

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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New Year Meditations

Oft we hail the New Year's dawn
With a bright anticipation;
What about the Year that's gone?
It is worth consideration.

Have we lived this year for Him,
Christ, who died for our salvation?
Or does wrath our hearts condemn
In the light of His relation?

What a joy it is to say
With our hands raised up to Heaven
That we've lived for Him each day
By the grace that He has given!

What a great year this has been!
Forward progress ever making;
More of Christ we've sought to win,
More of earth and self forsaking.

How His grace our souls has blessed
With His voice so sweetly hearing!
How much richer is the rest
On His bosom we are sharing!

In the darkest trying hour
We have never been forsaken,
Kept by His Almighty power
Faith and hope have been unshaken.

Battles fought and vict'ries won,
Triumphs for the truth, oh, glory!
All the will of God was done,
Holding forth the gospel story.

Now we welcome the New Year,
And we seek the Saviour's blessing;
We are filled with hope and cheer
As t'ward Heaven we are pressing.

Onward, upward, forth we go,
Soldiers strong, the conflict facing;
He is with us, this we know
As His truth we are embracing.

—Leslie Busbee

Higher Ground

I thought of what I saw yesterday as we drove along an interstate highway. A storm and flood waters had come in and many houses were under water. It was a sad sight to see the little town and countryside around Manchac, LA. There they have many fishing camps, restaurants and some good homes, but they were built in that low marsh land where it is almost impossible to get down to a solid foundation. There the people were in the contaminated, germ-filled water trying to save their belongings; most of which wasn't worth saving, and certainly not top value. Now, no one forced those people to build in that area. They chose to be there and no doubt they will remain there after the water goes down. For some strange reason they like that kind of life.

So it is with people who are living in a flooded area of the sin life. They don't seem to look for anything better but take delight in the contaminations of sin. Although they don't have to, they live on in it. My burden is that they catch a glance of Calvary and move up to higher ground!

When one is willing to leave the deep marshes of sin and come to Jesus, no more will they need to stay in the quagmire of sin, tossed with the storms. Jesus is calling for people to come up to higher ground, not just to a place where self sees he needs to do better and go with some profession. Jesus says, "Ye must be born again." John 3:7. Let Jesus' blood cleanse you through and through and clothe you in the robe of righteousness! When we are born again, praise the Lord, we are made new. Old things pass away.

The grace of our Lord be with all. Let us willingly go all the way with Jesus. Truly He went all the way for us.

Yours in Christ's love, —Gladys Cashio

A Heritage Shared

Those blessed with Godly parents have received a precious heritage. Sis. Thelma Sprague, the mother of my wife, Mary, has been gone for almost four years, but the effect of her life for God remains. Following is a letter that she wrote to one of her children on their birthday. I trust that you will be blessed by sharing her personal testimony.

—Wayne Murphey

"Dear . . . I haven't written you a note for a long time! I don't get an opportunity to talk to you, so I'll write the things I want to say and give them to you as a birthday bonus!

"First, I want to say, I love you! Next, I want to say, I wish I had been a more thoughtful mother and have used the opportunities I had when you were little to better advantage. I feel like I could and should have talked to you more and told you more about Jesus, and how He saved me, then perhaps you would want to know Him more, and understand your need of Him better.

"I don't know if I ever told you, or if you

truth and I wanted to be a good mother. I realized I couldn't help myself because I really tried. I quit reading magazines that were not good, I tried to tell the truth and control my anger, but always I would fail to do the things I thought I should. Then I would be sorry and sometimes I cried at night when my little children were asleep because I hadn't been patient with them through the day.

"Remember, I was ignorant. I didn't know anyone who was really a Christian, and though I had gone to church some, I knew some of the church people weren't any better than I was and I didn't believe they could help me. I know God sent His Holy Spirit to talk to me and convict me of my sin, and put a hungering and thirsting in my soul after righteousness. I really wanted to live right! I felt dissatisfied towards Ed [my husband] thinking, 'Now if he would just take me to the movies and other places, that would make me feel better.' These things wouldn't have helped me at all; probably made me worse.

"But for the grace of God we might have

I remember in particular one special day when I was in my kitchen and I was thinking, 'Surely, if I died I wouldn't go to hell, because there are so many who are worse than I am.' It seemed a voice spoke in my heart immediately and said, 'Yes, Thelma, you would be lost.'

ever heard how I became a Christian? First, I was just your age (a couple or 3 months younger) when the Lord saved me. I was saved in Oct. before I was 22 in Jan. How come I got saved? Well, it was through the goodness and mercy of God!

"For many months, even for several years, there were times when I was so restless and dissatisfied. I thought if I had this or that, or if I could do this or that, or we had more money; that was what I needed. I can't describe those times of restlessness and discontentment, but looking back now I know it was the cry of my soul for God. It is at times like these the devil sometimes takes advantage and leads souls deeper into sin. Sin only drags people down and gets them more dissatisfied and their lives in a bigger mess. Remember sin destroys and corrupts! Only God can lift you up and give you a good life and peace.

"As time went on I began to realize I wasn't living right and I really did want to. I didn't want to get mad, (which I did; I had a temper!) I didn't want to hate anyone, I wanted to tell the

become alcoholics. Ed had a friend he liked real well at the bus station. They made plans for this bus-driver to bring his wife and come to our house. The man was going to bring whiskey (or something) for mixed drinks. I went to the store and bought ginger ale as a mixer. We were all ready, only they didn't come! (I thank God they didn't.) Who knows where that might have led?!

"Anyway, as time went on, and I had this struggle in my heart, longing for peace and finding none, getting so miserable that when I got up in the morning I would wish it were night so I could go to sleep and not feel the way I did, I thought about my soul. I remember in particular one special day when I was in my kitchen and I was thinking, 'Surely, if I died I wouldn't go to hell, because there are so many who are worse than I am.' It seemed a voice spoke in my heart immediately and said, 'Yes, Thelma, you would be lost.'

"I often thought how good God was to search me out, and reveal this truth to me, even speaking plainly to my heart, so that I would understand what it was I needed. He knew my ignor-

ance and had mercy on me, and in His goodness led me to repentance.

"After this I began to feel I would give my very life for peace. I tried to pray at home, and know I could have gotten saved at home if I had only understood the conditions. At last God worked in such a way to send someone who could tell me that I could **know** I was saved. I had often wondered if it was possible to **know**.

"Mom had asthma real bad, and I loved mom, and felt like she was going to die. The doctor had given her so many shots he said he was afraid to give her any more, and I just knew she would die if she didn't have something. A lady across the street from mom was attending the Church of God where Sis. Potts was pastor, and she came over and told us they believed in healing and did we want them to pray for mom? I grasped at that because somehow I believed God could help mom. The lady went after Sis. Potts and she came to pray for mom.

"When Sis. Potts came I was in the back yard, either hanging out clothes or taking them down, and grandma Blessing came to the upstairs window and said, 'Thelma, Mrs. Potts is here.' I remember the sinking sensation I had, the dread somehow, yet because I thought I should, I went in to see her. As I went into the back door and started towards the stairs, I met her coming down. I began to cry and to talk to Sis. Potts, and I told her how miserable I felt. I said, 'Can you really **know** when you are a Christian?' She told me, 'Yes, you **can** know.' That was the first person who had ever told me that.

