

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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Treasure of Knowledge

There is a treasure we must seek
 While on this earth we trod,
 A mount to climb whose lofty peak
 Is only known to God:
 The quest for knowledge pure and true
 Of life and godly fear,
 To understand with clearer view
 The truth of God so dear;
 To learn of Him who died to save;
 His steps to follow through;
 To grasp the teachings that He gave
 Heart-felt with purpose true.
 This is life's greatest toil; and yet
 How oft men miss the mark,
 Supposing life is "go" and "get"
 While groping in the dark.
 Not seeing, blinded by their lust,
 They walk life's way below
 While all their treasures mold and rust
 As to the grave they go.
 The greatest thing that we can do
 Is sit at Jesus' feet,
 And listen to His counsel true,
 And walk His way so sweet.
 All things that to our life pertain
 He gives to never dim,
 And righteousness will be our gain
 Through knowledge blest of Him.
 How need we counsel! Look around—
 Behold man's folly great;
 The curse of sin doth yet abound
 In fallen man's estate.
 Oh, seek for knowledge and be wise
 Life's mysteries to solve,
 Let Him enlighten now thine eyes,
 To do His will resolve.

—Leslie C. Busbee

Dreams

The following is a message given by Bro. Ed Wilson during the recent Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting at Guthrie, OK. The message has been edited and condensed to fit into this written format.

I appreciate your prayers tonight. The term that we have is DREAMS. Did you ever have dreams? The kind we have in mind tonight is the kind that people have when they think about the future and the good things that might lie ahead of them. I submit that it is natural for people to have dreams of the future and that everyone naturally understands them.

I want to read to you in the Bible about one who had a dream one time. Jephthah had been a leader in Israel and had gone out to meet his enemy. He made a promise before the Lord that if He would deliver the enemy into his hand, that whatever first came out of his house when he came home he would sacrifice it. We are going to read the result of that vow that Jephthah made. The 34th verse of the eleventh chapter of Judges says, "And Jephthah came to Mispah unto his house, and, behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances; and she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. And it came to pass, when he saw her, that he rent his clothes, and said, Alas, my daughter! thou hast brought me very low, and thou art one of them that trouble me: for I have opened my mouth unto the Lord, and I cannot go back. And she said unto him, My father, if thou hast opened thy mouth unto the Lord, do to me according to that which hath proceeded out of thy mouth: forasmuch as the Lord hath taken vengeance for thee of thine enemies, even of the children of Ammon."

This seems like a strange story to us, doesn't it, that somebody would actually sacrifice his

only child, his daughter, as a sacrifice to the Lord? We would think that there was something pretty barbaric about that. If someone came to me and said, "I have made this kind of a vow." I think I would be inclined to say, "You need to go and repent of that vow. That was a foolish vow." But that isn't what happened in this case. The man had made his vow and his daughter understood the vow, and knew that she was going to die while she was young.

"And she said unto her father, Let this thing be done for me: let me alone two months, that I may go up and down upon the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my fellows. And

Jephthah's daughter, all in a moment, had to face the realization that "it's never going to happen for me. I've got to give it all up and turn it aside." It was a mourning time to her. She told her father, "Don't take it away from me that quickly, but give me some time to adjust my heart and my mind to it and let me prepare myself for what's about to happen to me." I say that everybody can sympathize with that and understand it because the Scripture also said "That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah." Those daughters of Israel could sympathize with what she felt and understood what that was.

When a person's dream has been shattered their thoughts are negative. They have no optimistic look at anything in life. They find no pleasure in anything anymore. Life is a drudgery.

he said, Go. And he sent her away for two months: and she went with her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. And it came to pass at the end of two months, that she returned unto her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had vowed: . . . And it was a custom in Israel, That the daughters of Israel went yearly to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in a year." I think that the Israelites, the daughters of Israel, must have had some dreams too, and understood something about this young woman. The Scripture said, "Let me alone for two months that I may go up and down upon the mountains and bewail my virginity" or, my youth. You know how it is with young girls. It is natural in all of them when they get to be fifteen, sixteen or seventeen, that they start to make a hope chest. They lay in some silverware, dishes and utensils, thinking: "someday somebody is going to come along that will be just the one for me. When it happens it will be wonderful. I'm looking forward to that." That is natural. I suppose that every young girl could sympathize with Jephthah's daughter in what was facing her. Her young life yearned to live and enjoy what it could be. She thought of the future and the good things that are out there. The whole world lies out there when you are young and there is no way to know what life might hold and which way it could go. It is a challenge and an adventure. You have a feeling with young people that they breathlessly wait for every day to see what the next one is going to hold and what there will be in it that is new and different.

Everybody has dreams. Everybody has plans for the future. Sometimes they are very unrealistic. Sometimes they are based on whimsy, a coincidence, or something that strikes our mind or attention. I remember when I was a young man I used to daydream about what I would be in the future and thought about all kinds of occupations—to be a fireman and ride on those trucks, listen to the sirens, the adventure, the smell of the smoke and all that goes with it. What is your dream? Do you have a dream? Did you ever know someone whose dream was broken, a person without a dream anymore? It is a bad thing for a man to have his dream broken; for a person to have run into something in life so shattering that he has no hope anymore. The best of what he ever thought life could be to him, he looks at it now with a grim realization that others may go on and enjoy things in life, but I never will. It will never happen for me. It is a bad thing to try to be around someone with no dreams left anymore. The Scripture says something along that line. "A wounded spirit, who can bear it?" When a person's dream has been shattered their thoughts are negative. They have no optimistic look at anything in life. They find no pleasure in anything anymore. Life is a drudgery. I have read about men who have been in combat and had all their illusions and ideals about civilization and society shattered so completely that when they came back home they didn't even want to be around people anymore. They would go off in the mountains somewhere, build a little cabin to live in, and didn't even want anyone close to them because

they had no dreams left anymore. That is a bad place for folks to be in.

Do you ever dream? Do you ever think about what the future can hold for you? Well, everyone who is here tonight either is young now or was young at one time in life and I have known some people in my years who realized their dream. It can happen. Some people have the dream so strong in their mind of what they want life to be to them and yet as those things are being fulfilled they realize the dream is always something beyond. They are never really satisfied with what the day has brought. Life is as inexorable as that clock that just keeps turning right on around and you can't stop it. If you are young and the Lord tarries His coming and spares your life, someday you are going to be old. It is part of living a fulfilled life to be able to adjust to the different stages that are in life. There comes a time in life when people who have set their dreams, and the years have gone on by, find it is too late to change. You can't go back and relive those days. The opportunity has gone by.

