

# FAITH<sup>AND</sup>VICTORY

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## Church of God Servant



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### "If Thou Wilt"

"And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt thou canst make me clean." Mark 1:40. A lifetime of suffering and sorrow is poured into these few words, "If thou wilt." For years he had walked among the tombs of despair. None but those who have been exiled to the land of the shadow of death know the terrors of such an existence. He had hoped for so much in life, but somehow he had been robbed of all that men hold dear.

Notice his tearful cry: "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." Like mankind today, this man recognized the power of God in Jesus, but he was uncertain as to God's will. In other words he is saying, "I know you have the power, but I don't know if you are willing. I am in doubt about your love and concern."

To him all love was dead; he had seen it die. He had seen friends turn away as the dread disease advanced. He had watched the tender light in the eyes of his loved ones slowly turn to fear and abhorrence. He had known glad days in the past when love was real, and he had believed it would always be that way, but now all had changed.

He had come to the place where his faith in love had fled in the presence of continued and unrelenting pain, and the bleakness of a loveless life left him as full of misery as he was full of leprosy. The dread disease had marked him for its own and its loathsome decaying presence had filled his entire body. It was a disease that made him a ghastly sight to every eye. It was remorseless, eating away his very life. Living was a perpetual nightmare and death ever lurked in the shadows. He was driven from the haunts of men, from home and friends, from light and love, to dwell among the tombs. He was heart-sick and alone. Not only had he been separated from men, but he felt utterly separated from God; No lighted churches here, no sweet fellowship of the saints, no inspiring sermons or rapturous songs here among the dead.

The religious folks had told him that God had placed this disease upon him and had caused all this unendurable suffering because of some real or fancied wrong in the past. Oh, the price that misguided "Job's comforters" are going to

pay for the part they have played in heaping despair upon misery and smothering hope with their hypocritical concepts of the love of God.

**Then Jesus came . . .**

One day a rumor came that a man named Jesus was in the city, and that he had been opening blind eyes and cleansing lepers. It seemed too good to be true. Such things just didn't happen any more. He knew that God had healed Miriam of leprosy in answer to the cry of Moses, and he knew that Elisha had healed Naaman in days of old, but Moses had been dead for hundreds of years, and Elisha had been a prophet in the dim, distant past. The priests in his day just didn't believe in healing. They had some works they gave you to perform and some rituals and ceremonies to go through, but healing was out of the question altogether. Nevertheless, hope struggled against theology, and despair forced him out beyond the boundaries of reason, so he decided to make the effort.

He had not grown cynical, as many do when overtaken by misfortune. He had nothing to lose and possibly a faint hope of regaining his health. Others could stay among the tombs and wish they were well, but he knew wishing would get him nowhere. It is not enough to sit and wish. You must act! Thousands have found salvation because they acted out their faith, while millions go out into the blackness of darkness forever because they do nothing.

This leper came, not with great mountain-moving faith, but filled with misgivings. He was not at all sure how that he would be received. He knew the people around Jesus would not take kindly to his presence.

***"Thousands have found salvation because they acted out their faith, while millions go out into the blackness of darkness forever because they do nothing."***

It called for great effort on his part to come. Every step was filled with excruciating pain. His crippled, drawn and distorted frame could hardly be brought into action. It all seemed hopeless. He was filled with many fears, but in spite of all this he came. Surmounting every obstacle, he staggered into the presence of the Lord and threw himself at the feet of the Great Physician.

This is so much more than many will do. Some would consent to be healed if it required no effort on their part. Some might condescend to accept Christ and escape the damnation of hell, if they were sure they would not be inconvenienced, and that nobody would ridicule them. Others would consider being baptized with the

Holy Ghost under conditions that would meet with their approval, but there must be no humiliation, no ridicule, no loss of prestige. Everyone must applaud their noble condescension.

Oh, the inconsistency of unbelief! Oh, the foolishness of vanity and pride! Traditional religion is as full of it as this man was full of leprosy, and men in that state are in a much worse condition than this poor leper. The leprosy drove this man to Christ for help, while the pride and unbelief of traditional religion will separate men from the Lord forever.

The leper threw himself at the feet of Jesus and cried out, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean." He didn't try to side-step the issue. He confessed he was unclean. He didn't parade any fancy virtues, or try to make believe that he was better than other lepers. He offered no excuses or alibis; only a piteous cry for mercy. He had a need and he held it up naked before the Lord. Many cloak their need with excuses and justifications until it is almost hidden, but this man stripped it bare and held it out so all could see.

It is not always easy to believe in the love of God. Fate and circumstances are sometimes terribly cruel. This man had never heard John 3:16. He did not have the Gospel story as we do today. As yet no cross had been raised on Calvary's hill. Christ had not yet died for him. The prophets had told of One who would come to bear our infirmities and carry our sicknesses, but the religious leaders declared that those promises were for a future day.

This has been the tragedy of so many religious leaders all through the ages. They speak of a miracle-working God in the yesterdays and a

powerful God for the tomorrows, but they have no God that works wonders today. This leper could not have proved to the religious leaders that Jesus was the One of whom the prophets had spoken, but when he cried out of his great need, the hand that was soon to be nailed to the cross reached out and touched him, and lo, the leprosy was gone!

Thousands upon thousands of needy souls could be healed even as this man, but they resign themselves to uncertainty regarding God's will. Let me say to you on the authority of God's Word, that it is God's will to heal! This is Bible truth! "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

—Earl Bliss

## Claim God's Promise

"Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: And put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood." What kind of gods were served before the flood? Apparently the same kind that are served today, for Matt. 24:37, reads, "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Self is the god of today; people will do anything just to please self. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods." Josh. 24:14-16. Acts 10:2; 11:14; 16:34; and 18:8, are accounts of other men who promised to serve the Lord with their whole house.

Shall we not all together pledge to God, "As for ME and MY HOUSE, WE will serve the Lord"? There are many who wish to make this pledge, but do not. They say, "I hope all my house [family] will serve the Lord." Others hopelessly gasp, "How great it would be if all my family would serve the Lord!" Still others question, "How can I pledge that my house will serve the Lord? Each child must decide for himself whom he will serve." Others, with great determination, vehemently assert, "Yes, I and my house will serve the Lord. If one of my children becomes self-willed and rebellious, he will be forced to leave home. I will not have a child in my house who will not align himself to the standards of the Church."

Let me ask each parent one question, "Do you really believe that hell is a lake of fire that burns eternally?" In your mind's eye, can you see the son or daughter you once cuddled tenderly in your arms, being tormented forever? Catch a glimpse of his or her wild, panic-stricken eyes. Will you not lay on your face in prayer to God for their salvation?