"After that she would come to see how mom was, and each time she would talk to me. I just loved her, and in my heart I decided as soon as mom was able, I was going to church and go to the altar and stay there until I **knew** my sins were gone.

"About two weeks later, after mom was better and I was able to go home, on a Sunday night, I asked Ed if he would keep the children so I could go to church. He did, and I went into the building with my decision made to go to the altar when the service was over. I listened to the message, and I can't remember what it was, now, but they had two invitation songs. First a special song by two sisters who sang, 'Take Up Thy Cross and Follow Me,' then they sang 'Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling.' I decided when they sang the last chorus to the last verse, I would go, but before that a young girl came to me and said, 'Are you a Christian?' I shook my head 'no' and went to the front. I stayed at the altar and prayed earnestly. I stayed and stayed

thinking I ought to shout or something, I guess. All the difference I could tell was that I felt lighter. (The burden was gone.) Finally Sis. Potts said, 'Thelma, if you were to get killed on the way home, have you done all you could to get right with God?' I said 'Yes', because in my heart I knew I truly had. I had confessed my sins and repented. All I needed to do was believe. After I said that I had done all I could, then I got up from the altar and the service was dismissed. When I got home I told Ed I had gone to the altar to get saved. In the night I awoke and began to think about going to the altar, and oh, what joy flooded my soul!

"The next day I was so happy I wasn't even hungry, but I knelt by the bed and thanked God for saving me. In the afternoon Sis. Potts came to see me and I told her how happy I was. Grandma S. came and I told her the Lord had saved me. I told my neighbor, 'This is the happiest day of my life' and why.

"I could hardly wait for Wednesday night to come so I could go to prayer meeting. You see, I was completely changed, 'made a new creature in Christ Jesus,' or 'born again' as Jesus told Nicodemus he must be, in St. John the 3rd chapter. 'Old things passed away, and all things became new.' I felt like everything was new. I no longer loved the things I had before (worldly music, etc.). I loved to go to church. I loved the Saints (Christians) and wanted to be in every service. I loved the songs we sang at church. My whole life was turned around. I found power to live above sin. I didn't have to tell any more lies and I didn't get mad. I loved everybody and wanted to help anyone else find this wonderful salvation. (However, not very many were interested in it or believed they needed it.) I have never been the same Thelma since Jesus saved me. I became a better wife and mother, neighbor and friend. Oh! I thank God for what He did for me!

"I want to tell you it is good to be a Christian. It isn't dull and hard. It is the way of the transgressor (sinner) that is hard. Sin just gets you into trouble and destroys and corrupts. Jesus came to give you the more abundant life. I didn't realize I hadn't begun to live until I found God, then I found 'newness of life', peace, and joy I had never known before, and a satisfying life. No matter what you ever gain of this world's goods, you will never be satisfied without God. No matter where you go, or what you have, or what you do, there will always be something missing until you find God. . .

"Remember God loves you. Jesus died for you. It isn't His will that you perish.

"I love you.

—Mom"

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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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$1.00
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Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044
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EDITORIALS

We send New Year's greetings to all our readers. We trust that the joybells of salvation are ringing in your hearts and that there is a bright future ahead of you in the coming year. Many times it is worthwhile to pause to rededicate our lives and chart our course for the future.

We would like to share what the goals of the Print Shop are for the coming year. We are glad for the good effects of the printed gospel in 1985, however, it has only whetted appetites and opened new fields for the gospel in a greater magnitude. It is our desire to fill this need in a larger measure.

In stock at this office are approximately 400 different gospel tracts and over 100 different books. A sizable amount of printed material has been mailed to foreign missions free of charge. The following reproduced letters are a sampling of the correspondence which we receive.

Nov. 24, 11, 1985.

Thank You for The Tracts Sent to me
I have distributed them carefully
from house to house and many
have been won to Christ for which
we are so thankful to the Lord
Many have written to us stating
that they have repented and received
Christ as saviour. Remember me
again. Can you give me big
Parcel as you can. 1986 will
be 21 years I am distributed this
tracts for the work of God.
I am nail all my body with the
body of Jesus Christ my Lord.
Let us work for God because the
night is coming which we can not
again. This is sure. Heaven is
not a joke my friend. All my life
is for Jesus Christ my Lord. Do you
think all the Christian is working
for God. As for me I will not lazy
Heaven there is no trouble no sickness
happy in Heaven. Jesus Love me.
I Love Jesus. Jesus is coming
Jesus is near. I don't want
to work a lazy work for my
Lord Jesus Christ.

Your sister ANET OYADIRAN,
Ikoji Lagos Nigerian.

SUBSCRIBE TO THIS PAPER—1 YEAR FOR \$1.00

Ghana W/A
18th/1/85

Dear Brother-in-christ,

I am your dear friend S. K. Obeng Nsiah: who is writing you this morning. My Brother Thank you for your letter which arrived me 18th/1/85.

In the first place, I want very much to know your condition of health and how far you are going on in His work. I thank you again very much for the Books you send it for me.

I have distributed the books to so many people in order to know much about your work and about the Almighty God. Many people here have now decided to make friends with with and have asked for your address from me. I am very much grateful for the Sermon Sermons books you send to me. It has helped me greatly in that every information I want is immediately known on application.

Here is the news from the effort we made at a place called Eppiduasi: when we started delivering the message on Spiritualism, because of this quotation 11 Cor 11:13-15, the idols worshippers started to obstruct us by beating ear-piercing drums following by a very dirty songs made by some two boys all to stop the word of God but we triumph over all of them by His Grace.

I thank you all very much in His Grace NAME. I shall not forget you all in my prayers especially when I am fasting.

Have and extend to all my sincere greetings.

Sincere greetings-Amen

I am your Brother-in-christ

Solomon 

Literature that is mailed to foreign countries is paid for through our general fund. We also maintain a Missionary Fund from which we send monthly offerings to missionaries in the foreign fields.

We realize that there is a great work to be done right here in the United States also, by such letters as the following.

CA—"God bless you in the name of the Lord Jesus and the peace of God be with you.

"I am a Christian for fifteen years. I speak for the Lord in churches and in the street where I have an opportunity. Jesus preached in the street and said, "Go ye," Mark 16:15, 16. There is no other gospel that should be preached. Gal. 1:6-10. I preach in the name of Jesus in Eco Park, Broadway and 7th, Long Beach, Radonda

Beach, San Pedro Beach, Santa Monica, Highland Park, Huntington Park, and other places as the Spirit leads me. I write you as the place where I used to get tracts has moved and I don't know how to get any more. I didn't have any tracts to give out. I meditated in my apartment, then left for the park. I sat down on a bench. After battling in myself trying to think of a means to obtain more tracts to give to lost souls, I thought to pray. I knelt and prayed. When I opened my eyes, I saw three tracts close to me. I saw no papers on the ground when I knelt, much less tracts. I picked them up from the ground and read them. This is how I obtained your address as my Father told me that you would help me get some more tracts. There are many souls to rescue from sin and I am poor in this land. I know you care for lost souls too. By faith I wait your answer.

