

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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Christian Warfare

One night this I saw and beheld in a dream
Where an army of men like a dark crimson stream
Went forth to a conflict and battle so fierce,
Well knowing that death would so many emperce.

I heard the guns thunder; I saw the men fall;
I saw the blood flowing; I felt the dark pall.
I woke from my dream, in deep anguish I cried:
"Should I not be fighting out there by their side?"

And then as I listened and silenced my mind,
I heard the Lord speaking so gentle and kind:
"Tis not in that warfare I want you to be,
For that kind of strife is displeasing to Me."

"The battle for you is a warfare of love,
A striving for triumph all darkness above:
A fight to the finish of faith and good will,
A vict'ry that helps you be silent and still."

"I want you in trials to bravely endure,
To strive to be humble, to keep yourself pure,
To pull down the strongholds, vain thoughts to subdue,
To bring in subjection the flesh, and be true."

"I want you to conqu'er o'er passion and pride
To ever be joyful whatever betide,
Forgiving, and bearing, and loving to all
Obedient to answer when duty doth call."

"Enduring temptation, old Satan resist,
And for the true faith ever boldly persist;
All hardness enduring, a good soldier be
Til death from the battle at last sets you free."

How precious the lesson God gave me that night;
I'm strengthened for battle, encouraged to fight.
My Captain is Jesus, He's going before,
He's waiting to greet me on Heaven's bright shore.

Fight onward, dear brethren, against the dark foe,
Be valiant for Jesus while trav'ling below:
Hold fast to the armor of faith, hope, and love,
How great our reward in those mansions above!

—Leslie Busbee

Eternal Bliss — Eternal Despair

I have no doubt you are very particular with whom you associate with here in this world. No doubt you choose the best of society to count as your friends. Yet on the other hand, do you ever think of the motley crowd that will be lost? "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8. ". . . Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Revelation 20:15.

How is it possible to get our names written in the book of life? By believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Romans 10:10, 11. ". . . To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God." Revelation 2:7. "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever." Revelation 22:1-5.

Let us look at the other side for a moment. In Luke 16:19-24 we read, "There was a certain

rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."

Please note the contrast between these two pictures. One with a stream of water clear as crystal and with beautiful trees on the banks. "... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." 1 Corinthians 2:9. But the rich man was begging for Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool his parched tongue. Can you imagine a more vivid picture of the realities of the soul

and scores were plunged to a horrible death. The watchman lived out the remainder of his days in a padded cell crying, "Too late, too late." Memory brings back the things we have done, also the things that have been left undone. Gladly would the rich man have become a missionary, but he found himself on the other side of a gulf that cannot be crossed.

No matter how much or how little money we have, our greatest wealth is time. We have just so much time between birth and death and these precious minutes are passing fast.

If you have not found the saving power of Christ in your life then you are under the bondage of sin, and if you die in that condition, sin will put you exactly where it put the rich man.

Sin has blasted the world's hopes.
Sin has degraded the world's desires.
Sin has stained the world's character.
Sin has fired the world's passions.
Sin has polluted the world's influence.
Sin has shattered the world's intellect.
Sin has outraged the world's morality.
Sin has seared the world's conscience.
Sin has perverted and cursed the world's

life.

"Sin dips its fiery pen into the blood of humanity and leaves upon the white pages of innocence blotches of indescribable ghastliness."

beyond the tomb? And to think that an intelligent being created in the image of God should choose to go there, or procrastinate and sin away his day of grace. It is not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9).

Abraham said, "Son, remember." Yes, we will have the full use of our faculties and put right values on things of eternal moment, as we have never done before. "... Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted and thou art tormented. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment." Luke 16:25, 27, 28.

Oh! memory is a fearful thing. Memory can blanch the cheek, stop the heart and strike a man dead on the street. Hell is the madhouse of the universe, and the terrible thing is that men and women will find it out too late as this rich man did.

A watchman was late in closing a drawbridge. A train plunged through into the river

Sin seeks only to doom every soul.

Sin dips its fiery pen into the blood of humanity and leaves upon the white pages of innocence blotches of indescribable ghastliness.

Like a hissing serpent, with fangs bared, sin leaves its slimy trail wherever it goes, spreading virulent poison in its wake, blighting and withering all it touches.

Sin rushes forth like a gory monster trampling underfoot broken and bleeding hearts, heeding not the pitiful cry of the orphans, nor the sobbing moans of the bereaved. Greed, lust, murder, hatred, and selfishness are its unholy diabolical children. Pain, sorrow, agony and unamendable woe are its constant attendants. Unutterable darkness covers it like a pall. Its infernal night knows not the light of dawning.

Which side of the great gulf are you choosing today? Remember the two epitaphs; one was buried, the other was carried by angels; one begged for bread in this world, the other will beg through eternity for water and mercy, which are stangers in that country.