I remember when I was working on a job, the old man that I was working around used to tell us, "If you want to change trades you have to do it by the time you are 35 years old. After that you don't have time enough to learn a whole different trade, start down at the bottom and work your way back to the top again." I realize that there are exceptions to that but there is some truth in the saying, that "Time goes by for everyone of us." Time narrows our dream down and our opportunity to change our dream.

Well, what is your dream? You don't have to answer me that but you would be wise to answer yourself that. What would it take to make you

from being able to be happy while you go down your journey in life. Whatever your dream might be, there is a devil on the job right now mapping out traps, snares, disappointments and problems to come your way to keep you from being able to be happy in life. He has in mind to twist and tangle you up. I think sometimes the devil likes tears and enjoys seeing people in trouble. He surely does everything that he can to get people in trouble.

I want to read you a Scripture in the fourteenth chapter of Proverbs beginning with verse eleven. It says, "The house of the wicked shall be overthrown but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death." Another Scripture says, "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." The thirteenth verse here says, "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful and the end of that mirth is heaviness." I want to ask you tonight, if you will, to look around you. Look not just here in this meeting but among the people you have known in this life. I suppose like most of us you have known some people who are well-to-do and drive nice cars, and maybe have known some people from the wrong side of the tracks, that live in rundown houses; some old and some young. If you were to catalog them in your mind, how many of them do you think are really happy? How many of them would you say have fulfilled their dream and it has been to them what they thought it would be? Well, let us categorize it. How many of your school teachers have really fulfilled their dream and are really happy? Will having a college education and being certified to be a school teacher in one of the states in the United States make people able to fulfill their dream? Will it outsmart the devil

"Time goes by for everyone of us." Time narrows our dream down and our opportunity to change our dream.

happy in life? What would fulfill you and make your life contented, and satisfied? That is a reasonable question. I want to ask it to you here and I want to say in the fear of the Lord, it is natural for people to have dreams. I have had them and I suspect you have had some too. But I want to tell you in the fear of the Lord, that you have an enemy to your dream, to your hope of happiness and fulfillment in your life. There is a being that hates you and everything about you, and is busy right while we are sitting here in this service thinking up ways to keep you

who is busy twisting people? You will find just as many divorces, just as many troubles, just as many broken homes among those people as you would find anywhere else in society.

I have associated with people who were very poor and low of estate, and I thought, "Surely here is someone who is happy", but I found some of them quarrelsome. I found them disagreeable. I found poor people where husband and wife couldn't get along with each other. I

(Continued on page fifteen.)

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.

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EDITORIALS

When we consider the magnitude of the omnipotent God and all that the unknown holds, it brings a real carefulness within us to be at peace with Him. We have treasures beyond value to lose if at the day of judgment we find that our lives are short of His expectations. Time moves on in a set course as determined by the will of God and we would do well to submit ourselves, find the center of His will and flow with that tide of life and peace that emanates from His eternal throne.

Once, when the infidel Robert Ingersoll was lecturing, he took out his watch and stated: "I will give God five minutes to strike me dead for the things I have said." One person, hearing that nothing happened during that five minute period remarked, "And did the gentleman think he could exhaust the patience of the Eternal God in five minutes?" How foolish it is for man to think that he can force God to change His order of events or back God into a corner and challenge Him to act.

Perhaps most people realize the futility of such actions, but there is another tactic which the enemy uses to get people out of harmony with God, and that is indifference. The story is told of a man who was listlessly hacking on a log. When asked what he was making, he replied, "Dunno, maybe a house, maybe a god." This is the attitude many take concerning the matter of salvation. It is of no great concern to them how their lives turn out.

Then there are those who hold to a few guidelines in life and expect that to land them in heaven. Living the Christian life is more than adopting a form of morality. It is a daily desire for more of God and His will for us. The apostle Peter said, "... be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." II Peter 3:14. To be diligent means to continually watch. It is possible to rely on creeds for salvation and lose our souls. One elderly gentleman was asked why he refused to wear a hearing aid. "I already hear more than I understand," he replied. Such a lethargic attitude can cause people to hold to what little they know to avoid learning anything else.

I am reminded of the man whose cook was always smiling and jovial. One day this employer peered through a partition and noticed the cook with all his facial muscles relaxed and a bit of a frown on his face. The employer rounded the partition and spoke to the cook whose countenance changed dramatically as his smile returned. Most of us can relate to this incident. There are times when we need to be alone and able to relax. Our best manners are enjoyable

but we need time to regroup and prepare to face the world again. This is a natural need in man, but we must always be diligent about our soul wherever we are. Jesus withdrew into a desert place apart from the crowds who followed Him. In His solitude the enemy sought Him out, but Christ was diligent in resisting the enemy for He knew the will of God and the purpose of God's will for Him. In our most relaxed moments we must still watch for the devil for he is very sly about slipping things over on us; prejudices, wrong attitudes, bad feelings, etc. Diligence about our souls will assure that we can live our lives without hesitation or fear of the Judgment.

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

Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God campmeetings scheduled for 1987. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we kindly request that your information be in this office by February 20th.

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

We have received several orders for the *Evening Light Songbook* which we have been unable to fill since they are temporarily out of stock. We are in the process of reprinting the songbook and hope to have it available within several months. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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We have mailed a number of the books *Paula, the Waldensian* to those who responded to our special subscription offer of ten names for one year for \$5.00. However, it has come to our attention that the last two chapters were left out of the reprinted book. We are correcting this mistake and will be sending corrected copies to those who have already received their book. We regret the mistake.

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

On Friday, January 9, Aunt Maybelle Pruitt flew to California to be with her sister, Wilma, who is seriously ill. Aunt Maybelle is assisting her sister Maude in the care of Wilma who is experiencing considerable suffering. They would appreciate it if you would uphold them with your prayers in this time of trial.

—Wayne Murphey

THANKS

Just a few words to thank each one who contributed to the car fund for Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson. All of the help was appreciated.
—Bro. Richard Madden

CLARIFICATION

To Whom It May Concern: We have been advised to present the following deeds for proof of how the Golden Rule Home is recorded in Pottawatomie County Court House, Shawnee, Oklahoma. This advice has come by some of the established ministers of the Church of God, Evening Light Saints.

The first deed is the one that was made in the name of Charles R. and Betty Jean Smith. This was the time we purchased the property. We made promise to make a deed to the Golden Rule Home when the home was set up. The second deed shows that we did that. The third deed was necessary because the attorney failed to show it was an incorporated establishment. So the deed was made to show the incorporation.

All three deeds are in the records at the same court house but only the first deed is being circulated by some.
—Charles R. Smith

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like to have copies of these deeds you may obtain them by writing to this office.

In order to comply with regulations set forth by the state pertaining to facilities that care for bed-patients, much expense is being incurred to up-date some areas of the home. If you feel led of the Lord to help in this need, contributions may be sent to Bro. Charles Smith, P. O. Box 1853, Shawnee, OK 74802-1853.