"God bless you, —Julio Rodriguez Diaz"

We do not consider it "luck" that put the tracts into the hands of Julio Diaz, but the providence of God. Hopefully, more souls will be helped through his efforts. We are glad to provide literature to all we can who answer the call of God to work for Him.

We also maintain a Home Mission fund from which we distribute to different ministers who are laboring for God. We feel that it has served the cause well in the past and we hope to continue it throughout this year.

Literature is printed here for the salvation of lost souls, and for the edification of the saints. There are many who are isolated and unable to attend church every Sunday to receive courage and enlightenment from the preached word. The printed word can help to fill this vacancy.

The *Faith and Victory* paper is the nucleus around which these other endeavors are centered. We are encouraged by the response which we receive and encourage you to continue to submit testimonies and articles. For several months we have not been able to print as much copy in the paper as we have received. We keep this copy on file and use it as we have space and the Lord leads. We also encourage you to subscribe to the paper for your friends and relatives. This is one way to share the gospel.

Throughout the coming year, let us be true workers for God. As you support this work with your prayers and means, we endeavor to help others and thus are "workers together" to the glory of God.

We would like to remind our readers that beginning January 1st, 1986, the *Faith and Victory* paper will cost \$1.00 per year.

In stock and available for the price of \$1.50 each, are 1986 wall calendars. Each calendar measures 7¼ by 13½ inches and includes a colorful nature scene for every month. Remember to include 75¢ for postage and handling.

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We now have available bound volumes of the 11 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. Also for sale are the 1985 *Beautiful Way* books for Juniors (52 papers for the year) at \$1.00 each, plus 65¢ for postage and handling.

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It is customary for this January issue to go to press before the Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting. However, since the Meeting will be held earlier than usual this year, we will wait until it closes to begin printing.

—Wayne Murphey

BOOK WANTED

Bro. O. C. Porter is interested in obtaining a copy of "A History of the Church" by Henry C. Wickersham. If you have a copy of this book and would be willing to part with it, contact Bro. Porter at: 7 Karl Drive, Guthrie, OK 73044. It would be greatly appreciated.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

LORANGER, LA MEETING REPORT

The Assembly Meeting in Loranger, LA was rich, full and joyful. God visited us all. Many found help to their lives. Certainly God is alive for all who will receive Him. The call today is for everyone to be Holy in heart, life and to be faithful.

Thanks to the many who came and helped make this meeting such a blessing.

—Nelson Doolittle

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REVIVAL AT BAKERSFIELD, CA

The saints at Bakersfield, CA, extend a warm welcome to all to attend the annual revival to be held, Lord willing, from Friday night, Feb. 7 through Sunday night, Feb. 16, 1986. In addition to nightly services, plans are for a daytime service at 1:00 p.m. on week days, with three services on the last Friday and on each Saturday and Sunday.

Please pray for the success of the meeting and that the Lord will send those of His choosing to help in the meeting. The chapel address is 1802 Virginia Ave., phone (805) 395-9314.

For further information, contact Bro. Robert Mays, 421 S. Brown St., phone (805) 325-2730, or Bro. Archie Sherman, Jr., 3400 Rayborn Way, phone (805) 871-1636.

—Sis. Robena Montgomery

In Memorial

Wilbert Watson was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on August 22, 1926 to Mat and Ruth Watson. Wilbert was the fourth of five children.

His early childhood days were spent in Vernon, Oklahoma, where he attended public school. Wilbert worked for several construction companies, Commander Company, and others. He had also worked for the Choctaw Sanitation Company.

Wilbert met and married Authorine Cook, and to this union seven children were born.

Shortly before Wilbert's demise, he accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and was saved. He accepted the faith of his beloved wife with Bro. Charles Chandler as his pastor. His last days were happy ones, as Wilbert was busy making restitutions, thanking and praising God for His goodness to him and his family.

Cherishing his memory are his devoted wife, Authorine of the home; four sons, Author, Clyde, Donald Ray, and Anthony; five daughters, Vanessa, Teresa, Kathy, Wilma Janice and Jeanie; his mother, Mrs. Ruth Watson of Midwest City, Oklahoma; two brothers, Walter of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Willard of Midwest City, Oklahoma; eleven grandchildren, two uncles and a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives, saints and friends.

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James Oscar Snell, son of the late George J. Snell and Winnie Snell, was born April 1, 1923 in Rural McLennan County, Texas and passed away October 15, 1985 at the age of 62 years and 6 months. His father, one sister, Ida Mae, and one daughter, Sandra, preceded him in death.

He moved to Wichita, Kansas about 30 years ago and lived there until his death. His six children were raised in Wichita. He had worked for Cudahys for 19 years and for the Wichita School Board, where he was employed at the time of his death, for ten years.

He was a kind man and very caring which made him a good husband and loving father. He will be greatly missed by his family.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, Earnestine of the home; his mother, Winnie of Waco, Texas; 3 sons, James, Jr. in the U.S. Air Force in Baltimore, Maryland, Eric from Castle Air Force Base in California and Elliot of Wichita; 2 daughters, Deborah McNeire of Little Rock, Arkansas and Cynthia Snell of Wichita; 2 step-children, Barbara Massingale of Wichita and Elijah Haley of Tulsa, Oklahoma; 2 brothers, Johnny and Irvin, both of Fort Worth, Texas, 4 sisters, Katherine McGowan, Everlee Tiller and Liza Lott, all of Waco, Texas and Georgia Lee Bailey, Sacramento, California; 11 grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Wichita, Kansas, officiated by Bro. Keith Marsh and Sis. Katherine Williams. Interment was at Old Mission Cemetery, Wichita, Kansas.

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Freddie Mae Magness (Snook) the daughter of Fred and Ophelia Lefford, was born on February 22, 1919 in Boley, Oklahoma. She departed this life on Tuesday, October 22, 1985.

Freddie attended the Boley public schools. She was united in holy matrimony to Eldridge Magness. They became loving devoted parents of thirteen (13) children. Two sons preceded her in death, Glen Magness and Billy Martin. Two grandsons, Robert Magness and Wayne Earl Standford also preceded her in death.

At an early age, Freddie was saved and was faithful in attending services. The family moved to Green Pastures for a short time, later moving to Wichita, Kansas where they lived for many years. While there they attended services at the Church of God. Sister Magness returned to the Spencer area and worshiped at Green Pastures Church of God and was a faithful member until her death. Sister Magness was a kind, quiet and tender hearted person who was always ready to assist with any duty for the church, likewise, she was always ready to help in the community.

She leaves the following members to cherish her loving memories, her husband, Eldridge Magness of the home; eight sons, Loutis of Augusta, Georgia, Garland and Fred of Wichita, Kansas, Earnest of Boley, Oklahoma, Everett, Donald Ray and Sterlin of Spencer, Oklahoma and James of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; four daughters, Lorriane and Yvonne of Wichita, Kansas, Rita of Georgetown, Texas and Cecilia of Spencer, Oklahoma; two sisters, Lillie Mae Timmons of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Mildred Washington Johnson of Kansas City, Missouri; two uncles, Oscar and Otha Hampton, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; 40 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren, and many other relatives, saints and friends.

