heaven. No words can describe the awfulness of Hell. If we have children and loved ones whom we love dearly, we surely need to pray much for them, and souls everywhere to prepare for heaven and miss an endless eternity in the torments of hell. Time is drawing near for Jesus to come in the clouds to bring this old world to an end, so let us be ready is my prayer.

In Christian love, —Myrtis Flynn

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MS—Dear Ones: I hope all are getting along fine and that you will have lots of God's good blessings.

To those that we have been sending money to, we would like to say that we did not get our SSI checks this month or last month. We love you and want you to help us pray about our checks. We think you need help and we need help.

With lots of love and best wishes,

—Dorothy Bridges

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus, our Lord and Savior. We love and appreciate His love to us. We really had a good meeting and appreciated the saints coming in to help us. The singing was refreshing to an overflow crowd and the Lord blessed our souls. We had desired more in attendance for the meeting from our local invitations. We are living in a satisfied time, people are full and don't feel a need. It is a dangerous time for all of us; not to get in a lukewarm condition. We must keep toiling on until He calls us from labor to reward. We feel like traveling on.

May the Lord guide and direct your way. Pray for us here that we'll be fruitful in His vineyard.

Love in Christ,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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MO—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Saints everywhere: Greetings of love in Jesus precious name. This finds me still encouraged to live for the Lord with no desire for turning back. His blessings are so numerous there is no way I could count them all.

I was saddened to hear of Bro. Willie's death, but we know our loss is heaven's gain.

Please pray for my friends and loved ones who need to be seeking salvation while there is still time. We never know what the future holds.

Christian love, —Violet L. Sinkhorn

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KS—Dear Sis. Pruitt: Just a few lines to say that I am still encouraged to stay in the straight and narrow way because it is the only way that leads to Heaven. I believe God when He says, "without holiness no man can see God." I also believe Jesus when He says, "If you die in your sins, where I am you cannot come." So I am glad to be saved and delivered from sin with a mind to obey and serve God. I appreciate having power within to keep living righteous. It is good to have solid reasons why we don't do wrong and get into the many things that the world partakes of or pursues. It is great to have a real goal in life to work toward; being pleasing to God while we live and going to Heaven

after we die. I do love the Lord and I love His ways also and I am striving to be perfected in God's eyes. It is so safe to follow and serve One who has all power in Heaven and earth in His hands and is able to keep us from falling. Praise God!

I hope you are all well at the Print Shop and progressing well spiritually. May God continue to bless each one of you and reward you for your labors and sacrifice . . .

With Christian love, —Shirley Knight

—————o—————

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

Report from Mexico. . .

Oct. 28—My dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: We salute you in the holy and precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ, hoping that you are found in health with all the saints there and with victory over sin. This is my wish and prayer for you.

I begin this letter with much love, giving thanks to God for His great saving love. We give thanks that He has saved and sanctified His people and that we are sanctified and able to sing victory over sin. His love is like the walls of Jerusalem which protect the city. God also cared for Job and the children of Israel. He will also protect us, if we live in Him. The material things may let us down and fail, but glory. God never fails.

Well, brethren, we are very content and encouraged in the Lord as He has blessed us much in the work and blessed the family also and our ministry.

We had Sister Opal Kelly and Sonja Snell as visitors which was a blessing to us here. Bro. Sherman, Bro. Montgomery, Bro. Kutra and Sis. Edith Lara came and their visit proved a blessing also. We had a little meeting of missionaries with Sis. Opal and Sis. Edith. We believe that we have the enemy defeated as we prayed much and the Holy Spirit guided in everything.

We have had beautiful worship services. The house is full on Sundays. Yesterday a whole family came to the altar. We felt the blessings of the Lord every moment. We believe that the Lord has chosen this place for the manifestation of His power.

We had the most precious camp meeting in April; the best we have ever had. We thank God for it!

Pray for the work here in Chapultepec and in Ojos Negros also. We are praying for a worker to go there as there is much need for someone to be there as the building is there.

God had given us many unexpected blessings; Bro. Hammond came here for a visit. We

are content for the fellowship of the saints.