This work of faith has proved a great benefit to the saints in the past and we pray God's continued blessings upon it.

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

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. 6 through Sunday night, Feb. 15, 1987. 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 Rayburn Way, phone (805) 871-1636.

WICHITA, KANSAS MEETING

The Wichita, KS, Spring meeting has been set for April 10-19. We are looking to God to

send ministers and workers of His choosing. We desire to see God work in marvelous ways. The chapel is located at: 1701 N. Ash. Phone (306) 267-9582. For further information, contact Bro. Keith Marsh at 501 Topaz, Wichita, KS 67209. Phone (316) 722-8114. —Sis. Shirley Knight

Prayer Requests

MS—"Please remember me, my brother, Warren and my unsaved loved ones."

—Dorothy Bridges

OR—Sister Ruby Hutchinson needs prayer.

VA—"Please pray for me, I need help in my body, nerves are bad."—Rosa Frances Branch

OR—"I need special help from God. I want to learn better how to cast all burdens on Jesus."

—Naomi Jones

WV—Sis. Melba Powell has some special burdens.

GA—Sis. Sally Green desires prayer for her daughter who has a serious affliction.

IL—Sis. Lillian Beed has several requests that she would like remembered.

OH—"Please remember my son in prayer."

—Tressie Adkins

From the Mailbox . . .

WV—Dear Bro. Wayne and Workers: It is with thanksgiving that we enter a new year. "Time moves on with solemn footsteps" and it seems each year passes by with an increased tempo. If time doesn't soon end, we that have considered ourselves young will soon pass on out of times' world to face our God. I sure want to be ready!

A thought was presented to us in a recent revival meeting concerning the coming of the Lord and I would like to share it. It seems every generation, and in every period of history, the people of God have been stimulated with the thought that Jesus' return was imminent. It also seems that God has pretty well left His people in the dark concerning the time of His return. The thought is: God purposely allows the uncertainty to keep us watching and to keep us from growing careless. God is all-wise, and knowing human nature we would probably be prone to procrastinate in this area if we knew the day or the hour. Surely we need to be prepared to meet God!

The devil, the wily foe that he is, also knows human nature very well! If he knows he can't get God's people to neglect their souls, (which many are doing just that!) he will try to get us to isolate ourselves and hole up some-

where and wait for our Savior's return. What if every generation had done that? Where would you and I be today?

Though I feel Christ's return is very near, I believe that God would have us up and about our Father's business. We are going to be held accountable for our Lord's property. God's property includes everything we possess and every person we come in contact with. Our Lord will not be happy with receiving fifty barrels of oil when one hundred were loaned (Luke 16:1-13). Our faithfulness in training our children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" is part of our stewardship. Our striving to be a good husband or wife in a world that has lost that trait, is part of our stewardship. Also, the man that is down, in trouble, discouraged, or destroyed by sins' awful habits is part of our stewardship. Saints, let us be faithful at our post of duty.

There are a few souls out in this dark world that want to be saved. The Lord will work with as much material as we give Him to work with. In the last six months the Lord has added two young couples and one older couple to our congregation. They are sure an encouragement to all of us. It does as much for a congregation as a new little baby does for a family. There is also another young couple coming to our services who are very interested in getting saved. You pray for the congregation here that we will know how to nurture these "new born babes" along so that they might grow up to full age.

For you older saints encouragement, I would like to mention that the three young couples coming to services and seeking God is a direct answer to the prayers of a dear old saint who has gone on to be with the Lord. God answers prayers, so keep praying!

Love,

—Toney Samons

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

OH—Dear Friends: I read your *Faith and Victory* magazine and enjoy it very much. I hope that you will continue to send it. It is inspiring and encouraging.

We are living in troublesome, serious and difficult times. The devil is deceiving the majority, getting people confused and mixed up. We need unity here on earth. . .

Pray for me.

Sincerely,

—Thelma Gibson

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

NM—Dear Sister Maybelle and dear ones working there in the precious name of Jesus: I want to send in my testimony, as around Christmas I was too busy. I hope everyone had a lovely Christmas and happy New Year. I trust you are having pretty weather. We have some

cold. but usually the sun is shining beautifully. Praise the good Lord for that.

I am so thankful I am doing as well as I am. I am 85 now. I do praise the dear Lord. God bless you every one.

Christian love, —Sister Ruth Doolittle

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

CA—Dear Saints: Once again we give thanks unto the Lord for keeping grace another year. We can truly say that Jesus has been good to us. He is faithful to encourage, to chasten and to love. He knows how to deal with each one personally according to our individuality.

Last year, while going through a severe trial, the Lord gave me a dream. I was in a chair with rollers. Seemingly, the chair was moving of its own accord. Now and then it took a little effort. I marveled at the ease with which it was moving along. I thought nothing about the dream. The next morning the Lord let me know that he was taking me through this trial in that manner. As I look back I can surely say the Lord carried me just that way. Thank the Lord.

Another time the Lord showed me how insignificant I was by bringing my attention to a very small flower; so small that one would hardly notice it. As I thought about it I thought, "Lord, if I am that small, what good am I?" A few days later we were in the yard where a number of these flowers were growing and there was a butterfly going from flower to flower drawing food. That lesson was an encouragement to me. No matter how insignificant we are, the Lord finds some use for us. His dealings with us are so meaningful.

I had several physical needs before the Lord: a message was preached on conditions to be met to receive our healing. As I thought over it, I wanted to be sure that I had met those conditions. The Lord witnessed to my heart that I had, so I was anointed and prayed for. Thank the Lord for what He has done and is going to do. My expectation is in Him. Pray for me. I want to encourage others through my life.

Christian love, —Olive A. Davenport

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

KS—Dear Christian Friends: I trust you folks are enjoying this nice spell of warm weather.

I just finished reading your *Faith and Victory*. Words will not express how wonderful, inspiring and comforting it was to me. It is so nice to hear God's saints report.

May God bless and provide your every need.

—C. M. Waller

VA—Dear Sis. Maybelle: I send greetings of Christian love to you and all your fellow workers at the Lord's Print Shop. It has been a long time since I have written. Life's responsibilities keep me busy and sometimes it is hard to find the time to write, but I feel like the Lord would have me to stop and take the time to write and let you know of His goodness and mercy to me.

I love the Lord and I desire to please Him with my life. Many times when facing life's trials and while the enemy of my soul was coming hard against me with all sorts of discouraging things, and it was about all I could do to hold on, I have cried, "Lord, I love you, I don't want to give up." At those times the Lord strengthened my soul and kept me from falling. Those words coming from my heart brought strength from Heaven to sustain me. God's grace is sufficient and will enable us to make it through life's trials with victory if we will keep humble before Him and love Him with all our hearts. I desire your prayers that I will keep humble and submissive.