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Elezer Pierro Fuller, the daughter of James and Josephine Pierro, was born on October 21, 1919 in Bristow, Oklahoma. She departed this life on November 25, 1985, at the age of 66 years, one month and four days.

She married Olonzia Fuller on September 2, 1938 in Bristow, Oklahoma. Brother Fuller preceded her in death in 1984. Together they raised one daughter, Jacqueline. In 1946, they moved to Stockton, Calif. where she resided until the Lord called her home.

Sister Fuller was wonderfully saved in 1947. Bro. Isaac Chandler was holding services in Stockton, and seeing her sincerity he said that one day he believed she would be a "pillar in the congregation." She fulfilled this prophesy, being one of the charter members of the Church of God (Evening Light Saints) in Stockton.

Sister Fuller fully devoted her life to God's work. She was an example in the congregation in bearing the fruits of the spirit: love, long-suffering, gentleness, meekness, and particularly faith. She had what

some referred to as an "unyielding faith". She was twice healed of two very serious illnesses, one of which was a heart condition where she would have fainting spells. When others gave up hope, Sister Fuller held on to God's promises to her.

Her welcome smile and words of kindness will be greatly missed by her congregation, family and friends.

She leaves to mourn and fondly cherish her memory, her mother, Josephine Pierro of Stockton, Calif.; her daughter, Jacqueline Marie of Cupertino, Calif.; one granddaughter; two sisters, Ethel Dillard and Ola Breckenridge, both of Stockton; two brothers, Jefferson Pierro of Allensworth, Calif., and Everett Pierro of Stockton; her devoted niece, Vilena Ivy of Stockton, as well as many other nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

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William H. Abbott was born December 8, 1904 and departed this life on November 21, 1985 at his home in Dayton, Ohio at the age of 80 years, 11 months and 13 days. His first wife, Dovie Abbott, preceded him in death February 12, 1973.

In the late 1930's he was saved and born into the Church of God and lived a devoted Christian life, trusting the Lord to the end. We appreciate the faithfulness of God to hear prayer when it was offered during his severe suffering. There is a vacancy now that only the God of all comfort can fill. We treasure the example that was left for us.

He is survived by his wife Essie of the home, 2 daughters, Betty Reynolds and Della Gutwein of Dayton; 6 sons, Don, Carl, James, Charles and Larry Abbott of Dayton, Kenneth Abbott of Loranger, LA; 26 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; 2 sisters, Anna Mae Norton and Mary Wright; 1 brother, Samuel E. Abbott.

Funeral services were conducted at the Tobias Funeral Home by Bro. Donald Sharp. Interment was in Miami Valley Memory Gardens, Centerville, Ohio.

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to thank each one for their prayers, love, cards and phone calls. This means so much to us at this time.
—The family

MY FAREWELL NOTE

Hello Grandpa,
As I recall not long ago,
Seems only like a month or so;
But, yet it's been almost a year,
As time speeds on in higher gear.

I wrote to you in poetic form
And reminisced your love so warm;
Of how that in my boyhood days
You spoiled me with your goodly ways.

We know not what a day may hold
While travelling down our daily road;
For life on earth is short and fair,
It's like a vapor in the air.

You see, Grandpa, our God saw best
To take you to your Heavenly rest;
He left the leaves, and took, you see,
The pillar of your family tree.

But, Oh, the memories shall live on,
Although from this life you have gone;
And someday when we meet again
We'll be with Christ our Dearest Friend.

'Till we meet again,

Love,

—Kenny Abbott, Jr.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Marcia Evelyn (Davis) McCoy was born to Benjamin F. and Bertha Davis on February 12, 1908. Being taught the fear of God by her parents as a young girl, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and and Saviour, and for the rest of her life endeavored to live to please Him. She honoured her parents for their faithfulness to God in setting the proper example of godliness for her.

She was united in marriage to Darius Gibson, a minister of the gospel, on August 12, 1933. Theirs was a life of service to God and to His people scattered across the United States. Many miles they traveled, pulling house trailers, two of which were home-made. She was faithful at his side at home and while traveling in meetings. To this union were born two sons and one daughter. They made their home for many years near Seymour, Missouri. Brother Gibson passed away in 1968.

She was united in marriage to William McCoy, who was also a minister of the gospel, on October 2, 1971. She lived with him in Ohio until their move to Guthrie, Oklahoma in 1975. Brother McCoy passed away in 1979.

Sister McCoy loved to serve the Lord and do what she could to help others. Many heart-warming and encouraging letters were written by her willing hand. She was a good homemaker and mother, doing the best with what she had for everyone. She was known to have that unique motherly talent of fixing a delicious meal out of seemingly very little. Even as her strength began to fail she still did what she could to keep up her work for Jesus. Although she suffered much in her body, she kept her courage and faith in the Lord, trusting in Him to the very end.

She departed from this life on November 25, 1985 at the age of 77 years, 9 months, and 13 days. She is survived by one daughter, Esther Cogly of Rock Island, Illinois; two sons, Reuel Gibson, of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and Samuel Gibson, of Phoenix, Arizona; two sisters, Thelma (Busbee) Ray and Beatrice Eck, both of Guthrie; 11 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the saints chapel in Guthrie with Brother Richard Madden officiating, assisted by Bros. Don McIntosh and Leslie Busbee. Burial was in Summit View Cemetery near Guthrie, Oklahoma.

IN MEMORY OF EVELYN MCCOY

What can I say to honor her,
To give her a tribute due?
Her life was pure and spotless,
And she to her Savior was true.

Many a mile she traveled,
With her husband by her side.
Taking the gospel to places unknown,
Where people had been denied.

She bore her affliction with patience,
An example in word and deed—
She ministered to those about her
And opened her hand to their need.

But now God has called her home,
Her race on this earth is run.
She has heard those words from
Her Savior's lips, Well done my child; well done.

—Grace Jones

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Charles Getterson was born January 26, 1896 in Volina, Russia and departed this life on December 2, 1985 at Berrin Center, Michigan. Graveside services were held on December 4, 1985 at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Sodus, Michigan. Among the survivors is his daughter, Olive Getterson of Sodus, Michigan.

Prayer Requests

AR—"My husband is not doing very well. I have had arthritis real bad."—Sis. Pearl Steele
NC—"We have an urgent request."

—M. A. McDonald

PA—"Please remember me in prayer."

—Sis. Bernice McKenrick

KS—"I would like for you to pray for my three-year-old granddaughter who has rheumatoid arthritis in one knee and now it has spread to her toes."

—Walter Wullschleger

WV—"I have a very special request I would like for you to pray with me."

—Erma Clevenger

NY—"I have many requests, God knows all of them. Please remember me."—Mae E. Smith

WV—"Please pray for my complete healing."

—Sis. Earl Tinsley

MO—"Please pray for my husband, Roy Blanchard."

—Sis. Blanchard

CA—Remember Sis. Robena Montgomery in prayer.

MD—"Please remember our family in prayer, I am waiting and trusting God for our many needs."

—Celeste Schmitt

OK—"Please pray for me. I suffer from high blood pressure, also my nerves are bothering me recently, and my heart."