Now let us consider answer #1: "I hope my family will be saved." How many of us would be saved today if we only *hoped* we would? Are we not promised an assurance of salvation, not just a *hope*? Yes, there are promises in God's Word to assure us of salvation. There are also promises to assure us of the salvation of our children. Prov. 22:6, reads, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Some translations read, "As he is growing old, he will not depart from it." We should not apathetically rest in this verse, hoping that many years from now, when our son or daughter is old, that he or she will get saved. Thanks be to God, though, this has happened many times. Let's be challenged by

this thought: "As he is growing old, he will not depart from it." Have an observant heart and eyes, and watch carefully to see if your child's actions indicate that he or she is departing from the way of the Lord. If you see danger signs, begin at once to ask God to show you some amendments you can make in your dealings with your child. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." How I know this from personal experience! Be humble and apologize to your child for past mistakes and explain the reason for a change. Try to get him or her to also see the reason for change. Sometimes this is impossible, but you must stand strong for what the Lord has shown you. Don't use excuses such as, "Because the saints teach this way." Will the saints be the jury to decide if your child enters heaven or not? God alone will decide according to what is written in His Word. Another reason that is sometimes used is, "I am a deacon [or board member, or minister, etc.]." Aren't you succumbing to peer pressure? A child sees right through it. Be frank and tell him, "My reason for doing this is because when you die, I want you to be accepted into heaven." Read to him what the Bible has to say about the problem.

I am very aware of some of the children's protests you may receive, especially about the value of the Bible. This, of course, is to be expected, as many children are being taught from the day they enter the public school to discredit your Christian values, and above all, the authority of God's Word. This is the primary reason parents need to consider some alternatives for their children's education. Deut. 6:6-9; Psa. 127:3-5.

Let's consider answer #2: "How great it would be if all my family would serve the Lord." The person who gave this answer was defeated before he began. The goal, to him, is impossible to attain. God has promised to call after every heart; will he not touch the hearts of our children? Yes, and why should they not respond positively toward Him if we have used God's wisdom in training? James 1:5, assures us of God's wisdom. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Verse 6 says, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." Are you tossed about, trying first one method and then another, and fearing that none will work? Let us strongly rebuke doubts and fears. We must believe for the needed wisdom and claim the salvation of our children without wavering.

(continued on page 15)

## FAITH AND VICTORY

### 16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Maybelle Pruitt, Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, Okla. 73044 (USPS184-660).

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

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

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

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

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

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## Editorials

We did not publish the *Faith and Victory* paper for the month of August, and therefore have more articles and material for this issue than we have space. If your writing or testimony does not appear, this may be why. We are grateful for the way our readers have been writing and responding, and urge everyone to continue contributing your articles and thoughts as God burdens you to do so.

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On July 1, Sis. Wanda Luehring left here to return to Oregon. We appreciate the 2½ years that Sis. Wanda worked in the Print Shop and we trust that God will continually bless her. Sis. Grace McMillian has graciously offered her services in typesetting until the Lord lays it on someone's heart to fill this vacancy.

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We are expecting a shipment of 5,000 pounds of printing paper just prior to printing this issue. We have been informed by the paper company that there is once again becoming a shortage of paper. This will delay in paper orders being filled and will also increase prices. Because of this, it is necessary for us to order another 5,000 pounds of paper to replenish our tract and *Beautiful Way* paper which has been completely depleted. We plan to do this as soon as we see our way clear to do so.

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We especially want to offer our condolences to Bro. Lynn Carver and his family on the passing of his wife, Alma. Sis. Alma lived a life for Christ which was graced by a special gift of singing. We feel confident that she is singing and rejoicing in the presence of the Lord now. If you would like to express your sympathy to Bro. Lynn, his address is: 836 Drexel Drive, Shreveport, LA 71106.

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"Search the scriptures. . ." John 5:39. This is a privilege which we all have. God has given us the opportunity to satisfy our souls and assure us that all will be well when we stand before Him to be judged by the word of God. If we were required to take an examination and were given all the answers to the test before hand, how diligent we would be to study them. The Word of God will prepare us for the judgment day if we will heed it.

The Bible is simple enough for anyone to understand. There are those, however, who complicate the Bible and make its meaning a deep, dark mystery. The Apostle Paul speaks of being

corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. (II Cor. 11:3). Many times it is a help to investigate the thoughts of others upon the Scriptures, but if you are seeking to be fully convinced and satisfied, you need to search the Scriptures for yourself. Once a group of students were discussing conflicting viewpoints on Scripture. One authority believed one thing and another something else. One commentary said this, another that. One translation interpreted a Biblical phrase this way, another that way. "We are totally confused", said one of the young men to his professor, "we are completely in the dark." "Perhaps," the gray haired scholar replied, "you all should read the Bible. It has been known to throw light on the subject."

Our purpose and intent in searching the Scriptures is important. Some people do so in order to debate and challenge. If you do this, you may come away from the Bible with a warped and dim view of its meaning. If we search the Scriptures to find something in which to condemn our brother, our own spiritual life will be depleted. It is only as we consider the Bible in a personal sense as a guide and a light that our understanding will be opened and we will comprehend what true holiness and the righteousness of God really is.

—Wayne Murphey

## Prayer Requests

CA—Bro. Ursula Gardiner desires prayer for the spiritual welfare of his son.

IA—Sis. Dorothy Mason is having trouble with her legs and would appreciate prayer.

OK—"I have several requests. Please be agreed in prayer with us for these things. Also remember my loved ones." —Rudy Bell

MS—Still remember Sis. Novella Pugh.

MO—"I have high blood pressure; please pray for my complete healing."

—Sis. Mamie Butcher

TX—Please pray for Sis. Louise Strickland's daughter-in-law; she has cancer.

—Clarence Campbell

OK—Sis. Edna Davis needs special prayer for healing. —Ada Scanlon

MS—"My brother, Warner, suffers in different ways. My sister, Ruth, is not well at all, and I am sorely afflicted. We all need prayer for healing." —Dorothy Bridges

IN—"Pray for me. I had a blood clot in my leg in June and it still bothers me at times. Also pray for my unsaved loved ones."

—Dessie Wilson

NC—"Please pray for my eyes."

—Leila Lewis

OK—Remember Bro. Carl Shaffer who is in West Virginia and experiencing a severe illness.

AL—"We have some very special unspoken requests. Please remember us."

—Bro. & Sis. Gerald

KY—"Please remember us in prayer. My husband is having quite a battle with his stomach. Also pray for my two brothers who are not well."

—Mary Orrender

CA—"Please pray for Sis. Agnes Van Ornem and her children."

—Sis. Amelia Smith

MS—"Please pray for my husband and me; we are sorely afflicted."

—Ethel Lowery

OH—"I have some special requests for my daughter and her friend."

—Juanita Blankenship

CA—"Sis. Matthews has been very sick. She wants you to still pray for her."

—Bro. John Matthews

OH—"Please pray for Tim Betzner. He was burned severely by accidentally getting hit by a high voltage electrical line."

—Mary Vice

WV—"Still remember my husband and me."

—Sis. Earl Tinsley

CA—Sis. Helen Carson needs complete healing. She is sorely afflicted.

CA—"My family and I need prayer. All of us need to be saved."

—Doris Pihaylic

## MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

### MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

The Missouri State Camp Meeting was blessed of the Lord again this year, although the weather was very hot and the attendance very poor. We appreciate God's faithfulness to send in consecrated ones to labor under adverse conditions. May the Lord richly reward each one.