I enjoyed visiting the Print Shop and having an opportunity to attend prayer meeting at Guthrie last summer. I had long desired to come to Guthrie and the Lord was faithful to work it out that I could do that. I hope to come back again, maybe for the assembly meeting next December.

This past June, during the Green Bank Camp Meeting, my mother passed away. The saints that knew her had prayed for her salvation. A few months before she died she got saved and left a good testimony that she was ready to go. Looking back I can see where the Lord had His hand over her life and events happened that led to her salvation just months before He took her home. I miss her terribly but I am thankful that she has made it to Heaven and is resting from all the cares and toils of this old world.

The Lord is able to save our loved ones even when the situation looks grim. Let's keep praying for the lost and never give up hope. We serve a prayer answering God.

Keep encouraged and keep holding on to Jesus.

Christian love, —Nancy Wagoner

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AL—Dear Brothers and Sisters in the name of Jesus: I sure do enjoy your paper. I thank God for it. The truth will stand.

Please pray for me and my son, Mike. I have a brother, pray for him.

Ask God to put a wall of protection around me and my home. There is nothing too hard for

the Lord. We are living in bad times. The enemy is loosed on every hand. Please pray.

Please help me pray for a deeper consecration. The world has nothing to offer me. Please take these requests to God.

God bless you all,—Mrs. Jeanette Mooney

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—January 4th, the overflowing of the Guthrie Assembly Meeting came flooding into Joseph Harp Prison. Sapulpa, Guthrie, Enid, Texas, Shawnee, and Missouri congregations had representatives here. The power and liberty of the Spirit was so prevalent that even some of the brothers here moved out more bravely. Bless God!

The meeting was precious! A big surprise was: my brother Tommy was in the group. Also, to see my cousin Roberta and Eddie Wilson was marvelous! Then to look and see Brother and Sister Marler, well, my heart simply overflowed with joy! Praise my precious Savior for putting such love into each one's heart.

The singing was sweet and the testimonies were moving.

So, dear ones, your prayers and support are bearing fruit. Thank you all so much for all you have done! We could NOT have done it without you! "May God especially bless each one!" I pray.

I don't ever recall having asked for special prayer for my release. However, certain things have occurred that cause me to believe that now is the time. . .

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Elbert Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

IL—Dear *Faith and Victory*: I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* very much. I wish God would make a church like this magazine stands for here, because it is the Word of God. Will you pray for us? Too much sin is in the churches here.

Your sister in Jesus Christ,

—Margaret Whitecotton

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WV—Dear Saints: We recently got saved in Greenbank, WV and are attending the Church of God now. We live in Webster Springs, WV. That is 79 miles (one way) to Greenbank, but we make the trip every Sunday. People wonder why we go so far to church when there are churches all around, but it is well worth the trip.

We enjoy the paper *Faith and Victory*. The sincere effort you put in surely pays off in the encouragement we get. Thank you very much.

Love and prayers,

—Marty and Tammy Clevenger

OR—Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: May the dear Lord supply all the needs of each one of you, physically and spiritually, and bless the work you are doing in a very special way.

So many souls are called into eternity each day, without any warning or time to get ready for the Judgment. May God help each one of us to be close to Him so He can use us to help lost souls find salvation.

We pray much for you all and your work and desire that you would pray for us.

Yours in Christ, —Bill and Doris Busch

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

WA—Dear Saints: Greetings to all at the Lord's Print Shop in Jesus' dear name. We are thankful for full salvation today. I surely appreciate the Lord for all He does for me. I suffered for five years with stomach trouble, but He has completely healed me. How wonderful it is to trust Him for soul and body. Praise Him forever.

May God bless all there, I appreciate your labors of love to get the gospel out to all who want it.

Christian love, —Sister Violet Thomas

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OK—Dear Saints everywhere: Holy greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I am thankful I can say with all my heart that I love God and I am saved today.

I would like to tell of another wonderful miracle of healing the good Lord did for me. For several years I was sorely afflicted. It was some type of sickness that made me sleep a lot. The old devil tried to make me believe I had sugar but my answer to him was whatever I had God could and would heal me. He tried to magnify all the ugly things that could happen to me if I had sugar but I wouldn't give place to him because I knew the God in whom I trusted was able to heal all manner of sickness. In December of 1986 God wonderfully healed me of that affliction and I thank God so very much . . .

Thanks to all for your love, concern and prayers. Above all I thank my God who so wonderfully healed my poor sick body.

I am your sister in Christ,

—Clara Barnett

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AL—Hello to everyone this cool winter day! My heart is overflowing this morning with love and thankfulness to the faithful One whom we serve. He is so precious to me. Living for Jesus is such a rich, rewarding life. I don't know if I can express the desires of my heart. I love Him so much.

It all began nine years ago this month. I had that desire inside to be pleasing in the sight of God. I gave my heart to the Lord and He saved me from my sins. I was so happy! I had peace in my soul. I had some things I had to lay aside, some things I had to quit doing, but it was surely worth it all to have that wonderful assurance that if the Lord called me I was ready to meet Him. I put my faith and trust in God and day by day grew more determined to be true to my Creator.

Now after nine years of living for Jesus, I still feel I have a lot to learn, I am now a wife and a mother of two, and the Lord has really blessed us. I have a big job ahead of me, but my trust is in the Lord every step of the way. He has proven to me, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5.

After five years of living in Guthrie, Ok., we felt the Lord's dealings to move elsewhere and work for Him. Of course, we all have our own desires as to where we want to go, but we wanted the Lord to show us. We visited different places, but Mark and I both felt led to one certain place. We put our house up for sale, the Lord sold it quickly, and we moved to Alabama. Not knowing the best place to locate until Mark found steady work, we prayed that the Lord would help find us an apartment to rent that we could afford. The Lord blessed and did just that. Next, was Mark a job to supply the needs of our family. Mark filled out applications and filled out applications. During this period of time my faith was steadfast. The Lord had sold our house, found us an apartment, and I knew He would give Mark work. Time passed and Mark had little side jobs to do, but I really believe He was testing our trust in Him. When we say we "trust the Lord" how long can we trust Him? As long as it takes? Yes! we must. I did not let my faith waver. I firmly felt I was in the Lord's will, and He would take care of us. Then the call came. The interview came. God blessed us and gave Mark a job; a job that would supply our needs. Isn't He wonderful? Truly, He is. He is so faithful. The Scripture says, "Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you." James 4:8. I can tell you those kind of times will draw you closer to God, and the closer you get, the happier you are! Just to know my Lord, the Heavenly Father, took note of our needs and took care of every one is such a blessing. The song says, "Oh, how sweet is my rest, and how richly I'm blest, Oh, how sweet is the rest of my soul." That is how I feel this morning. My soul is happy to trust in the Lord. There is no other better way! A life for Christ is to me, a life enjoying part of that Heaven we shall someday live in. It's a rich,

beautiful life and we desire your prayers as we live here that we will labor and do our work here faithfully and not fail Him. He surely has not failed us and we give our lives to His service.