—Elnora Conley

ID—"Remember my sister, Wilma Harris, she needs complete healing."

—Ruby Marken

AR—"Pray for Joyce Steele who has cancer, she needs help both soul and body. Pray for all my unsaved loved ones."

—Wanda Evans

We receive so many requests for unsaved loved ones and I feel most every reader of the *Faith and Victory* has that request. We thank God for those who are yielding to His wooing Spirit and we want to see others. We give God thanksgiving for His healing power. In Matt.

28:18, we read, "And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." His power takes away sins, also heals our bodies. "With His stripes we are healed." Is. 53:5b. At this time we give thanks to God for what He has done for our sister, Wilma Anderson. When we were called to Calif. in September they gave little hopes of her recovery and to us it was a sad time, but the Lord stepped in and answered prayer for her, both soul and body. Today she wants all the saints to know she is thankful for your prayers for her and how the Lord has helped in different ways. It is wonderful and we do thank every one who had a burden to pray. She is not completely healed but much better. Continue to remember her and we will appreciate it. All praise and thanks to our God, the Almighty One.

—Maybelle Pruitt

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

LA—Dear Saints everywhere: I want to tell what God has done for me in the past few months. On August 26, 1985 at about 9:45 a.m. I climbed down off the back of a truck at work. My ring finger on my left hand got caught between the muffler and the brace that the muffler is fastened to. I pulled the finger off about 1/4 inch from my hand. The doctor operated on my hand and moved my little finger over next to my middle finger. In doing so it caused my fingers to draw up to where I couldn't use them. The doctor said it would be about 18 months before I could use my hand much, but praise God, it is doing fine. I have 90% movement and about 70% strength.

I have only been saved a little while and I'm so afraid that I am going to fail God as I have my wife and family. My wife left me on September 22, 1985 and it has been almost more than I could bear. If it hadn't been for the prayers of God's people and my family, I could not have made it through all this. I thank you all so much and I thank God He has been so merciful to me. He has helped me with my financial problems and my hand.

I need the saints' prayers that I can keep the faith and live for God and be all that I can be. Also that my wife will get saved as we need God so much in our everyday lives.

Many thanks, —Michael Goldsberry

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Greetings to all in Jesus dear name: I want to testify to the goodness of our Lord and Saviour. This past year has been a wonderful year for me. I have done much traveling over the country, the Lord has protected me from

accident and blessed my soul in numerous ways. I left my home in Guthrie, November 3rd, and spent a few days in Tulsa visiting relatives and saints. I flew to St. Louis and enjoyed the flight. There I was put on a much smaller plane for Decatur, Illinois. I always had a horror of being in a tight place and when I saw the small plane I was to travel in, I was fearful but had no choice. The Lord brought to my mind a message I heard a few nights before, how God had always, since the beginning of time provided comfort for His people. In olden times He saw man needed something to comfort him after the toils of the day. He made the wine which made the heart glad. That was all man had to comfort them in those days when Jesus came. Before He went away He said, "I will not leave you comfortless." He sent the Holy Spirit to be a comfort to us. As I thought on this, my nerves became calm and peaceful. How I appreciated the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not only a Comforter, but a teacher and guide.

In my experience early in my Christian life, I was isolated: seldom in meeting or in contact with the saints. I became offended, one time, at something that was said. It hurt me deeply. The Spirit showed me I could not have ill feelings toward people and please the Lord. I fought the devil several weeks before victory came. A few years later I heard Bro. Chandler preach on "true forgiveness". If one truly forgives, it is as though it had never been. I could truly say I had that experience. That feeling of pain has never returned. The song was brought to my mind, "Holy Spirit faithful teacher, be my Comforter and Guide." Truly He is all that to me. I am enjoying this wonderful salvation.

Yours in Christian love,

—Edith Wall

From the Mailbox . . .

OK—The stronger we are in faith, the more effective are our prayers. "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph. 6:16. There are going to be many fiery darts we will face in living for our Lord.

It is not enough to say, "I believe" or "Ask and receive"! Or may I add, it's not enough to say, "I care", or be pleasant, kind and feed the poor. Yes, all these things are good to do, but they cannot insure salvation for you. Not until we are born anew can the Spirit of God be alive in us! "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalms 51:10.

My greatest goal in this life is to have the Lord down in my heart. Pray for us that we will

always keep the love of God growing continuously in our lives. We want to say we also appreciate the paper and enjoy reading the different one's testimonies.

Christian love, —Earl and Marie Benson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—(Nov. 24) Dear Workers of the Print Shop, and Saints scattered abroad: THANK YOU ALL, for praying with me concerning my move (and "permanent" assignment) to the Joseph Harp Correctional Center. The Lord effected it this last week. Therefore, I am experiencing better treatment and opportunities. Also, the Harp Center is closer to my family, thereby making it easier for them to visit me.

Furthermore, the Lord seems to have a work for me here. Many have greeted me back, including some that have sought action against me in the past. Did not God say that He would make even your enemies to be at peace with you? Praise His holy name!

Please continue to pray for me, that I will be ALL that God would have me to be.

I feel the Lord has helped me gain some ground. I have learned important lessons in the battles I have been through.

Let us continue to pray for prisons everywhere, that God's truth will be preached there.

Yours in Him, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Thank the Lord! Today I am much encouraged to live for the Lord. He is so good to me. He is my dearest and best friend I ever had. I am thankful that I can go to Him anytime night or day; He will hear and answer prayer. I can tell Him all of my needs, desires, wants, hurts, disappointments, ambitions, just everything. He knows all about me, all my concerns, troubles, trials and tests of life. He will see me through. I have found that His way is BEST and He does lead true. He is everything to me. He works on me and helps me with those things that are not pleasing to Him. I want Him to have His way in my life. Whatever it takes to get to heaven will be worth the price I have to pay. I want the Lord to have complete control of me. He loves me and I love Him and He will never put more upon me than I can bear. All things that He permits are for my good and His glory. I have His grace to be sufficient in life. All I want to do is meekly follow Him all the way. AMEN.

—Sis. Hobbs

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MS—Dear good laboring Ones at the Print Shop: May everything good in Jesus name be yours. I look forward to your work and labor of

love every month, the *Faith and Victory*. I read most of it through and through when my head is a little let up. I have suffered constantly for 12 years. I still plead your prayers.

With love for everyone in the Lord,

—Ethel Lowery

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Ones: I am happy this special Christmas time to witness for the Lord that He keeps me saved and living to please Him. He is so precious to keep us well and happy and we have so many answers to prayer and blessings.

How wonderful it is at such a moment in our lives to remember that almost 2,000 years ago God made a supreme and special effort to let us know that He does recognize and care about each of us, no matter how jostled or crowded or harassed we may be. To remind us, to reassure us, He gave us His perfect Christmas gift, and laid it in a manger.

Thank you for the little *Faith and Victory* paper. I have saved and enjoyed it from away back. Pray for me that I will ever keep saved and living for Jesus all the days of my life.

—Sister Lucille S. Allen

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AR—I thank the dear Lord for looking down one time, searching me out of sectism and showing me the real Church of God, which I love. My children can't understand why I don't go to the church where they go, I went a couple of times but it didn't satisfy or give me any food for my soul. Do remember them in prayer. Also remember Dad and me along with David who is living with us now.