For the past few years, it has been obvious that the date of the Missouri State Camp Meeting at Myrtle has not been working well. As a result, we entered into this year's business meeting with a desire to make some definite changes. An appropriate date was a hard decision to reach, since the summer months are all filled with camp meetings. At length the decision was made to have a five-day camp meeting in early May, and a five-day assembly meeting in early October. In this way we can avoid the hot weather.

The Missouri State Camp Meeting date for 1988 is set for Wed., May 4 through Sun., May 8. The Assembly Meeting date is set for Wed., Oct. 5 through Sun., Oct. 9. We trust these dates will be suitable and that the interest and attendance will be better. Pray that the work of the

Lord will continue in this place in His divine order.  
—Harlan Sorrell

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#### SHELL LAKE, WI FALL MEETING

Lord willing, there will be a fall meeting held at Shell Lake, WI Sept. 16—20. There will be afternoon and evening services, and three services on Sunday. It is an open meeting and we are trusting the Lord to send the ministers of His choosing. If those coming will notify us at (715) 468-2798, lodging and accommodations can be made.  
—Bro. Dwayne LaVeau

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#### WICHITA, KS FALL MEETING NOTICE

Lord willing, Wichita plans to have their fall meeting starting Sunday, Sept. 20, and going through Sunday, Sept. 27. We are looking to the Lord to lead in every way. The chapel is located at 1701 N. Ash St. For further information, you may contact Bro. Keith Marsh, 501 Topaz, Wichita, KS, phone (316) 722-8114.

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#### HOLLY HILL, SC MEETING

We are planning on having a ten-day meeting, Lord willing, Oct. 2 through 11. All are invited and heartily welcome. Come and help in this meeting, that we may reach some lost souls.  
—Utson Platt, Box 194, Holly Hill, SC 29059

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#### AUTUMN GOSPEL SINGING AT MYRTLE, MO

Lord willing, there will be a gospel singing on Saturday night, Oct. 3, 1987, at the Church of God chapel, Myrtle, MO. The purpose is that the name of God be magnified in holy song. God has blessed in these singings in the past in such a way that conviction was so strong that souls came to the altar.

In the third songbook published by the pioneers of this reformation, we read these words: "There is great power in spiritual song. The gospel in song often moves and melts hearts that preaching cannot touch. Especially in this present and last reformation of divine truth, great prominence is given to the power of holy song." Amen. May it ever continue to be so.

There will be all-day services the following day, which is Sunday, Oct. 4. We invite all to come and be with us on this special week-end.  
—Harlan Sorrell

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#### GREEN BANK, WV REVIVAL

Plans have been made to have a revival at the Church of God chapel, Green Bank, WV. Lord willing, it will be held Oct. 10—18. Every-

one is welcome to come, and accommodations will be provided. For more information, you may contact the pastor, Bro. Mart Samons, phone (304) 456-4469.

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#### GREEN PASTURES, OK FALL REVIVAL

Lord willing, the congregation in Green Pastures, OK will be holding their fall revival Oct. 13—18. If it is possible for you to attend, your presence will be appreciated. The chapel is located at 5721 N. Denver. For more information, contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Chandler, phone (405) 769-7413.

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#### From the Mailbox . . .

(The following is a letter from Sister Ruth Tangunan, the daughter of Brother Matias Tangunan, who is a native missionary in the Philippines. Sister Ruth is in Saudi Arabia where she was hired to be a governess to Mansour, the son of the Prince of Saudi Arabia. This letter was written to Sister Connie Sorrell who is in the Guthrie, Oklahoma congregation.)

Dear Sis. Connie: Greetings of peace, joy, and love in our Saviour's name! I received two issues of the *Faith and Victory* last week. I thank and praise God for this. I let my Filipina friends read them, too. . . .

One night before we slept, I told the story of Jesus at Calvary to Mansour, and how He carried the cross and died for us. I also told him about heaven, hell, and the Judgment. I told him that those who don't believe in Jesus will go to hell and that those who do believe in and love Him will go to heaven.

He asked me this question: "Ruth, you told me that when we die our bodies will turn to dust again. When Jesus comes, how can we go to heaven if we are already dust and not human?" He also asked this question: "If you go to heaven, and I go too, do you think you will still know me and I will know you?" I know he really understands what I'm telling him because he asks me good and interesting questions. I already encountered these questions from the people when we had our Bible studies in the Philippines.

When I related the story of Jesus and how He suffered and died for us, Mansour was very serious. He turned his head so that I couldn't see his face. After the story, he looked at me and I saw tears in his eyes. Then he asked me, "Ruth, do you think I can go to heaven?"

I told him, "Yes, you will go if you believe in and love Jesus."

He said, "Yes, I do."

"I said, 'Come, and talk to Him.' We knelt and prayed. I don't know if there is already a Moslem who believed in Jesus and has become a Christian, but if there is not, Mansour is the first Moslem who believes in and trusts the Lord. Praise God!

This child has a strong faith that the Lord will help him in everything he asks. Before the closing of their classes, the Lord answered Mansour's prayer once again. Two days before their final exam, I was already asleep when he came to me and woke me up. I asked him what he wanted.

He said, "Ruth, will you please help me to ask the Lord to give me a grade like my brother?"

I remembered that when they were given their grades in their semi-final exam, his brother and sisters got very good grades. His brother laughed at Mansour, because in his ten subjects he only got 4 "excellent," 4 "very good," and 2 "good," while his brother got 6 "excellent," and 4 "very good." Mansour asked me to help him pray to get a grade like his brother so that he would not laugh at him.

I'm very happy to know that even in his grades, Mansour trusts our God to help him. I always did this, too, when I was still studying, and I can't remember that the Lord failed to give me what I asked.

On his first day of examination, Mansour came home smiling. He said that the questions were easy. On his second and third days, he still said that the questions were easy. When he went to school to get his card, he came home smiling and embraced me.

He said, "Ruth, you can't believe it! I got 'excellent' in all my subjects! Oh, praise the Lord!"

I asked him if he had already thanked the Lord.

"Yes," he said. "I have already prayed and thanked Him for giving me excellent grades. I also said, 'Thank you, God, because my Papa and Mama will be happy!'"

He only asked to get grades like his brother, but God gave him more than he desired. Oh, what a loving and wonderful Lord we have!

After thirty minutes the prince and princess called him and asked him what gift he wanted.

Before, I thought I was the only Christian here who believed in and loved the Lord. Now there are two: Mansour and I. He is just a little boy, but he gives me encouragement sometimes. I thank the Lord for His kindness to us!

I'll close now. May the Lord of hope bind our hearts in one love and one faith in Him.

Love in Jesus, —Ruth Tangunan

WA—Dear friends: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We trust all are well there. We are thankful to the Lord for His mercy to us. We are thankful for salvation and His care of us. He is a very present help in every time of need.

We were privileged to attend the Jefferson, Oregon camp meeting. It was very precious to be with the saints again. Much good was accomplished.

May God bless all and keep you encouraged in the Lord.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Violet Thomas

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NC—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and everyone there at the Print Shop: Christian greetings in Jesus' name. There is no need for me to tell you how much I enjoy the magazine *Faith and Victory*, for I faithfully look for it each month.