In Christian love,

—Lori LaCroix

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear Precious Saints of God . . . We thank the Lord for how He worked in the birth of our son. We appreciate each one's prayers and concerns for us during this time. We pray that each one will be blessed with some of the spoils from this battle. We desire wisdom to teach our son the truth and raise him in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Once again we thank the Lord for our miracle—his name is Aaron David.

Christian love and prayers,

—David, Pam, and Aaron Kramer

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' precious name, the one who died for us, and in whom we have salvation. I felt impressed to write my testimony. We are encouraged in our souls to go all the way with the Lord, and to be what He would have us to be. Truly He becomes more precious to us each day as we yield our heart and life to Him.

I am persuaded that He has better things for us than what this world can afford. I have been made to see His goodness to us in a precious way in helping me to recover from the injuries I received in the accident we were in last Aug. 29th. The many phone calls, the get-well cards and visits, plus all the prayers of the saints were a proof of their love, and God's love for us. Our love and appreciation has been increased toward them all.

We want to be faithful to fulfill the purpose for which we were spared. It has been four and one-half months since the accident and I am now able to do some work around home. All my broken bones are healed now. My wife also had a broken rib and a fractured cheek bone. My right foot is still a little lame and swells some when I am on it quite awhile, but it is so good to be able to be up and around now.

Not only has my love been increased toward God and His people, but my faith has been increased.

While we were laid up so long on the bed, we read several inspiring books, listened to many songs on the tape recorder, and a lot of good sermons. Some of them were recorded several years ago at camp meetings. They were very encouraging and edifying. Instead of feeling we have lost the last four and one half

months, we feel that we have gained some ground spiritually.

Like it says in II Cor. 4:16-18, also in Rom. 8:37, "Nay, in all of these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

May God bless you all there at the Print Shop. We appreciate your faithful labors for the Lord in getting the printed pages out to the people.

In Christian love, —Bro. T. V. McMillian

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AR—Dear Sister Pruitt: I am so thankful for all of you agreeing with me in prayer a few months ago for the healing of my body. The Lord has healed my body and I'm so thankful. I can't praise the Lord enough for what He has done for me.

I thank the Lord for all of you there that will help me pray when I have a need and the Lord hears and answers. The Lord is so good to us.

I'm asking all of you to agree with me in prayer for my sister's healing. Please pray for her complete healing.

I ask all of you to pray for my husband. He has drifted from the Lord.

I love you, —Esther Null

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Dear Ones at the Lord's Print Shop: I am sending my testimony of how the Lord graciously led me to the saints in Hammond, LA in 1945. I was born of Sicilian parentage who moved to New England when I was ten years old. Placed in kindergarten, I learned my few baby words. When I was 15 years old my mother passed away. At 16 I graduated from the 8th grade and went to work in a barber shop. Here, during the years of the depression, I loved to spend time reading books which kept me from a lot of mischief.

During my service in the army I came upon a Bible and began to read about Jesus. Touched by His sufferings and convicted that even my own sins were laid upon Him, I began to seek for genuine salvation. I would read to my sister Gloria and both of us being enlightened, we would slip off to some church to hear the Word preached. We were convinced idols, beads and catechism was not salvation. I refused to go to mass one Sunday morning. My dad and step-mother were very angry. He said, "You are not my son anymore. You leave this house!" I said, "Dad, please try to understand." It was to no avail; I must go. I asked him to give me time to visit my friends first, then I would pack up and go. When leaving, I was filled with tears, and

my throat hurt for grief as I said: "Bye Dad, Mom, Sis", and kissed them all.

Moving to Fort Smith, Arkansas, I met a friend from Hammond, LA, who wanted me to go with him to Louisiana. Something was urging me to go.

Settling in Hammond I got acquainted with minister Max Williamson who was then delivering my mail, and showed concern in me. As I was holding a house meeting, I invited him to come. He brought with him a brother George Stephenson, who after I had finished my discourse on Revelation, and explaining the meaning of the beasts of Babylon on two charts, rose up and said, "Folks, I don't know very much about these beasts and dragons, but I do know of a Saviour that is able to save to the uttermost." Pricked in heart, I confessed to the few people there that that brother was right. "He has told you the truth. What I have been lecturing to you from these charts given to me, is what they taught me." Taking the charts outside I set a match to them. As I watched the fire and the smoke going up, my soul shouted: salvation! I'm free from the burnings of Babylon.

Now after over 40 years in the true light, the saints are still my people, and my God is still the same loving, caring God that cares for all. Saved by grace, I ask for your prayers that I keep faithful.

—Bro. Salvatore DiDio

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OK—To all of God's children everywhere: We miss not being at the Guthrie, OK Assembly Meeting this week, but as I had the flu early in the month and it stayed with me so long we felt it good to stay home. We do want to praise the dear Lord for His healing power and how He has healed me, and given me back my strength. It is wonderful to trust the Lord.

He has been my healer for 74 years. I was only two years old when my parents (Bro. and Sis. Robert Johnson) gave their hearts to the Lord and began trusting the Lord for themselves and for their children. The Lord has healed me of many things in my lifetime. I feel I will never be able to praise Him enough for His blessings to me all the days of my life.

The greatest thing He did for me was when He let me know I was a sinner and needed a Savior. How merciful He was to pardon my sins and give me His peace in my soul. He filled my heart with joy and gladness. As time went on He began to talk to me and give me light of how He wanted me to be sanctified and filled with His Holy Spirit. As I began seeking Him for this cleansing of the very root of sin, that caused me to sin in the first place, I consecrated my life to

all I understood. I promised to be His to use in any way He chose to. He accepted my sacrifice and sent the Holy Spirit into my heart. How faithful He is to fulfill all His promises.

By the grace of God, He is still my Savior, sanctifier, healer and keeper. Praise His dear name.

As we are getting old our outward man is perishing. There are different aches and pains than when we were younger, but the Lord is still faithful to us and we intend to be faithful until death.

We would appreciate your prayers for husband's eyes, also his crippled hip and leg.

Pray for us, —Bro. and Sis. Albert Eck

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Mexico . . .

Dec. 29—My dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne Murphey: We salute you in the divine love of God, giving thanks to God for His precious salvation and sanctification of our souls and for the victory over sin and the love of all the saints in fellowship. "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers. Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." I Thessalonians 1:2-3.