Love and prayers,

—Sis. West

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

NC—Dear Ones: Greetings in the name of the Lord. Praise His holy name! A name worthy to be praised. Thank the Lord for everything.

We're hoping everyone is encouraged and pressing on for God. As for us we are ever encouraged to stay with the Lord.

We have an urgent request we desire to see the Lord work out and we need the saints' prayers.

Sincerely,

—The McDonalds

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AL—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all the workers there: I just want to thank each of you and praise God for the faithfulness of each one in their faithfulness to carry on the work there.

I want to thank each one who prayed for my son, Ralph. He does seem to be greatly improved. I am just praying God's will to be done in his life, also in the lives of all the family.

Christian love,

—Leora Frink

MI—Please accept this gift to further your good work. I have enjoyed your fine paper for many years. I am now 94 years old and can still read and find comfort throughout its pages.

May God continue to bless your work.

In Christian love, —Adolph Bucholtz

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the workers at the Print Shop: We send our greetings of Christian love to you dear ones that have worked so faithful through another year. We do appreciate the *Faith and Victory* paper so much. We do miss the *Mission Trail*. The messages in them were always so encouraging, so it is with the *Faith and Victory* paper.

May God bless each of you for your labour of love to get the truth out to all that receive it. God is blessing us in many ways, but we both still need prayer for the healing of our bodies.

Yours in Christian love,

—Bro. and Sis. H. P. Huskey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Lord Jesus Christ: We love to hear from you and we love the work that you are doing. May God bless you, and keep you. We are elderly people and would love for you to pray for us. I will soon be 88 and Ruth 91. Pray for Ruth's arthritis and hearing. I have allergy and loss of hearing. We pray that God will bless you in the work that you are doing . . .

May God bless you,—Ed and Ruth Upton

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

TX—Dearest Maybelle and all at the Print Shop: The paper is a ray of light and strength for me. Words cannot tell how much it refreshes my heart and soul. There is strength to draw from the testimonies of faith and healing. May the Holy God that created all bless and give each one of you strength to carry on and fulfill His will in giving food to the hungry and strength to the weak. How great is the privilege to come to the Throne of Grace—through the blood of our Saviour and pray for one another.

Times tell us to give special attention to the reading and study of the revelation of God's book to John. If possible I would like to have a lot of this in the question and answer column, such as the one that has been by Ostis Wilson on Revelation 19:19. It is quite timely and a must for God's people. I hope to see more of this throughout the coming year if it is pleasing to you and our Lord. Our diligence and constant effort is God's opportunity to give to His people the understanding of the seriousness of the time we have before the last trump.

So this is a "thank you all" for your effort to share your faith, strength, help, love and prayers to all for 1985.

With love and prayers, —Betty Anderson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love. I hope all is going well with you and the work there at the Print Shop. I appreciate the labors of everyone there and also the good work that is being accomplished through the many tracts, booklets and papers that are being sent forth.

Truly the Lord is mindful of His people. I just read the Scripture this morning and it was very encouraging where it said that the "Lord taketh pleasure in his people." Psalm 149:4. I am so glad that He counted me worthy to be numbered with His people. There is so much mentioned in the Bible about His care for His people . . . Will close for this time. Remember the work of the Lord here.

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: We are having eye problems. Pray much for us. We are yet saved and encouraged to live for the Lord. Love to the saints,

—Bro. and Sis. John D. Matthews

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

IN—Dear Brother Murphey: I greet you and all the dear saints everywhere in the all wonderful name of Jesus. Praise His great, all wonderful name. I hope all is well at the Print Shop, and the work is going fine. As for me, I am happy in the Lord. I never enjoyed the dear Lord more in my life than I do right now in this awful wicked time. I sure am looking for His coming soon. My prayer is, "Come Lord Jesus, come."

I want to leave a request. Please pray for my body.

Your brother in the one body,

—Nathan Mobley

Discipline

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

Discipline, like the bridle in the hand of a good rider, should exercise its influence without appearing to do so; should be ever active, both as a support and as a restraint, yet seem to lie easily in hand. It must always be ready to check or to pull up, as occasion may require; and only when the horse is a runaway should the action of the curb be perceptible.

—Selected

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Ghana . . .

Nov. 16—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne, and all dear saints everywhere: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus.

Once again we come your way from Ghana. Things are looking much brighter here.

Since God spared my life last Aug. 6th, I have seen Him moving things out of the way so we can have a real Church of God work established in Ghana.

Starting Dec. 1, 1985, we will be worshipping in the living room of the Mission House. We can seat 40 people comfortably in the room and an adjacent closed veranda can seat another 20 or so. We are planning to broadcast over a loud speaker system our Sunday morning services, our "Opening Song" will be a must to open every service.

We have found our pre-dawn services are reaching souls, so pray for us as we reach out for hungry souls in Ghana.

Bro. William Kusi will be pastoring here at Akumadan-Ashi, and will be living in the Mission House and caring for it.

There is about an acre of land where the Mission House is located (all Church of God property.) A man has promised to come and pull old stumps for us just for fuel and one man's pay, so we are getting ready the ground so we can plant corn and beans when the rain comes about March of next year. The Church wants to take on a project of sheep raising too so that they can help the work financially—There is such a money problem here; only God knows.

Bro. John Peprah is pastoring the work at Wenchi and teaching English at the Secondary school there for this school year. The work is doing real well. They have short Bible Services every night, pre-dawn prayer meetings and two services on Sundays.

There is an independent church work near Techiman which wants to join with us—we have met with some of them twice and they are anxious to receive Church of God (Bible) teachings, so pray for us, as we make decisions that will effect the Church of God here.

It is real hot now and dry. Things are not as lush and green this time of year, but about March the rains come and things change from dry to wet.

I feel real good as I write to you. God never does a half way job. I am looking for an extension on my visa soon. Maybe this is the time I will get my resident permit.

I am asking Bro. Kofi Marfo to write of his conversion, for the *Faith and Victory*. I will

enclose it in this letter. It is truly wonderful what the Lord has done and is doing here.

Your missionary to Ghana,

—Sis. Dorothy Keiser

Editors note: Sis. Dorothy Keiser received a visitors visa from the Ghana government to visit the United States. Having received the visa from the Ghana officials, it will assure her passage back into that country. She arrived in the States the middle of December and plans to be here until the last of January.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Dear Saints in America and abroad: Greetings from Ghana in Jesus' dear name.

I am a detective policeman who was put on the two robbery cases reported by Sis. Dorothy Keiser to the Akumadan Police in Nov. 1985. The Lord saved me in the cause of my investigation into these two cases and this is how it happened.