Pray much for us that we continue preaching the Word and continue in what the Lord has given us to do and that we will not look back but continue firm and encouraged in the service of the Lord.

May the Lord bless you.

Christian love,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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From Ghana . . .

Oct. 26—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne: We once again come to you from Ghana to greet you and everyone in Jesus dear name.

The work in Wenchi is coming along real good. John Peprah has taken over the pastoring for a school year. His wife and family are with him. I feel very good and satisfied that he is where God would have him to be at this time. The Lord willing, his next move will be to Kumasi and he will be needing some of this experience in Wenchi as he enters another new field.

My apartment is not ready yet in Kumasi, so there is no problem about me being alone there for a long space of time.

Until sufficient funds come in to build a chapel here at Akumadan we will start to use the living room at the Mission House. It is a hard room to really keep dry because of the climate and since they don't get out in the rain anyway for services, it will do all right for a long time. This will be much better to be in our own place.

We are letting the Teckiman work go for now. There are just no accommodations there for a pastor and family and we can't afford to send him back and forth.

With Christian love to all,—Dorothy Keiser

Notice

We have been notified by Jim Akwaski that he is no longer serving in the capacity of pastor at Akumadan. He writes, "I feel the real burden to resign from the Church as a pastor and as a worker entirely." At this time, all correspondence to Ghana should be addressed to Sister Dorothy Keiser, Church of God, Private Mail Bag, Kumasi-Ashanti, Ghana, West Africa.

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From Lagos . . .

Sept. 24—Dear Brother: I greet you once again in the precious name of Jesus. I hope you are prospering in health even as your soul prospers, together with the brethren with you over there. We thank God also for the same care being extended to us here.

I need your daily prayers on my behalf and

others of God's children who have escaped the curse of sectism and have returned to Zion (beautiful for situation).

Brother, the Church of God in Lagos needs your earnest prayers for the problems confronting us at this time. The Lagos State Government has banned preaching in commercial vehicles, carrying out any form of preaching without a permission from the Government, etc. The one that has affected us much is the conversion of any residential house for religious worship, because where we worship is connected with where people are living. Here in Lagos we have no land of our own as to build a separate house of worship, in fact, the church is stranded as of now. Please pray that our Almighty Father should cancel the decree of men as He did in the time of old. Again we had sent out our circular to other brethren in Nigeria about our camp meeting in Oct. '85, before this decree came out. Pray that God should have His way.

Extend my hearty greetings to Sis. Pruitt and the entire body.

Keep step with the Master and God bless you. Your sister,
—Kate Obiyo

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From Nigeria . . .

Oct. 14—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, and the saints of God: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, our wonderful Saviour, Sanctifier, Healer and Keeper. Praise Him forever!

Thank you for your letters which are being steadily received. We confirm also receipt of books and tracts mailed to us for use of the congregations. Theft of books, especially Bibles, which for long has been going on in Kwale Post Office has come to the open. An official of Kwale Post Office was recently caught with books he extracted from the packages lying in the post office awaiting delivery. He is now in the Police net at Benin City. We lost six Bibles out of eight by postal theft in the month of July.

We are living a life strong in faith, giving glory to God. As the Lord's "sent ones", it is essential for us to bear those marks of His (Gal. 6:17). When the unbelievers around "see the print of nails" in our life and living, they will cease to be faithless and become believers and with us pass into a radiant confidence and joy.

Extension of mobile evangelism to area outside the Bendel State became impossible due to excessive rainfall. Obetim-Uno and Umuachi-Afor were evangelised by the young people. They camped four days each in the two towns and held successful street meetings. Two male converts, among others of the occasion at Obetim-Uno, visited this writer to express their joy of

coming out of the miry clay and the horrible pit to find their feet set upon the Rock to stay. Saints of Kwale area congregations went in for fasting and prayers of seven days duration to be strengthened of the Lord. Thanks to God for what we are blessed to achieve as a result of the denial.

Thieves broke into the church chapel at Kwale through a window and made away with all the preaching equipment kept in store. The store door was forced open. Pray with us for means to replace the stolen equipment; namely, amplifier, loud speaker, or public address system, and microphones. We shall enter into the period of great use of the equipment by November.