There is much joy and happiness in my heart as I write this letter. Brethren, I see the hand of God in everything! Praises be to the name of the Savior for His love and protection and every gift which He has for His children . . .

My wife was very seriously ill before her delivery. For nine days, and a few hours before giving birth, she was in a serious condition but as she was delivering, all the affliction was gone. Glory to God! He lives and lives also in our hearts! Therefore, He is our help and prompt auxiliary in everything. Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Well, my wife had a baby girl December twelfth.

Also in the spiritual work the Lord has grandly blessed. On the twenty-eighth day of December we had a blessed and beautiful service in which two new families attended. Everyone was very encouraged. We want to work more for the Lord and it is necessary to have an exchange of prayers and not faint, for one day we will be forever with the Lord.

We plan to have a camp meeting the thirteenth through the nineteenth of April, which is the Holy Week. We desire much your prayers that there will be more souls saved and more consecrated.

We hope that you passed a happy Christmas and New Year. We very much wish, and not only wish but say AMEN to all the plan and will that God has for us, which is our way to get to the final goal with a basket full of fruit for Heaven.

Greetings to all the saints and all those who work there in the printing and all those who contribute in one form or another, especially of the Word of God.

With much Christian love,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

Dec. 9—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and the chosen ones: Greetings in the dear name of Jesus, the one who died on the cross that we might have salvation.

I trust that these lines find you and the saints well and running up this shining way to that eternal city. To fail to make Christ one's personal Saviour is to lose life's supreme opportunity. All of life is for that purpose. One of the most pathetic texts in the Bible is: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." Jer. 8:20.

The national campmeeting did hold at Kwale as scheduled, with everything about it being glorious and divine. The attendance was indescribably huge. Fourteen congregations participated, namely: Tombia, Port Harcourt, Owerri, Warri, Lagos, Benin City, Calabar, Umuachi-Afor, Obetim-Uno, Okpai, Ubah, Umuolu, Akarai-Obodo and Kwale. Holy Ghost preaching and singing held the entire participants spell-bound. Others outside the sheep-fold also attended.

Souls were saved. Conspicuous among them was a family of six at Kwale. Bodily victory over afflictions was granted. All left with the garment of humility duly put on.

Wishing the saints everywhere every good thing that the year 1987 will hold in store.

Yours in His service, —Titus U. E. Enu

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The man who seeks nothing for himself, but seeks everything for God's sake; who seeks not his own will, but seeks the will of God in all things, has found that which is truest and noblest in life, and which is worthiest in God's sight. He has found a life that is as happy as a mortal life can be. He would not part with it for a thousand worlds. He would not exchange such a life for the life of an angel. He who thinks he wins or deserves anything because of something he has done, does not understand true godliness.

—Selected

In Memorial

Homer Severs was born Sept. 26, 1904 in Newton Co., Mo. and departed this life Nov. 27, 1986, in Pacoima, California.

In August, 1927, he married Tammie Robertson. To this union seven children were born. His survivors include one brother, George of Berryville, Ark.; two sisters, Lennie Cochran of Lipan Texas and Doris Bowman of Carthage, Mo.; three sons, Glenn of Los Molinos, Calif., Frank of Orland, Calif., Don of Elk City, Okla.; four daughters, Barbara Severs of Sylmar, Calif., Mary Cripe of Orland, Calif., Carolyn Simas of Clements, Calif., Rhoda Paul of Red Bluff, Calif.; numerous grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He sought the Lord in his later years, was saved and lived faithful to the end.

Funeral services were conducted in Orland, California by Bro. Brian Rich.

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Rosella (Slifer) Scott was born April 11, 1900, in Blooming Glen, Pa. and departed this life Dec. 13, 1986, at the age of 86 years.

From a child she loved God and wanted all He had for her. She sought this early in life and God was so faithful to honor her honest heart and lead her into the TRUTH of the Church of God.

For her to know was for her to do, one of her favorite Scriptures was, "Be ye followers of God, as dear children." The thing that makes a child dear is OBEDIENCE.

She was married to Bro. Richard E. Scott Feb. 24, 1946. They lived over 40 years in the Milan, Mo. area. In 1975 Bro. and Sis. Scott made their part time home in Shawnee, Okla., and were both an asset to the work of God there.

Those surviving her are her husband, Bro. Richard E. Scott, residing now at Shawnee, Okla.; two sisters, Mable Kinsey and Mamie Cline; a number of nieces and nephews, who loved and appreciated her godly life, many saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the Gordon Cooper Drive Church of God, Shawnee, Okla., conducted by Bro. Charles R. Smith and assisted by Sis. Mary Lawson. The Missouri Memorial Service was in Milan, conducted by Bro. Charles R. Smith and assisted by Bro. Frank Tortat. She was laid to rest in the Camp Ground Cemetery.

Bessie G. Downs was born August 27, 1899 and departed this life January 10, 1987, at the age of 87 years. She was a long-time member of the Zion Hill Church of God near Bay Springs, MS. She was a very kind and dear person, and was loved by her family, friends and neighbors.

She was preceded in death by her husband, George W. Downs, and one son, Elton Downs. She is survived by two sons, G. C. Downs and Clemon Downs; two daughters, Irene Penner and Martha Laquinta Fisher; 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Richard Madden and interment was in the Antioch Cemetery.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Will you please discuss REPENTANCE; what it is, etc.?

Answer: This is a legitimate and good question and I am glad it has been presented because I fear there may be a number of others who do not know what genuine REPENTANCE is. Therefore I discuss it cheerfully and freely.

Repentance is very basic to salvation and to the gospel. In the preaching of John the Baptist, he said in Matthew 3:2, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus preached this same exact message (Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:14-15). We see here that repentance is a basic requirement for entering into the kingdom of God; being saved. In Mark 1:15, Jesus said, "Repent ye, and believe the gospel." This Scripture takes on strong emphasis in the light of another statement of Jesus in Matt. 21:32, "... ye . . . repented not afterward, that ye might believe." These Scriptures teach us that a lack in our repentance is an obstacle to faith or believing the gospel for salvation. A defect and lack in repentance may account for the shallow experience that some have and their lack of ability to live victoriously and triumphantly in the severe situations of life and to exercise faith and trust God fully in life and death situations. I hold the position that a full and complete repentance will produce a saving faith. "When thy soul the perfect price hath paid, God will send the holy fire." When God sees that a soul has genuinely, completely repented, totally renounced, rejected and forsaken all sin, and turned to Him with the whole heart, He will give them faith to "Believe to the saving of the soul" Heb. 10:39. Faith to believe the gospel and

be saved is not of us but is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8) and He withholds it until the repentance is complete and then He gives it. It should be easy, therefore, to discern the supreme importance of complete, genuine repentance to our salvation and to our relationship with God thereafter.