Do pray for my eyes. I have not been able to read much in two weeks.

God bless you all there at the Print Shop.

A sister in Christ, —Leila Lewis

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FL—Dear ones: Greetings to each of you in the name of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I trust all of you are well in body and soul.

I am saved from my sins, living to live again. Praise the Lord! I am thankful to the dear Lord that I am able to walk and talk, although I have an affliction in my legs and feet. Please pray for me that the Lord will find it in His will to heal me of this.

The Lord blessed me to celebrate my 91st birthday on January 30, 1987.

I do pray the dear Lord to bless everyone there as you give of your service in sending out the Word of truth. Keep up the good work.

Love and prayers, —Sis. M. B. Savage

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LA—Dear Sis. Maybelle, Bro. Wayne, and all the workers: Greetings in the name of Jesus. I do appreciate the work you are doing there at the Print Shop. I enjoy so much reading the *Faith and Victory* paper, tracts, and books. I just pray that the work will continue on and on, holding up the truth. There is so much deception and false teaching in the world today, that the truth needs to go forth. If people would read the Bible carefully, wanting to know what it teaches, they could surely learn the truth. Many don't read the Bible, and many don't want to accept what they do read. . . .

I am praying for you all there, as I know you need wisdom and help from the Lord.

—Sis. Myrtis Flynn

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers at the Print Shop and saints abroad: We are praising



the Lord for His great love to us. I realize His Word says, "He loves us with an everlasting love." Even when I walked in the ways of sin and evil, He loved me. Since He opened my eyes to His goodness, I cannot praise Him enough for His concern and goodness to me. In short, He has won my heart for as long as I live.

May He continue to bless your work and labor of love, is our prayer.

Faithfully yours, —Edward V. Davenport

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NC—Dear Christian friends: Just a few words to let you know how much I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* publication each month. I look forward each month for my copy. I find each article and message Christ-centered and Biblical. I wish there was a good congregation of the Church of God around here that teaches the truth as you folks do.

Sincerely, —C. J. Baker, Sr.

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

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am glad to be saved, sanctified and satisfied in Jesus and the plan of salvation.

As I was rejoicing and praising God one day, the Lord spoke to me about the joy and encouragement I get from the "Evening Light Songs" book. It is a help to me now, as well as when I was first saved. There are others who need this encouragement, who would love to sing these songs in praise to God. The Lord laid it on my heart to send some song books to the saints in Nigeria. Maybe you could send them directly to where they are needed. . . .

Your sister in Christ, —Geneva Norling

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

KS—Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: I surely was delighted to receive a card from the Monark camp meeting with so many signatures on it wishing me health. I missed you all more than you could possibly miss me. We do need each other all along the way. I thought of you all so often and could almost hear you sing and pray. The blessings of the former years still ring in my memory. We love you all dearly and thank you for remembering us.

Let us continue to love one another until we get home. There is much strength in the love we have for each other.

We love you all with the gift of God's love.

—Lavina Martens

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

MS—Dear laborers at the *Faith and Victory* House: Greetings of Christian love to all you dear ones. We love to get your paper. We just don't want to miss one. It is a real blessing to both of us. We look forward each month for it.

There are so many good things to read in it and so many good testimonies, also.

God bless you all, —Burl and Daisy Griffin

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

MO—*Faith and Victory*: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I just want to tell you how much food for my soul I get out of your little magazine. Always keep me on your mailing list.

—Sis. Laura Jarvis

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

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all our iniquity and purify unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.

I'm sorry I'm late in sending in my new subscription for my *Faith and Victory* paper. I enjoy reading it. It is a true messenger spreading the true gospel far and near. . . .

May the Lord bless the united efforts of God's people.

Christian love,

—Sis. H. Clark

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

Can.—Dear Sis. Pruitt and all the saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in the blessed name of Jesus who has redeemed us by His blood. Thanks to all of you who are working for the Lord to bring the gospel to a lost world.

I would like to renew the order of the *Faith and Victory* papers for five more years. Wife and I appreciate the good food for our souls in the *Faith and Victory*.

Please pray for my wife and me. We need help for body and soul.

—Bro. and Sis. G. Schroeder

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

WA—Dear fellow saints: We appreciate all of you who are living true to God and following the Bible as He gives you understanding.

Our trip to the Philippines was spiritually profitable, both to the saints there and to us. I'm sure that we all learned a lot from each other. Time and time again the presence of the Lord was very real to us, letting us know of His approval which is the only thing that counts. If any of you would like to know more about our trip, you may write to us in care of this paper. We plan to go again as soon as possible, hopefully for a longer period of time.

We were thankful for Bro. Leslie Busbee's willingness to come up here to Washington back in the spring to encourage us. We are also thankful for Bro. Clifford Wilson who is here with us now (July 2, 1987) for a week. We are all being encouraged by the Lord to continue in the faith once delivered to the saints back almost 2000 years ago and which is still real and living today. We love the kingdom of God which is universal and knows no boundaries made by



man, but is free to follow where ever the Lord leads. It is more than I can tell to be in fellowship with God our Father. It far surpasses any earthly joy.

Pray for us,

—Jeff, Elizabeth, and Alex Redington

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear saints: May God richly bless you all. We are so thankful for His many blessings.

Your *Faith and Victory* paper is so precious. The song, "My Lord and I" is wonderful and inspiring. I share it and tracts with all I can. Your letters and all are so wonderful to me.

Love to all, —C. M. Waller

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MS—My dear Sis. Maybelle: I hope all are well and having lots of good blessings.

I would appreciate you praying for my unsaved loved ones. Also, my brother Warner suffers in different ways. He needs prayer. I am not too well in some ways, and better in other ways.

With love and best wishes,

—Dorothy Bridges

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the workers at the Print Shop: We send you greetings of Christian love in Jesus' dear name.

I am thankful that I can still report victory in my soul over the enemy of all souls. I realize more and more the great sacrifice that heaven made to redeem man back to God, and yet people go on enjoying the pleasures of sin for just a little season. I'm so thankful that I am willing to pay the price to get to heaven regardless of what the price may be, for heaven is cheap at any cost.

I'm thankful for the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, who helps me to live a victorious Christian life.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Agnes Huskey

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Dear saints: Greetings to each one in the dear name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. We truly do thank the Lord today for salvation and for all the other many blessings He bestows upon us. We could never thank and praise Him enough for all He has done.

It was so good to see many of the saints at the different camp meetings this summer which the Lord permitted my wife, Diane, and I to attend. We attended most of the Green Bank, West Virginia meeting, some of the Loranger, Louisiana meeting, and the first weekend of the meeting in Monark Springs, Missouri. It was good to fellowship and worship with the different saints. Some we knew, and many we met for the first time.

The Lord has been blessing the little congregation here in New Orleans. We are a small congregation, but the Lord is here with us. The harvest is big and ripe. We're praying for the Lord to add to the fold. We had been holding our services for the past few years in the homes of different of the saints here, until some time last year, when the Lord provided us with a little building to use as a chapel. Along with this chapel is a nice, large-size lot. We're renting this property on a lease/purchase agreement for a period of two years. The lease will be up next June, at which time we will need to come up with 10% of the purchase price for a down payment, and finance the remainder. The rent that is being paid now does not go toward the price of the chapel.