Yours in Him, —Titus U. E. Enu

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Oct. 25—Dear Brother Murphey: Greetings of love, joy, peace and hope in the precious name of Jesus.

We are so happy and thankful again to receive your very kind letter. We praise and thank the Lord for you dear saints and for your great burden for every lost soul in the world.

We do not know how many days are left for each one of us to live on earth, may the Lord help us to spend our time and give our best to help every soul to go to heaven. We are praying for you every day and night, you workers in the Publishing House.

Pray for my complete healing.

May the Lord bless you more and more.

Yours in Christ, —B. Ben Taylor

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Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please explain Revelation 19:19 and Revelation 20:9.

Answer: Rev. 19:19 reads thus: "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army."

The first point to consider in this text is the "beast" and what it represented. There are two beasts presented in the Revelation but the second beast is more generally referred to as the "False Prophet" and when the reference is to "The Beast" it always refers to the first beast. The first 10 verses introduces "The Beast" and gives a detailed description of him and his power and authority and the source of his power, etc. It is first introduced as "A Beast" and thereafter is

always referred to as "The Beast" indicating that it is the same beast always. The first identifying mark of the beast is "seven heads and ten horns". In the 17th chapter of Revelation this same beast appears again as "a scarlet colored beast full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns". In this case this beast is referred to as "A Beast" instead of "The Beast" as is common in referring to him but the identifying marks are the same—seven heads, ten horns, and names of blasphemy (Rev. 17:3 and Rev. 13:1) —so there can be no doubt of them being the same beast.

In this 17th chapter of Revelation the beast has a gorgeous, glamorous woman riding upon it. However, this woman is just as corrupt and vile as she is gorgeous and glamorous (Rev. 17:4 and 5). Please read these verses. This beast with a woman riding upon it would symbolize a vast political religious combine. The kings of the earth have committed fornication with this woman which would signify that the political rulers and governments of the world espoused her cause, and supported her, and accepted her corrupt and apostate system of worship and worshipped at her shrine.

God chose a pure, chaste woman, exalted high above the world and adorned with the rich, glorious virtues and graces of His Son, Jesus Christ, to symbolize His true, pure church (Rev. 12:1). Here He chooses a vile, corrupt, abominable woman decked out in all the gorgeous attire and ornaments of the world, living a corrupt, abominable, dissolute life to symbolize the corrupt, apostate church after which all the world wondered (Rev. 13:3). This 17th chapter identifies this false church or religious system more clearly than the 13th chapter in which she was first introduced.

In verses 9 and 10 the seven heads are identified as seven mountains on which the woman sitteth; and also seven kings of which five are fallen, one is and one is yet to come. Verse 11 identifies "The Beast" as the 8th head but is actually of the seventh and his end is that he goeth into perdition. Here is described the city of Rome which actually is situated on seven mountains and also the kingdom or empire of Rome which actually had seven kings or forms of government during its existence. Five of them had already fallen at the time the Revelation was given and one was in existence then and one was yet to come. Then verse 12 identifies the ten horns as ten kings which had not yet received their kingdoms. This represents the 10 minor kingdoms which grew out of the Roman Empire during its decline and fall. Gibbon, in his history of the decline and fall of the Roman

Empire, gives the details of all of this and the names of all the forms of government and of the minor kingdoms which I will not insert here for the sake of space. Then verse 13 says these all have one mind and give their strength unto "The Beast".

(To be continued next month)

HAVE A FULL MIND

Most of the unhappiness in this world is caused by having nothing to do.

People with much to do are rarely in trouble. It's the vacant, tumbledown minds that cause unhappiness to themselves and to others.

The full mind always has much on which to feed when the heart gets hungry from discouragements and the body gets tired from work.

If your mind is full of beauty and the love of beautiful things, it won't have room to harbor thoughts that are sent out to hurt and injure. The walls of your mind will be clean and the thoughts that go out from pure overflows will be thoughts that are worthy to mingle with the sun rays and to make the world better whenever they lodge. —Selected

Beneath The Beauty

Praise heard by shepherds as angels came winging,
A manger to cradle a Babe sweet and mild—
Is this no more than a picture, a pageant;
Beautiful story to tell to a child?