In Luke 13:1-5, Jesus referred to two groups who had miserably and violently perished. Then He said to those present "Think ye that these were sinners above all men?" He then told them His own judgment in the question: "Nay, but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish." Ah, let us grasp the urgency of the situation here. It is repent or perish. Acts 17:30 says, "He . . . now commandeth all men every where to repent." The call of the gospel is to all men; rich, poor, high, low, Jews, Gentiles, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people. The only way that one can enter into the kingdom of God is to "Repent, and believe the gospel."

Having discussed the importance of repentance, and it is supremely important to the extent of repenting or perishing, let us consider some of what it is. Cruden's Concordance says of repent or repentance, that it is "used of regret and sorrow for having done some deed." He further says, "Godly repentance, which means such sorrow as shall cause a complete change of action." One definition says, "A turning away in heart and practice from that which is forbidden to that which is required." One describes it as "An amendment of life." Perhaps the best and simplest definition was given by a young boy in a class. The teacher asked if anyone in the class could tell her what repentance was. One boy held up his hand so she called on him to explain. He said that it was being sorry for your sins. The teacher thought that was an excellent answer but asked if any one else wanted to say any thing and another boy held up his hand. The teacher said surely he could not add any thing to what the other boy had said and he said, "Yes, I can, too." So the teacher called on him and he said, "It is being sorry enough for your sins to quit them." Ah, there you have it folks. But let us see how the Scripture speaks in regard to all these definitions of repentance that men have given, because the Scriptures are the final authority.

Ezekiel 18:30 says, "REPENT, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin." Verse 31 says further, "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?" Did you notice in these verses how all encompassing repentance is? One of the key words here is "ALL". "Turn

yourselves from ALL your transgressions" and "Cast away from you ALL your transgressions." Folks, it is all or nothing with God; no little pet sins, no secret corners in the heart we don't want to let God into, no reservations, but a total, complete renunciation and forsaking of all sin out of our lives. Proverbs 28:13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Repentance involves an open confession of sins and then a forsaking of them. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." God has not promised us mercy and forgiveness of sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness of life, and we have no claim on Him for this, neither can we believe for it to bring peace to our souls until we have openly and freely confessed our sins to God and forsaken them and asked for His mercy and forgiveness.

Neither is confession of our sins to God sufficient if in our sinning we have wronged or injured other people. Confession and restitution must also be made to them. Repentance also requires our straightening up our lives with other people as far as is possible to do so. Ezekiel 33:14-15 says, "Again, when I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die." In Luke 19:8, Zacchaeus stood before Jesus and confessed Him as "Lord" and said that if he had defrauded any man he would restore him fourfold and Jesus told him in verse nine that salvation was come to his house that day. In Matt. 5:21-26, Jesus discusses the matter of our dealings with a wronged or offended brother. He said if we approached God's altar to present an offering and remember that a brother has something against thee, leave and go in search of the offended or wronged brother and confess your wrong to your brother and go all out to make it right with him and be reconciled to him. Read II Cor. 7:10-11 for a description of the fruits of a repentance prompted by godly sorrow, a carefulness of life, a clearing of yourselves, an indignation against the enemy of your soul and all the wrong he has involved you in against God and men and a vehement desire to be right and at peace with God and your fellowmen. This, I think, gives a pretty general coverage of what repentance is.

There is another thing which this lesson would not be complete without. That is the matter of our forgiving the wrongs of other peo-

ple against ourselves. Many are limping around without power to live a successful, consistent Christian life on this account. In Matthew 6:12, Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." An important part of a seeking sinner's repentance is to forgive from his heart every person whom he is holding anything against. He will never find peace with God until he does. It is a very important part of obtaining salvation and after one has obtained salvation, it is a very important part of maintaining his salvation to keep a forgiving heart and attitude and never allow any malice, grudge, bitterness, resentment or hard feelings toward any person to get into your heart. It will disturb your peace with God and result in you having some more repenting to do. God bless you all.

HOME LIFE



I Carried With Me A Picture

Several years ago five young men left their homes in western Pennsylvania and went out into the great Northwest. They found things quite different from what they were in the old home town, and the temptations were many. Some time later all returned to their former homes. Four of the five showed that they were much the worse because of their experiences in a strange country. But the other young man came back seemingly all the stronger and better because of the experiences through which he had passed.

When asked why he, too, had not gone the way of the other four, he calmly replied, "Because I carried with me a picture."

"Oh, yes, the picture of some young maiden back home, I presume," remarked a friend.

"Oh, no; not that kind of picture," said the young man. "It was a picture of quite a different kind. It was my last morning at home. We all sat down to breakfast as usual; Father at one end of the table and Mother at the other. As they realized that there was to be a breaking of home ties in a few hours, conversation was not

very brisk that morning. After breakfast, as was my father's custom, he took down the old Bible and started to read the morning lesson. But he didn't get far. A lump kept coming up in his throat, and he was so blinded by tears that he could not read, and handed the Book over to my mother, motioning to her to finish reading.

"After she finished the chapter, we all knelt to pray. Father started the prayer, as was his custom, but he didn't get far until that lump came up in his throat again and choked back further expression. Then Mother reached over and put her hand on my shoulder and began to pray, saying, 'O God, we thank Thee for our son. We thank Thee that Thou hast kept him true and faithful, and that we are able to send him out from our home chaste and clean. Keep him pure and clean, and may his feet never stray from the paths of virtue, purity, and the truth in which we have tried to bring him up. Bring him back to us as pure and true as he is going out from us.'

"It was the vision of my last morning in the atmosphere of a godly home, and the remembrance of my precious mother's prayer. I could not bear the thought of breaking the heart of my father and mother and dishonoring my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ whom they taught me to love."

—Selected

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A Mother's Prayer



I do not ask for riches for my children,
Nor even recognition for their skill;
I only ask that Thou will give them
A heart completely yielded to Thy will.

I do not ask for wisdom for my children
Beyond discernment of Thy grace;
I only ask that Thou wilt use them
In Thine own appointed place.

I do not ask for favor for my children
To seat them on Thy left hand or Thy right;
But may they join the throng in heaven
That sings before Thy throne so bright.

I do not seek perfection in my children,
For then my own faults I would hide;
I only ask that we might walk together
And serve our Saviour side by side.

—Phyllis Didriksen

—————o—————

There is no logic concerning the fact of Christianity so convincing as the logic of a holy life. A young man said that the clearest and the most comprehensive translation of the Bible he ever read was his mother's life.

Dreams

(Continued from page three.)

looked on their vile language and their disagreeable ways, and I thought that living in a lowly place is not the answer. There are lowly people with blasted dreams. One of the wise men of the world said one time, "There is nothing in the world more common than unsuccessful geniuses." I have met people who have said they were studying to be a doctor. I have known people who set out to be attorneys. I have known people who were told from the time they were little that they were smart enough, or able enough, to be successful in many of the higher professions of life, but wound up nowhere with their dream because they didn't put the things into it to make it come to pass.