We prayed for a long time for a chapel, and we believe this was in answer to our prayers to have this place to worship in. We're very few and we're trusting in the Lord to increase us and also to supply the needs.

If anyone feels led of the Lord to contribute to this cause, the Lord will surely bless you. Offerings may be sent to me at the following address.

May the Lord bless and encourage each one. Please do remember us in prayer.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. John Clement  
201 Brooklyn Ave., Jefferson, LA 70121. Phone (504) 831-5951.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—To our dear sisters and brothers there in Guthrie and elsewhere: Our prayers and concern are with you. We take you before the Father in prayer each day. We pray for the Church, and the souls who are in need of what you have to offer (the truth). May your labors be fruitful.

Your sister in Christ, —Margaret Hall

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AL—Dear saints: I receive your paper. I enjoy it very much. Please pray for me as I am not well in my body.

Pray for my son, Mike, that God will place him back in the house of God, worshipping God in Spirit and truth.

Thanks for your paper. Please pray for us.

—Mrs. Jeanette Mooney

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: I greet you in Jesus' sweet name, the greatest name on earth. He is the one who knows and understands all our problems. I don't know what would become of us if we didn't have a loving Friend who "sticketh closer than a brother." His name is Jesus. Amen. He never sleeps. He has an all-seeing eye. He sees all we do whether it

be good or bad. I love Him with all my heart and want to live to please Him.

May the Lord bless you and keep you in His loving care.

With love, —Sis. Eathel Hill

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

TN—Dear ones: I read my *Faith and Victory* paper through when I get it. I get many blessings from reading the testimonies the people give.

God bless each of you.

—Mrs. Blannie Hamblen

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and others: I am thankful to have a full determination to press my way all the way to heaven. Times are certainly perilous as the Bible said they would be, and the devil seems to be trickier than ever. We must certainly be on guard at all times.

I am so glad that God's power is still the same, and far greater than the devil's with all of his allies. We can still trust God to give us the victory, and that is certainly what He wants for us.

I was thankful to be able to get to Monark for a few days this year. I enjoyed the meeting. It is so good for the people of God to meet together on the old camp grounds to fellowship and worship.

Christian love, —Sis. Shirley Knight

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear Sis. Maybelle and workers at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name.

I am enjoying the tracts and passing some out every opportunity that I get; in nursing homes, grocery stores, and I am also sending them in letters as God leads. This truth is so precious to me. My desire is for everyone to share in what I have. I am praying much for you dear ones at the Print Shop. It is such a wonderful way to get God's Word out to poor, lost souls.

I had the opportunity to take a bus to the Neosho, Mo. camp meeting. My soul was truly blessed in being with the family of God. Every service was glorious.

In changing buses in Joplin on my return, I met a young man who was searching for peace. I gave him some tracts and told him that I would continue to pray for him. He is an ex-soldier who was wounded in the Vietnam war. He came home to a wife who was asking for a divorce. He therefore became victim to a habit that has worked hardships in his life. I explained the truth as much as time could afford, and his heart seemed to be touched. He had written several poems, some of which he shared with me.

Please pray with me that he will give his heart to God. I gave him some tracts and asked him to write the Faith Pub. House and let us know when he found the Lord. He desired to be saved, as he is tired of the sin life.

This young man gave me this poem and said that it may be a help to someone else. I am submitting this prayerfully so that some poor soul may read this and have a deeper appreciation for godly parents. Many have been reared in this truth but do not have the love and appreciation for this godly way. I trust this will touch some hearts, and perhaps more of them will come home to Christ.

Your sister in Christ, —Theresa Gaines

## Just Me, Lord

Lord, I would like to talk to you.

I hope you have the time.

I know how I have promised you things—  
And most of them were lies.

This time I am sincere, Lord;

I hope you hear what I have to say:

I'm tired of being a drunken bum,  
With my family wanting to keep me away.

Even my friends have cast me out, Lord,  
And I don't have anywhere to go.

I don't have a thing in my life of 35 years  
That is worth anything for me to show.

I want to have a life of happiness

That other people seem to have.

I want the respect of my children

And for them to smile and call me Dad.

I'm tired, Lord, of going from town to town,  
Most of the time sleeping in an old house,  
Or in the park, or on the ground.

Or going to the hospital when

I am sick and have the shakes,

Or laying in some dirty corner,

Drinking wine and thinking of all my mistakes.

I know you didn't create me for this kind of life.

That's one thing I know is true.

And, Lord, if you give me one more chance,  
I'll do my best to follow you.

I am just another drunk, Lord,

And I hope you have heard my prayer.

I don't know much about praying,

But I heard that you are always there.

Well, I'll stop now, I don't want to take

Up too much of your time,

Because some other drunk might want to talk,

And he may also want to cry.

Amen.

—Dewey Tims, July 5, 1983

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## Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

WI—Dear ones: We are encouraged to press the battle on. Sometimes the battle gets hot, but our Almighty God is always there to take us through with victory. Praise God!

We want to express our gratitude to the saints for their prayers, love, and concern for us at the time of delivery of our precious little boy.

After the baby was born I was seriously sick with toxic poisoning. Because I was physically exhausted and had this poisoning, my nerves were bad. I reacted by having a severe rash all over my body. I would itch so bad that I could hardly stand it, but God delivered. In about a week the severe itching was gone. What a mighty God we serve! He is the One who can deliver. "Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." Psa. 73:25, 26. What a comfort! Yes, we may be weak, but God is there to give strength. We surely thank God for His goodness.

We want to say that we appreciate the prayers and the different ones who called. It is our desire to make heaven our home and teach our little Zeke the things of God.

—Ron, Martha and Zeke Zacharias  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

CA—Dear saints everywhere: I would like to testify to how the Lord answered prayer for us in the death of our son, Daniel Rich. Three weeks before he died, he got sick at school. The school nurse and teacher asked us to have him examined. After seeking counsel from the elders of the Church, we had him checked. The first doctor found no heart murmur, but asked if we would let a heart specialist check Daniel. We agreed after letting him know our beliefs and that we wanted to keep Daniel at home, and if it was God's will to take him, to let God take him when it was His time. The doctor felt no alarm and set up an appointment with a heart specialist for three weeks later.

In this period of time, Daniel began to go down-hill fast. Sis. Loretta Harmon stayed for two nights with me, and then both Sis. Letha Reece and Sis. Loretta stayed all night to help me care for Daniel. Also my sister, Cathy Brown, and my sister-in-law, Kathy McMahon, came and stayed all night. I thank God for these dear ones. I couldn't have made it without them.

When the appointment with the second doctor was kept, Daniel was in really bad shape. We had all the saints praying. When the second doctor checked Daniel, he wanted us to hospitalize our son immediately. We told him our

beliefs and said that we were taking Daniel home. He said that he would discuss the case with the first doctor because we were actually under the first doctor's care.