That Babe grew to manhood to carry our sorrows,
For our sins to be wounded, rejected, reviled.
Only in Him is the essence of living,
He the sole way to a heart undefiled.

Not for the righteous, the satisfied scorner,
But for the wicked, the filthy, the vile,
Those without hope, without works, without honor,
Christ Jesus would these to God reconcile.

Those who are lost without power for reforming,
So low they deserve not that one should forgive;
To these Jesus came with His power for trans-
forming,

To bid the dead soul to arise and to live.

The cross had no beauty, man's wrath was not
gentle;

The deeds done there were revolting and stank.
E'en our faces we hid from His multiplied guilt,
Yet this, only this, for our peace can we thank.

Only to those who can see 'neath the beauty;
Know 'twas for them that He stooped to disgrace;
Those who will open the heart in repentance—
To these Jesus opens in His heart a place.

—Mary Lehmann

God's Preferred Wealth

(Continued from page 3)

his life that he made the rash command to have the babies in Bethlehem murdered. Five days before his own death, he had his eldest son executed. Herod the Great left his kingdom to three other sons, one of which, Herod Antipas, later beheaded John the Baptist and talked with Jesus just before his crucifixion.

God, our Father, had a greater, higher plan when He sent His Son into the world to establish His kingdom. In proving this, God used everything the opposite of what would be considered great. He did not place His Son into a king's palace, but He put Him in the charge of two poor, humble parents. God had power to place His Son into any environment He chose, and God chose the humble way. All the glory and all the wealth that Herod the Great had established here on earth meant little to God because God was looking for a richer wealth. He found this wealth in Mary's quiet, sweet, humble way and in Joseph's honest, obedient heart. God had already witnessed their love and respect for one another. This was the wealth that God wanted His Son to have while on earth, and the Kingdom Jesus established has a never ending treasury of these riches.

Within a hundred years after Herod the Great's death, the Jerusalem temple was completely destroyed; storms left the harbor at Caesarea nothing but debris on the Mediterranean shore; and today only traces of the 200 white marble steps mark Herodium. The glorious reign of Herod the Great is all but a dot in the passing of history.

However, the humble abode of a quaint little stable has been and will be remembered in millions of homes, rich, middle-class, and poor. Let it remind us that God prefers not the wealth from man's hands but the wealth in man's heart.

—Connie Sorrell

BELIEVE AND TRUST



Believe and trust. Through stars and suns,
Through life and death, through soul and sense,
His wise, paternal purpose runs;
The darkness of His providence
Is star-lit with benign intents.

O joy supreme! I know the Voice,
Like none beside on earth and sea;
Yea, more, O soul of mine, rejoice!
By all that He requires of me
I know what God Himself must be.

—Selected



Excerpts Taken From

December, 1960 *Faith and Victory*

"Dear Saints: It has been some time since we have reported through this paper. We are glad to say that we still love the Lord and are happy in doing what little we can to get the truth to others. We don't find many responding but are thankful for the few. This seems to be a gleaning age.

"I think how encouraging the different testimonies are that we read in the *Faith and Victory*, similar to being in a testimony meeting with the dear saints—how the Lord blesses each trusting child of His! Let us keep encouraged for the uplook is always bright even tho the 'outlook' may seem dark at times. Praise His dear name!

Yours in His service,"

—Sister Katherine Key

"If someone unconsciously slights you a little the devil is right there to slip on magnifying glasses. Your imaginations begin to work. Now what do they have against me? Something will come to your mind that had gone unnoticed in the past and you begin to wonder if they misunderstood you and that is the reason they slighted you. Maybe the next day you hear of them visiting someone and your imaginations cause you to hear them telling that person all about the incident. Later you see that person who was visited. You feel in a strain and on and on it goes."

—Marie Miles

"A lack of the baptism of the Holy Ghost is the cause of the world being filled with conflicting doctrines and beliefs. There is a need of the Holy Spirit to 'teach' men and 'guide them into all truth'."

—Thomas J. Bowers