Some people's dream is money. Some people are able to feel pretty fulfilled if they make some money. That is an honest assessment. Is that your dream? Well, I have known a few folks who have said to themselves when they were little, "I'm tired of being poor. I intend sometime in my life to have money." And I have known some of them who have fulfilled that dream and have enough. They never have to go out without having money in their pocket, and are able to buy many of the things that they want. The Scripture has said that "the love of money is the root of all evil." It has said not to trust in uncertain riches because they will betray you and fall out from under you at the time when they seem to make you the most secure. My Scripture here says, "Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful and the end of that mirth is heaviness." There is a lot of laughter around us tonight. In a few days, on New Year's eve, there is going to be a whole countryside full of people drinking and laughing and having parties and enjoying themselves. They are living out the span of their lives doing the things they are seeking to find happiness in. They laugh and are friendly with one another. Some of them are going to get in fist fights with one another, come home and brag about how they beat up on each other. But I want to tell you that underneath the laughter there is heaviness of heart. If we could just lift the roofs off the houses in this one little town of Guthrie tonight, it might amaze you how many sad, sorrowful and broken hearts there are; how many people one time were young and had dreams and thought things would work out for them but they didn't work out. Something happened that they didn't ever plan on happening to them, and it just blew the whole thing all to pieces.

The devil has ways to blow people's dreams all to pieces. I remember a wrist watch that I

had one time that I got for Christmas. I went out with some of the neighbor boys and was playing in the woods with BB guns and I got shot on that wrist watch and broke the crystal all to pieces. It was only three or four days old. That was my treasure and I thought it was the most beautiful watch. Every time I looked at it after that I just couldn't enjoy it like I had before. That was just a wrist watch and I have had a lot of them since then, but folks, we are surrounded with people whose lives have been broken and shattered. I looked at the watch. I tried to fit it back together, but all the pieces weren't there. I didn't have any way to take the cracks out of it so that I could see the hands again. It just wouldn't go back together.

You have an enemy that is after your soul. I don't match wits very much with the devil. He is smarter than I am. He has got me into some corners I didn't think he could get me into. He is a terrible adversary. There is no mercy in the devil. If he can keep you crying the rest of your life it would delight him. He will never bring one good thing into your life. His very way is sorrow, bitterness and disappointment of heart.

I have a very good friend. A man told me about him just the other day. I didn't know this story. He said when this man was in his middle years he had a son that he loved very tenderly and dearly, but his son contracted leukemia and grew sicker and sicker. Mother and Dad spent everything they had on the boy but leukemia was and is an incurable disease. The boy got sicker and sicker and finally he died. When he died it shattered his daddy. The dream was gone then and he couldn't face life anymore. He was a working man and he had a family, but for six years he lived on the bottle and could not stay sober long enough to face life; all because something happened to him when he was young. When he proposed to that lovely lady who was to be his bride, he wasn't thinking about that happening to him. He didn't know what the future would hold or what it would take inside of him to be able to stand against the shock of that and be able to go on and be a whole, sound man and face life.

What about your dream, are you big enough to make it stick? Are you big enough to work out the road ahead of you? Or could it be that there could be things that could happen to you that you are not able to prevent that can determine how well you are able to deal with life. Did you know they happen sooner or later to everybody? Sooner or later we all have it to face; hard disappointment, bitter shock, things we didn't anticipate would come our way. Can you safeguard your own dream tonight? When I see

young people so twisted up in the devil's snare, smoking cigarettes or drinking alcohol or going in the light, foolish and sinful ways of the world I wish I could just stop them and say, "Friend, don't you see every chance you have in life to be happy you are busy throwing away just as fast as you can go? And what are you going to do in the years to come?"

I knew a man one time who had a home and family; a wife that loved him. He fell into temptation out on the job and went away with a strange woman, and then another strange woman and another one and after awhile his wife found out about it and she left him. Naturally she would. Her dream was shattered. What she thought life would be when she said, "I will," would never be that again. Can you guarantee that the one you marry will never betray you? Can you guarantee as you sit here tonight, that you can make life go the way you want it to go?

I went to visit this man and went away heavy in my heart. I wanted to say to him, but I couldn't find a way to say it, "Friend, when you get to be old and you don't have your looks anymore and your money is not worth so much anymore, who is going to come in and care for you if you get sick and old and can't take care of yourself? You have betrayed those that loved you that you had united yourself to. You will get put in a warehouse somewhere for old folks."

You talk about broken dreams, have you ever visited one of those places? I worked in one for awhile and I will never forget a man there. Nobody else on the staff would take care of him and I tried to be friendly with him. I went in and he kind of took up with me. Sometimes he was friendly and sometimes he wasn't. He used to weep and he would cry. He had had a stroke and couldn't get out of bed anymore. He had to have somebody help him anytime he had to be out of the bed for any reason. He had been a strong and an able man when he was young. I said to him one time, "Don't you have any family or somebody to come and see you?" He said, "I have a son and I have two daughters. They come maybe once every six months." I knew the reason why. That man had a sharp tongue and would scold them from the time they came in the door till the time they went out. They didn't want to be around him. I didn't blame them but it left him old, lonely, sad and miserable. That is what human dreams can come to sometimes.

(This message will be continued in next month's paper. Be sure to read it for it will give hope to those who have broken dreams.)



Excerpts Taken From

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"There is no subject in the whole Bible fraught with so much living and universal interest to mankind as God's love; and there is none which ought to sound so deeply in the human heart, and so musically in the human ear, and beget in the soul so much gratitude. It should be a subject of frequent discourse with the minister, and of frequent meditation and conversation with the Christian. A devoted minister once said, 'Were the highest heavens my pulpit, and all the host of the redeemed, together with Adam's family, my audience, and eternity my day, redeeming love should be my text and sermon.'" —S. Henn.

"My heart is made to bleed many times when I hear people blaspheme the name of Christ Jesus. There is so much that needs to be done in these days to reach precious souls, and I do pray that God will give me a greater burden." —George W. Herron

"I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* paper so much. Just before Christmas I had been heavily burdened for two weeks. One morning before I went to prayer I read most of the testimonies in the paper. Oh, how the Lord blessed and lifted me up. When I finished praying, I was so happy and encouraged all day. I went about my work singing, and just felt that I would like to get on a high mountain and shout God's praises to everyone. If people could only realize what a wonderful experience it is to have the inner man happy and satisfied instead of trying to satisfy the outer man so much, I am sure there would be many more seeking after God and His righteousness." —Hazel Savage