I had to wait until the next day to call the first doctor back to see what they had decided. When I talked to him, he said that he would not fill out any complaints against us. He let us know that he backed us all the way. He felt that we had a right to trust God and do what we wanted. He said that there was nothing they could do for Daniel, except maybe put him on a kidney machine and that that would only cause more suffering. At this point he told me that he felt that Daniel had two months to live at the most.

I was burdened to think of Daniel suffering like this for two more months, so I called the saints all over to pray that God would deliver Daniel right away. The Lord took Daniel at 12:15 a.m. He didn't even go one day of the two months that the doctor had given him to live.

Pray for us that we be faithful to the end. We want to be able to go and see our precious Daniel again. It is my greatest comfort to know that he is with the Lord.

Christian love,

—Bro. K. C. and Sis. Candice Rich  
o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o

KS—Dear saints scattered abroad: We greet you with thankful hearts to God for His love toward us, and for manifesting His power in healing our bodies when we were sick.

I feel like relating some recent healings. I was bitten by a spider or some other insect that caused my arm to swell. I was in much pain and discomfort. It lasted for over a week, but one Monday afternoon, as I was sitting here by the kitchen table, the Lord paid me a visit and touched it. He took all the fever out and the symptoms left. I had other problems during that time, and they were healed, too.

Then one night at prayer meeting, Alicia Gracey, the four-year-old daughter of Bro. and Sis. Emmanuel Gracey, had an eye that swelled up. The Lord healed her of that condition that night. Surely we are serving the same God that Elijah served!

We were tested again when my husband took ill, and he couldn't find a comfortable place to lay. His body ran a high fever for several days, and he was sick for three weeks. Needless to say, we were alarmed, but the Lord touched him a few days before the Monark camp meeting. He felt able to go and attend it, and has been working here at home since we came back. We are grateful for the grace of God to trust Him. He knows and understands our every need.

We appreciate the offerings that are sent in to help in the tent meetings. The Dallas meeting was a great blessing to souls there. We were glad for the victories reported. Also the Akron, Ohio meeting proved to be a blessing. The Duncannon, PA tent meeting is in progress now (Aug. 11). We are praying that much good will be accomplished there. Bro. Samons plans to have a tent meeting in his area after the meeting ends in Pennsylvania.

We are considering selling the truck that we have, and buying a trailer to haul this equipment. The truck needs some repairs before going on sale. We feel that rather than keeping insurance, tags, and other expenses involved on the truck, to go this way would use the Lord's money more wisely. Pray for us, as we desire to be directed of the Lord in these matters. We know He is able to supply all the needs.

Pray for us here, as we endeavor to fill the place He has called us to fill.

Yours in His service,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

AL—"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good. . . ." Psalms 118:1a.

"Praise ye the Lord. . . ." Psalm 111:1a.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: . . . who healeth all thy diseases." Psalm 103:2, 3b.

My heart is full of praise to my wonderful Lord and Saviour. I want to express a portion of my soul, if possible, to help encourage others to trust in God.

In February of this year I first began having an affliction. I had cleaned house thoroughly, preparing for my oldest daughter's birthday party. I had bought a new kind of cleansing agent for the bathroom. Not long after I used this cleaner, I noticed a soreness arising in my left lung, accompanied with a cough, and I began losing my strength. Well, within a couple of days, I was really sick. I never actually thought it was because of the cleaner at that time; I just thought I was coming down with something. By my symptoms, it looked like perhaps I had a form of pneumonia. My parents were here to await the arrival of my sister's baby, so they were here, too. By the time they were to go home, I was feeling better. I didn't realize that I had anything other than a bad cold in my lungs.

Time passed, and I would feel well some days, and on others I would feel absolutely terrible.

Around the middle of May, I began getting worse. The pain in my lung was so intense that I could hardly sleep laying down. My breathing

was very shallow, and my strength would come and go. It was extremely hard to take a deep breath. I felt that I would like to see an x-ray of my lung. We thought it was walking pneumonia brought on by the cleaner.

We called on the saints for prayer. Word got around and people were praying everywhere. I cannot find words to express the appreciation I have for everyone's concern. I received many cards, phone calls, and letters. All were deeply appreciated. It's wonderful to be in the family of God. The verse comes to mind: "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it." 1 Cor. 12:26. I have found this to be true. Praise the Lord for His Church! The people of God are precious to me. Tears come to my eyes when I think about the love that binds us all together.

Through June, things pretty well stayed the same. We were just looking to the Lord for complete healing. I talked to a specialist and after looking at my x-rays, he felt I had some sort of growth in my lung. He also felt that my left lung was collapsed.

I fully consecrated my life and body to the Lord. I knew that He let this happen for *some* reason, and I knew that He could take it away. There was no doubt in my mind. I was determined to trust the Lord for my lung. My life was under His control.

Saints, friends, and everyone kept praying and on July 23, the Lord did something for me! I had been coughing extremely hard for over a week, but from that day on, I have had *no* hard coughing, *no* soreness, *no* weakness, and my breathing is a lot better! Praise God! Isn't He good? He *is* faithful. I thank Him so much for His goodness.

It seems like He wanted me to get to the place where I was ready to suffer my whole life, if necessary, to do His will. When I got to that place, He healed me!

"After that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you." 1 Pet. 5:10. It is my desire to be more perfect and more settled. I'm yielded to His will for whatever He wants to do with me. I have really grown through this time of suffering. I was never one to be sick. My heart goes out to everyone who is in the battle of affliction, but be encouraged: the Lord will bring you through!

Once again, I thank each one for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and letters. You will never know how much they meant to me.

God bless you all. Keep us in your prayers. We want to be found without spot, and blameless before Him.

In love,

—Lori LaCroix

## FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Mexico . . .

Aug. 4—Dear ones: We greet you in the holy and precious name of our Redeemer, desiring that this finds you well and with such joy in the Lord, serving and loving Him with all your hearts. This is my desire and prayer.

My dear brethren, we write this letter with much love and joy in the things of God, thanking Him for His great blessings in our lives and the work of God. We've had four weeks of beautiful services. There are some new people coming, who are very interested in the things of God. A lady of 35 or 40 years came to the altar yesterday. She has served the Lord for several years, but felt she had just then found the truth. She desired prayer that she could serve the Lord in truth. The Lord brought a message on obedience, and brought out the thought that unless we are perfectly obedient, we cannot expect His blessings.

We now have all the windows in the chapel, thank the Lord. In truth, He has been blessing greatly.

We have an urgent, unspoken request. All who can reach the throne of grace in prayer, with a burden for souls here, pray earnestly for us in this.

I want to thank everyone there who had any part in extending hospitality and love to me while I was in Guthrie for the camp meeting. I pray the Lord to bless each one. Through the offerings received while there, we have been able to buy the windows and put them in. We ask that the Lord will bless each one for his part in this.

Let us all continue to pray for one another.  
Your brother in Christ,

—Bro. Mayarino Escobar

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From India . . .

July 23—Our dearly beloved elder Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey, and other dear ones in the Print Shop and the dear saints scattered everywhere in America: Greetings of Christian love, peace, and joy to all you dear ones again in the precious name of Jesus Christ.