—Joel Kendrick

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Overcoming

"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony. . . ." Revelation 12:11.

How do we overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of our testimony? To be overcomers we must first have Jesus' blood applied to our hearts, be yielded to Him and be partakers of His divine nature. This gives us power. We can then go forth in the armour of God to withstand the daily battles that we encounter. We can speak out against wrong and evil and intercede to God's throne for the salvation of sinners, thus doing what we can to overcome the devil.

" . . . By the word of their testimony. . . ." Perhaps the first thought that comes to mind is to be ready to testify in prayer meeting, which is good. However, there are ways for us to testify which surpass telling the saints about God's goodness to us, and which will help us defeat the enemy of our soul and give us more strength to overcome.

When we testify, or stand up for God in the midst of oppositions and adversity, declaring that we will not yield to the wrong or take the easiest, most likely course for one to take, we are at that time overcoming that wrong by our testimony, and by the power provided to us by the blood of the Lamb being applied to our hearts.

Sometimes our young people are confronted with suggestions of places to go, things to partake of, etc., that put them in a position to overcome by the power of God, and by witnessing to others (testifying) that they do not do these things that are put to them as a temptation. It is truly overcoming when one stands against wrong, letting their voice and life testify against evil.

We all continually experience things that place us as targets of the enemy. Do we stand, thereby testifying to the power of the blood and the keeping grace of God? These are the testimonies that are really effective in overcoming the enemy. We gain strength when we witness to others, letting them know our stand for God. It should not be done in a way of bragging, nor a declaration that we fail to live up to, but in a calm, steady stand for God.

Surely it is encouraging to hear good testimonies at service. When one tells of something God has done for them, or testifies of special blessings that they have received from thoughts, or from the Scriptures, etc., that uplifts the congregation. We do need to be sure that we don't testify for the devil, or that we are not promoting ourself. When there is a general flow

in the oration of what I did, what I said, where I went, or who I helped, we had better take heed. At that point self is perhaps becoming too prominent. We need to overcome self before we can be a true witness to the overcoming power and graces of God, making us a living testimony to the world, thereby overcoming the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony.

—Clarice Pruitt

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Will you please comment some on the different parts of the ministry and other officers in the Church; the methods of their selection, the method of certification or ordination and procedure for this and their duties, etc.

Answer: This is a very big subject and I am certain I will not be able to cover it in the space allotted to me in this column, but perhaps I can produce a few important points that might be helpful to the questioner. Though it is a very large topic, it is a very beautiful one and I am glad for the opportunity to present a few points on it for the consideration of the readers. I may get a little back-lash from some of the readers, but that will be instructive and acceptable to me, too.

First, let us realize that the human body which is used as a model of the Body of Christ, the Church, throughout the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians and in many other Scriptures of the New Testament is the most complete, synchronized and most completely harmonious in the functioning of all its parts of any organism that there is. The reader may read the entire 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:22, 23 and Galatians 1:24 as they are all related to this point. God fashioned, built and organized His Church on this model. But to build a Church after this fashion (Matthew 16:18; Hebrews 8:2; Colossians 1:18) is to assemble the members of the Church together to join them together by joints and bands (Colossians 2:19) and furnish it with organs and necessary facilities to function as a unified body. To form the body of Christ, He has brought together in order a number of persons, saved men and women who have been saved and cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus, and put them together in an orderly, functional, structured whole so they can function as a unit.

Then within this body He has provided a special distinct group of individuals called mini-

(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.

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EDITORIALS

"Giving no offence in any thing that the ministry be not blamed: But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses." 2 Corinthians 6:3, 4. At face value we would think that these two verses were written specifically for ministers, and it is very appropriate for them, but upon closer examination we find that it was written to a Church and addressed to "We then as workers together with him." (2 Corinthians 6:1). Therefore these verses of Scripture should be of interest to all those who confess the name of Christ.

We must realize that as Christians we are always on stage. People are constantly forming judgments about us. Whether we intend it or not, many people are deriving opinions about the Church of God by the life we live. Vastly more important, they are evaluating Jesus Christ as they see Him represented. This should bring a real carefulness to our daily conduct. We should ask ourselves, "Am I careless with the truth? Do I represent it well in every personal situation or am I looking out for my own personal benefit? Am I more eager to talk about Christ than to live for Him?" If we are living what the Bible teaches in principle and spirit, our life will be filled with God's presence and we will not only honor our Lord in such, but we will earn the kind of respect from others that is eminently worth having. This does not mean that people will always agree with us or that we will be warmly accepted by all, but a quote by Robert A. Cook is worth considering. "Christians who are ridiculed and given a wary glance are usually those whose lifestyles do not quite measure up to what they say."