During investigations into her complaints, I visited her mission house to inspect the scene of the incident, but instead of showing me the places where the theft went on, she taught me Scriptures from her heart. She looked funny to me at the beginning for diverting my mind from my investigations to Scriptures at that particular time. God is so wonderful that before she could explain the heart chart to me, the Word of God pierced through my heart like a sharp-edged sword. I left her for the barracks after enquiries but the Word stung in my heart. While in the barracks I realized that the teachings I had from Sis. Dorothy were deeper than what I have ever had in my life. This encouraged me to visit her continuously for counselling and her counselling has grown me in Jesus Christ so much. So that I have control over myself and I am living for Jesus alone. I then felt the need for her to send the light to the people of my home town, Wenchi, in the Ashanti Region. On her return to Ghana from America, I took her and her ministers to my afore-mentioned home town where both street and classroom meetings were held from June 25-29, 1985. I got saved in one of the classroom meetings and a work was started there. Quite a bunch of souls have been saved at Wenchi since the establishment of the work there.

In fact, when I judge between my former Christian life and now, I notice a great difference. I am experiencing the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The sins I committed, I am committing them no more. When I pray to God, He answers my prayers and heals my sick children.

My sincere thanks to the Almighty God who brought Sis. Dorothy to Ghana and the same

goes to those who have contributed to her continuous stay here. God be with us all.

—Kofi Marfo

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From Mexico . . .

Nov. 25—Dear Sister: I write these lines in order to salute you all wishing that the peace and communion of the Holy Spirit be in everyone of your hearts . . .

My dear sister, I hope that when you receive this letter in your hands that you are enjoying the rich blessings of our God. I am wishing to see and know all the Saints. (I Thess. 3:7-13) We pray especially for all the workers and that God will keep all firm and that God will give us more workers in His vineyard. The harvest is great and the laborers few. We always pray for all the Saints there and over the whole world.

Brethren, only God knows of our burden and love for souls. Pray much for us that we will stay firm and do the will of God in everything, saying Amen in our hearts.

We give thanks to God because truly He has blessed in the work here and we have had very beautiful services. We are thinking if it is the will of God to make a better place where we could worship . . . Help us pray for this. Do pray for a worker for Ojos Negros.

Pray much for us and we will do the same for you. Salute all the Saints.

Yours in the Lord, —Mayarino Escobar

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From the Philippines . . .

Oct. 23—Dear Sister Pruitt: Greetings of love in the precious name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We are sorry about the passing away of Brother Murphey's father. For the past few years many of the valiant soldiers of Christ have gone to receive their crown of life. It is a great loss of the Church but the Apostle Paul said death is not a loss but a gain.

With God's help the gospel work here is moving nicely in spite of many trials. We have two groups going out every night. One group is going for Bible studies and one group is going for devotionals in the homes of the saints. The young people have a regular fellowship meeting every Friday night. A group of elderly saints were going to the barrios for services.

A very strong typhoon hit the province of Nueva Ecija last Friday night. It is a super typhoon with a maximum wind of 220 kilometers (136.7 miles) per hour. Many houses and much crops were damaged. Our rice that was ready to be harvested was destroyed because of the strong wind and the flood. The saints were

much affected. Please pray for us and especially for the saints who suffered much.

May God continue to bind our hearts with love as we continue to advance the whole truth to the world. Again we say thank you for your wonderful love for us. Greetings to the Faith Publishing workers and to all the saints in U. S. A.

With much Christian love,

—Matias S. Tangunan and family

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From India . . .

Nov. 23—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and other dear ones in the Print Shop: Greetings to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. I just came back home from Tamil Nadu after five days visit there. The newly started works in that state are in progress now. God opened a wide field there, but the needs are many. They assemble in rented buildings now.

Our 20th General Convention is scheduled to be conducted on the 15th of January, 1986 for 6 days. I wish some saints from America could be able to come over and attend and preach in the meetings.

Sorry to know that several old saints or soldiers are being called Home these days. May God call many young soldiers of Christ to fill up those blanks. Let us exchange our prayers.

We have decided to conduct one day fasting and prayer meeting on 29th of November at the Nadu Kkunnu chapel. On the 30th of Nov. and Dec. 1, we plan to conduct 2 days of night meetings at Nelli Kkunnam. Quite recently, a catholic church priest got saved and baptised and came out of the catholic church. He will give his testimony during those meetings. He will tell his testimony in our 20th General Convention also.

May God bless you abundantly.

With prayers, yours in Him,

—John Varghese

HOLY SCRIPTURE

Who has this Book and reads it not
Doth God himself despise;
Who reads but understandeth not,
His soul in darkness lies.

Who understands, but savors not,
He finds no rest in trouble;
Who savors but obeyeth not,
He hath his judgment double.

Who reads this Book, who understands,
Doth savor and obey,
His soul shall stand at God's right hand,
In the great Judgment Day.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

(Continued from December)

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

Answer: It is clear that the double symbol we have here (the beast and the woman riding on it) identifies a political/religious system and indicates that they are intertwined in each other. It identifies Rome as the seat of government and the Roman Empire as the vehicle and support of the religious system. Then the beast with its woman rider could represent no other than the Roman Catholic Church with its hierarchal government.

The beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies would signify the whole combine of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, with the kings of the earth that gave their strength to the beast with all the votaries of the religious system and even the support of the military arm of the empire which was sometimes used in enforcing the edicts of the Pope, the supreme head of the church. These all came together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army.

In Rev. 19:11-16, we have a description of the rider on the white horse. He was called FAITHFUL AND TRUE (vs. 11). He judged and made war in righteousness (vs. 11). He had many crowns on His head and His eyes were as a flame of fire (vs. 12). He was clothed in a vesture dipped in blood and His name was called THE WORD OF GOD (vs. 13). The name written on Him was KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (vs. 16). It would be impossible for any one to fulfill all this description except the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. His army would be the great company of the redeemed, born again, blood-washed souls who followed the Lamb whithersoever He went. To get an idea of the bitter conflict that raged between the followers of Jesus Christ and this great false and apostate system in which many millions of the saints lost their lives in the most gruesome and hideous ways that the devil himself could conceive of at the hands of the beast power of Rome, read *Fox's Book of Martyrs*. This went on for 1260 years which was the time allotted to the beast to rule (Rev. 13:5). The 42 months in this text would amount to 1260 days (30 days to the month) and according to the prophetic rule of calculating time (a day for a year) this would amount to 1260 years.

Rev. 20:9 says, "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them." Now who are "THEY"? Verse 8 says, Gog and Magog gathered themselves together to battle. Gog and Magog represent the entire combine of the false religions of the world. There have been three major systems of false religions in the world through the Christian era—Paganism, Papalism (The Beast), and Protestantism (The Second Beast or The False Prophet). These have succeeded one another in the order given above. These have all been on the stage of action one at a time. However, in the final windup we see them all coming together in one mighty combine and all operating together at the same time to stamp out the church of the living God (the beloved city) and to destroy the truth and the true saints from the earth.

Rev. 20:10 speaks of the devil that deceived them being cast into the lake of fire where the beast and false prophet are. The devil in this text refers to paganism which was represented by a great red dragon in Rev. 12 and in Rev. 20:2 was called the devil and Satan. This godless religion was concocted by the devil himself and permeated by him and through it he deceived the nations of the earth. However, this was put down by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the light of truth and is said in this verse to be bound, but down in the time of the end he is said to be loosed to go forth to deceive the nations again (Rev. 20:7). Verse 10 tells of his end in the lake of fire with the beast and false prophet to be tormented for ever and ever.