Our gospel team travelled several miles into the rural areas last Saturday, and preached the gospel in fifteen streets, distributing tracts. We will continue this program on every Saturday. We have had good results and response with this program.

We are living in the most critical hour in the human history. Millions press to graves, and hell is filled with men due to the negligence

of Christians. On the other hand, communism is on the advance. Red flags are seen higher than ever. The red hammer and sickle are breaking apart nations.

"Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city: for henceforth there shall no more come into thee the uncircumcised and the unclean." Isa. 52:1.

With love and prayers, your brother in the Lord's work,  
—John Varghese

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

From the Philippines . . .

July 29—Dear Sis. Pruitt, Bro. Murphey, and all the saints in the Print Shop: Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus. Our hearts were overflowing with joy and thanksgiving to receive the check you sent us and the July issue of the *Faith and Victory*. Please say "thank you," for us to all the concerned saints who sacrificed to share a part of their earnings for the missionary fund. Please tell them that their efforts were not in vain, because every precious soul now enjoying God's salvation in the P. I. is worth more than all the riches in the world. God knows their sacrifices for Christ's sake. These fruits of love will meet them someday in heaven.

I praise God for the workers in the Print Shop who are giving their time and talents for the paper ministry. The *Faith and Victory* is a great encouragement to us. It is a dining table of spiritual food. The contents of every issue are very informative, instructive, and inspiring.

Thank God, the Church of God is moving forward in the Philippines with the banner of truth. The people have said it is new to their ears, but they are interested because of its spiritual teaching. . . .

With my love and prayers,

—Matias S. Tangunan

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## In Memorial

Amos L. Porter, son of William H. and Drucilla Porter, was born April 24, 1911, at Webb City, MO, and departed this life June 18, 1987.

He moved to the Granby, MO area in 1930. He was united with Nina Brown in marriage in 1932. Nina preceded him in death June 18, 1972. In November, 1975, he married Sis. Leta Sorrell. She passed away in August, 1976.

Bro. Amos sought the Lord in his early forties, and became a member of the Church of

God by the new birth. He served the Lord faithfully until his death. He was a trustee on the board of the Monark Springs Campground, and taught Sunday School in his home congregation of Neosho, MO for many years. He was a carpenter and used his trade for his family, the Church, and friends.

He leaves his three daughters: Vera Roaseau of Parker, CO, Kathryn Baltzell of Olathe, KS, and Janyce Porter of Shawnee, OK; four step-children: Edward Lee Sorrell of Guthrie, OK, Sherman Sorrell of Springfield, MO, Joe Sorrell of Myrtle, MO, and Coquette Elwell of Gladstone, OR; one devoted sister, Zelda Speak of Neosho, MO; six grandchildren, several step-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives, saints, and friends.

Funeral services were held at Clark's Chapel of Memories in Neosho, MO. Bro. Charles Smith and Bro. T. V. McMillian officiated. Burial was at the Neosho I. O. O. F. Cemetery.

#### NOTE OF THANKS

The family of Amos Porter wish to express our appreciation for all the prayers, flowers, food, phone calls, and love shown to us at the time of our loss. We miss our dear father's love and words of encouragement. He was a very special person. Pray for us all that we may meet him in heaven.

—The family of Amos L. Porter

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Paul Lee Cole was born on May 11, 1941, in Granby, Missouri, and departed this life on June 25, 1987, at his home in Neosho, MO.

Paul accepted Jesus as his Saviour at the age of 12 years. He held steadfastly to the truth until his death. His age was 46 years, 1 month, and 14 days. In 1964, at Neosho, MO, he was united in marriage to Carol Jean McMillian. To this union six children were born.

Survivors include his wife, Carol; one daughter, Rebecca Hightower of Neosho, MO; five sons: Clifford Cole of Seneca, MO, Orin, Kevin, Ronald, and Eugene Cole, all of the home; his mother, Eunice Cole of Granby, MO; two brothers: David and Jim Cole, both of Granby, MO; five sisters: Edith Lara of Thermal, CA, Alice Eubank and Ruth Rodriguez, both of Lake Elsinore, CA, Naomi Campbell of Stark City, MO, and Norene Harmon of Pea Ridge, AR; one granddaughter of Neosho, MO; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The funeral services were held at the Clark Funeral Home in Neosho, MO. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Leslie Busbee, and assisted by Bro. Austin McMillian and Bro. Roy

Harmon. He was laid to rest in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Butterfield, MO.

Paul had given a victorious testimony at prayer meeting in Neosho, MO, one week before his passing. He enjoyed helping his widowed mother in her garden, and he noticed that this year it was more beautiful and luscious than ever before. But, alas! Very strong winds had flattened the beautiful corn, green beans, potatoes, etc. He was very saddened and said, "What a shame that such a beautiful garden was ruined." The next day the sun came out and shone brightly. After getting off work that evening, Paul was quite anxious to go and see the garden. To his amazement and delight everything was standing straight and tall! He realized that the energy of the sun had put everything back into place.

This left a lasting impression on Paul. Even though a few weeks had gone by since the storm, God gave Paul this testimony at prayer meeting one week before his death. He did not realize that soon his own final victory would be won, and his eternal triumph to begin.

May we all strive to be faithful to the end and be able to say as did the Apostle Paul, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

#### NOTE OF THANKS

I want to take this opportunity to say that my heart has just melted in me at the love and concern and prayers offered up in our behalf. We thank everyone for the beautiful flowers, cards, food, and love offerings. Truly this is the family of God!

Your sister,

—Carol Cole

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Infant Daniel Cory Simpson was called from above on July 2, 1987.

He leaves to remember his homecoming his beloved parents: Bro. Norman and Sis. Carmen Simpson; his sisters: Shannon, Deanna, Shalee, Leah, Rachel, Tabitha, and Kristi Simpson; his brothers: Norman, Jr., Shermon, Micah, and Joshua Simpson; his grandparents: Edna Duncan and Henry Simpson; cousins, uncles, aunts, and saints.

Graveside services were conducted by Bro. Herchell Hargrave.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Veva Jackson Myers of Loranger, LA was born Aug. 30, 1904, at Monterey, LA and passed away on July 14, 1987, at the age of 82 years.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Spencer Myers; three daughters: Betty Howell, Norma Hayden, and Gayle McCullen; two sisters: Mrs. Ione Myers and Mrs. Lula Williamson; two brothers: Levi Jackson, Sr., and Harry S. Jackson, Jr.; nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Sis. Veva was a very outstanding person as a wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to all who came her way.

Funeral services were held on July 16, and were conducted by Bro. Richard Madden and Bro. Bob Forbes.

The night was still, so sad and long,  
Yet Jesus lingered near  
To claim His faithful, trusting child  
As He dismissed all fear.

Love was strong within her home;  
God's love in her made it so.  
Her meek and gentle spirit was known  
By all down here below.

The quiet morning, the sacred awe  
Was sweetly resting over us,  
As angels came and bore her away—  
No more to be here with us.

She yielded gently to God's perfect will  
And departed without a sigh,  
For she saw the glory that awaited her  
In her heavenly mansion on high.

Her good deeds were done in quietness.  
Her love knew no end.  
To all who knew her both far and near  
She was a good and faithful friend.

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Alma (Mitchell) Carver, wife of Lynn Carver of Shreveport, LA, suffered a heart attack on July 12, 1987, and died on July 23, 1987. The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Richard Madden and Bro. Ed Wilson, ministers of the Church of God.

Alma is survived by her husband, Lynn Carver; two daughters: Sharon Lynne Carver, and Lenette (Carver) Melot, both of Shreveport; two brothers: Julius Ansil Mitchell and Manuel Mitchell, both of Jena, LA; and two grandchildren: Cheryl Dawn Melot and Alan Shawn Melot, of Shreveport, LA.

Special singing was by the Loftis sisters, and congregational singing consisted of two songs: "Wonderful Words of Life," and "I Ought To Love My Saviour." In her illness Alma repeated, "Wonderful words of life, glorious words of life," and, "Listen to those accents of love divine so sweet." Alma repeated over and over the next-to-last verse in the Bible, combining the words of Jesus and John: "Even so, Lord Jesus,

come quickly." Alma saw Jesus and said, "Hi, Jesus. Good to see you, Lord."

#### NOTE OF THANKS

The family of Alma Carver wants to thank everyone for their demonstrations of love, concern, prayers, letters, phone calls, and kindness that were shown to us. I am reminded of the song, "Lovingkindness." —Lynn Carver

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Sister Minnie R. Boulden was born in Summerville, SC on Dec. 18, 1907, and departed this life on Aug. 5, 1987. She was a member of the Church of God in Holly Hill, SC.

Sis. Minnie will be greatly missed by her husband, Howard Boulden. During their sixteen years of marriage, they travelled all over the country attending camp meetings and other services. Their first six years were spent in MO, and they then moved to SC. She will long be remembered by all who knew and loved her. The minister who officiated at the funeral services stated, "Sis. Minnie preached her funeral by the good life she lived and shared with all of us. This is not a time of sadness but of joy, as another saint has made it home. We look forward to the day when once again we can look upon her loving face."

Surviving are her husband; two daughters: Thelma Dangerfield of Summerville, SC, and Georgia Reeves of Ladson, SC; a stepson, Harold Boulden of Tampa, FL; three brothers: Bennie Speissegger of Summerville, SC, Harry and Herbert Speissegger, both of Moncks Corner, SC; a sister, Dot V. Furman of Springfield, MA; three grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

#### Claim God's Promise

(continued from page 3)

Let's consider answer #3, which was, "How can I pledge that my house will serve the Lord? Each child must decide for himself whom he will serve." Many times, children will do what they are programmed, or what they are expected to do. Are you a parent who is programing your children with wrong conduct? Ask God to forgive you. Now have faith that as God directs you, that this influence will have an impact on the child to do right. At the same time, always be alert for signs that he may not be making some wise choices. As I was growing up, I never remember thinking that my parents thought I would break God's commandments. They had instilled in my subconscious mind that woe, woe, woe is me if I did. Let your children see



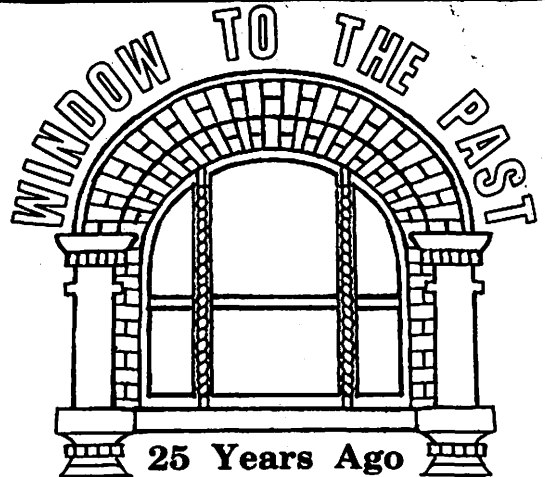
lives that are suffering woes on earth because of their wrong decisions. Show them while they're very young the kind of life that a drug addict lives. Take them to the skid-row or slums of any large city, or to a large jail. Follow such a trip with a Bible study about eternal woes for unbelievers. Hopefully they will understand that succumbing to sin will bring suffering on earth and throughout eternity. Train your child like his eternal destiny depends solely on you, and trust like it depends solely on the mercy of God. Be sure to trust with no fear or doubt, because Job 3:25, says, "For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me. . . ."

Now let's look at answer #4, which says, "Yes, my house will serve the Lord. I will not have a child in my house who will not align himself to the standards of the Church." Remember that the meaning of "my house" is "my family." All homes must have rules, and unless these rules are respected, chaos will result. Yet at the same time, having a child living outside the material walls of our home does not sever him or her from the family. Such an act cannot be counted upon for the awakening of salvation of the child's soul. Many times, this will only leave the child unprotected and they can become easy preys for entanglement in more of the devil's traps. Beware of a legalistic attitude: "He broke our home rules; I will break him," or, "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Matt. 18:4-7, talks about offences, and verse 7 says, ". . . but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!"

Parental authority is God-given. Parental respect can be earned or lost by a parent's actions. Arbitration can take place between parent and child without the parent's authority being weakened. Instead, the child's respect for the parent will be strengthened. The Holy Spirit must be the arbitrator to give wisdom and understanding in these situations. The only thing that needs to be lost when arbitration calls for the parent's resignation is parental pride, and perhaps some preconceived idea of God's standard for your home. When pride is lost and human love is replaced by divine love, then God has a chance to deal with the rebellious son or daughter. Human love is sometimes not willing to let God work in His way if it brings suffering to the child.

Surrender, weary Mom and Dad; take your hands off, claim God's promise, rebuke doubts and fears, and let God begin to truly work. Then you may boldly say with those of olden days, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."  
—Charlotte Huskey

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"God is a jealous God. He wants the first place in our affections, hearts, lives, plans, and actions. Surely the blessings are great when we live a life devoted to God. We need to put first things first, and not self first. Some people are like the little boy who was given two nickels on Sunday morning. One was for the Sunday School offering and the other was for himself. On the way he dropped one nickel and it rolled down the drain. The little boy said, 'There goes the Lord's nickel.' The prophet told them that they were putting their money in bags with holes. [Haggai 1:6] God has promised, 'Him that honoureth me, I will honour.' "

—Marie Miles

"To the saints everywhere, greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I thank God that I am saved and still have the truth working in me like it did in 1919 when I received it, only it is increasing."

—W. T. Tomlin

"We are looking to the Lord to direct us in all things so that the paper, when it is printed and sent forth, will have the approval of God upon the reading matter. If it were not such a serious matter, it would be real amusing sometimes to hear some tell us how to run the paper and put their interpretation on the Scriptures even though they have no calling to edit a paper for the Lord. We do appreciate wholesome advice and upbuilding criticism from our brethren, and realize that we are all workers together for God for the furtherance of the kingdom of God or the Church, which is the pillar and ground of the truth as it is in Jesus."

—Fred Pruitt