Both of these texts (Rev. 19:19 and Rev. 20:9) are related and refer to the same operation but in different stages of it. It is all contained in the battle of that great day of God Almighty also known as the Battle of Armageddon. This is a great spiritual conflict between the saints of God and the votaries of every false religion in the world, between truth and error, between light and darkness. Rev. 19:19 describes the mustering of these forces for the battle. We are in the very vortex of it now. Rev. 20:9 describes the battle as it comes to its roaring climax with the coming of the Lord who appears in flaming fire to rescue His saints who are hemmed in on every side and accomplish the complete overthrow and eternal destruction of the entire combine of false religions.

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An able man shows his spirit by gentle words and resolute actions; he is neither hot nor timid.
—Chesterfield

"I am sending a piece written by my mother, Mrs. Wm. Reid, she was one of the old time saints. Her life and teachings have come down to several generations. Her grandchildren are: Pauline Hall, Margaretta Kennedy, Evelyn Pickerill, Dixie Hand and Dorethea Sturns. The article was printed in the Manchester, Oklahoma newspaper in 1922." —Dolly Gideon

Hope

Life is made up of hopes. However, we may never be able to attain them. The young man and woman have great hopes when starting out on the sea of life, filled with all the knowledge that can be given them. The parents deprive themselves of many comforts of life to provide for the training and learning they need to make them useful men and women. Days and hours are spent in study hoping some day in the future they will be able to gain the goal they have in view; but when they do so there is something just ahead of them that they might gain, so on they go unprepared to meet their God.

When I see health and youth; filled with hope and courage, it makes me wonder, young man or woman, do you ever think of God; or do you know that you need Him?

You may ask them if they are prepared to die. They will answer, "I hope so, or I will do better sometime," and many go on and become hardened in sin and die without knowing the worth of their own soul until they meet their God unprepared. It is so sad to think of our dear children putting off salvation and hoping to gain Heaven sometime, when they haven't any hope, unless they repent and give their hearts to the Lord. Surely hope is the greatest strength and help in the trying times of life. Can you find a man or woman who is satisfied without the Lord? The things of the world do not satisfy!

We hope tomorrow will bring something better than we have had today. If it is dark and dreary today, we hope tomorrow will be brighter. If it is dry and hot, we hope tomorrow the weather will change.

When the death angel comes and takes away our dear ones whom we love so dearly—the one who had hoped to make a mark in life—the one we had hoped to see do this or that—we still hope. We can only say; "we hope to meet them in Glory." Putting off things we should do, until some other time is not the thing to do. Golden opportunities are passing every day and we pass them by unheeded. Let us take warning; today is the only day we have—the past is gone. We don't know that we will see another day and souls are dying around us while help and mercy are so near; but many times there is no one to tell them. Like the poor dying man said and

passed out into the great Eternity; "So easy and no one ever told me." Oh, can we stand before God and say, "I have done my best in your service!" Sometimes we fail to tell them of the hope that will not fail us in the trials and cares of life. It is an anchor to the soul when the time comes for us to say goodbye to all that earth holds dear. This hope reaches beyond life, it will pilot us all the way and land us in a home of bliss where we will meet the dear ones who have fought the battle through and gained the home prepared for them.—Mrs. Wm. Reid

An Open Letter

"Gentlemen: Inasmuch as I am disabled and don't get around much I spend time studying the Bible and reading publications like yours.

"There is one thing that seems to bother me a bit. As I read the Bible it seems to me that the Bible is the guidebook or handbook for the Adam people down through Abraham and Jacob and those who are referred to now as the Tribes of Israel that Jesus said he came or was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.

"Now with this in mind how do you justify your sending missionaries all over the world? I would appreciate some comment.

"Thank you, . . ."

"Dear . . ."

"I received your letter today and want to thank you for taking the time to write. I find that the question you asked is a very pertinent question. I will attempt to share with you some of my thoughts upon the subject.

"You are right in that much of the Old Testament and some of the New Testament deal mostly with God's relationship to the Jewish people. You are right in that Jesus commissioned the 12 disciples, 'Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.' Matt. 10:5, 6. What was the outcome of this ministry? As Jesus looked back upon it He said, 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children to gether, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold your house is left unto you desolate.' Matt. 23:37, 38. The Jews in general rejected Christ. This rejection is prophesied of in Ps. 118:22, 'The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.' Peter in speaking of this prophesy said, 'Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom

ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders which is become the head of the corner.' Acts 4:10, 11.

"As this rejection took place we find that there were several places where Christ healed and dealt with the Samaritans. Before He ascended He gave a commission that superseded the one He gave earlier. 'And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' Matthew 28:18, 19.

"The disciples and the early Christians realized that salvation was meant for all people. We find that Paul said, 'For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' Romans 10:13. God sent Philip down to the Ethiopian that he might receive the gospel. (Acts 8:26-40) I believe that on that night nearly 2,000 years ago, as the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, he must have had an idea of what was going to happen, for he said, 'Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'

"I trust that from these few thoughts you can ascertain where our burden is coming from as we are doing all we can to take salvation to every person. We are only fulfilling the words and the spirit of Christ and the early Church in sending out missionaries to all we can.

"If there are still questions in your mind I would be glad to discuss it further. Write again anytime.

"Yours for Christ, —Wayne Murphey"

Our Neighbors

"Somebody near you is struggling alone

Over life's desert sand;

Faith, hope, and courage together are gone;

Reach him a helping hand;

Turn on his darkness a beam of your light;

Kindle, to guide him, a beacon fire bright;

Cheer his discouragement, soothe his affright,

Lovingly help him to stand.

Dear one, be busy, for time fleeth fast,

Soon it will all be gone;

Soon will our season of service be past,

Soon will our day be done.

Somebody near you needs now a kind word;

Some one needs help, such as you can afford;

Haste to assist in the name of the Lord;

There may be a soul to be won." —Sel.



Excerpts Taken From

January, 1961 *Faith and Victory*

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: I am writing you to thank you for my letter being printed in your October paper, in regards to finding the lady I met on the train. [Look in the "Window To The Past" of the Oct., 1985 issue for excerpts of the letter.] I had a letter from her a few days past. She is Mrs. Dot Henry. It was indeed a treat to find her, as I value her as my sister in Christ . . ."—Mrs. Alice Bassier

"Saints, we had a wonderful day in the Lord this past Sunday here in Dayton, Ohio. Bro. McCoy's daughter and son-in-law got saved and there was really some leaping and shouting going on. My husband and I got saved three years ago this month and we have prayed earnestly for these dear souls. So, you see, it pays to pray and hold on to God until He answers prayer." —Mrs. Martin Samons, Jr.

"Now dear ones, here in Northern Ireland, I can truly say, 'Jesus saves and Jesus keeps.' When I was a very young girl and heard the gospel I thought I'd like to be a Christian, but I was afraid I could not keep it. Those were often my thoughts: 'I could not keep it.' But about the age of 16, when I did come in faith to the Lord, I found it was He that kept me. 'Kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.' I learned it is not the sheep that keep the shepherd, but the shepherd who keeps the sheep. Thank God for His wonderful salvation. Yes, thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift, Jesus. Now I can tell you the truth, He has kept me for about 60 years. I know something of His keeping power." —Margret Louise Dundas