This brings us to the question, "What identifies a Christian?" There are probably as many answers to this as there are readers of the question. In this passage of Scripture the Apostle Paul foregoes all rhetoric and simply portrays patience as being that quality which prevents offenses of the ministry and approves us as ministers of God. Patience is an indisputable attribute of a Christian. There are some who are more gentle-natured than others, but it doesn't matter how gently inclined a sinner is, there are some situations that he cannot handle. It is God's indwelling power that induces the Christian with the ability to bear and forbear. "In your patience possess ye your souls," Luke 21:19, is a tried and proven precept. If we, through the power of God, are in possession of our souls, the world is taking note of it and the gospel is benefiting from it. It is normal in the world for people to be possessed by wrath, anger, envy, carnal desires, etc. A godly life will stand head

and shoulder's above this. A professed but un-lived Christian life will stand out, but only as a laughing stock, and as a result the gospel suffers. Let us live a life which the world can at least respect, if not agree with, and give no occasion to needlessly shame the gospel by unwise behavior.

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This June issue goes to press just prior to the Oklahoma State camp meeting which is held here in Guthrie. You are invited to come and worship with the saints in this meeting which is scheduled to begin May 27, and continue through June 5. There will be three services daily. Accomodations will be provided and meals will be served each day in the dining hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!

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For several weeks we have been out of the vinyl songbook covers for the *Evening Light* songbooks. We now have them back in stock. They sell for \$2.50. This includes postage.

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We would like to thank everyone who responded to the need of Bibles for Africa. We have received a good supply which will last for quite some time.

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In last month's editorials we made mention of how the computer printer which is used to print address labels was malfunctioning. We were told by the service repairman that the unit was unrepairable. Consequently we have purchased a new printer and it is already in operation. This printer has a "letter quality" type capability and is doing a very nice job.

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We are continually reprinting books that we keep in our regular stock and there are several large books that will need reprinting in the near future. In order to do this, and also replenish our regular supply, we have placed an order for 10,000 pounds of paper. We are expecting it to be delivered the first part of August.

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We trust that the *Faith and Victory* paper, along with the other literature printed here at Faith Publishing House is a blessing to those who read it. If so, we would like to hear from you. A divine blessing upon your life may be just what someone else needs to hear about, and we would be glad to pass it on to the readers. We do edit material for space and content and trust that no one is disappointed by this, because we do value your correspondence.

This work is a work of faith. We greatly desire God's guidance in all of our decisions and we depend upon Him to bless us in them.

—Wayne Murphey

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates for 1988

Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 27-June 5

Jefferson, OR — June 10-19

Green Bank, WV — June 10-19

Tulsa, OK — June 10-19

Chilliwack, B.C., Canada — June 20-26

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 24-July 3

Fresno, CA — July 1-10

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO

July 15-24

Bakersfield, CA — August 5-14

Duncannon, PA — Aug. 7-14

Durham, NC — Aug. 14-21

Boley, OK — Aug. 21-28

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 26-Sept. 4

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MISSOURI STATE CAMP MEETING REPORT

We are very happy and thankful to report that the new date for the the Missouri State Camp Meeting was a great success. The meeting was blessed with the loveliest of weather, being held during the most beautiful season of the year here in the Missouri Ozarks. Interest and attendance of the meeting seemed to be much better. The meeting was opened with a day of fasting and prayer. The presence of the Lord came down like a gentle rain. The Dove of Peace hovered over every service, and the fellowship of the saints was pure and sweet. How our souls were enriched as we sat together in heavenly atmosphere, feeding on fresh manna from heaven! Three services were held daily and all seemed especially anointed. The singing had such a sweet and heavenly ring. I have never heard the angels sing, but I don't believe their songs could sound much sweeter or soothing to the soul than the peaceful songs of Zion as they were sung in the Spirit during this meeting. It was truly wonderful. We believe the Holy Spirit had His way in every service. He made choice of the message bearers, and the Word preached was inspiring, challenging and edifying. It was a real time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord for all who came with a heart open to God. Several sought for a closer walk with God at the altar of prayer. In short, we feel that God paid a special visit to Myrtle from May 4-8. It was a short camp meeting, but abundantly blessed of the Lord. We thank Him for this wonderful visitation, and pray that the richness of its blessing will linger on in the hearts of all who were here to receive it. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done."

—Harlan Sorrell

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WICHITA, KS MEETING REPORT

Truly the Lord did bless in our meeting and sent some stirring thoughts. We heard two different messages on "time" and we were warned that the end of time is near. May souls be stirred everywhere and if they are ready for the Lord's second coming, may they be watchful and prayerful and stay prepared. If people are not ready they need to take warning and run for their lives and get into the ark of safety before time runs out.

The Lord blessed and anointed the song services and some of the day services were really precious and a blessing. So we thank the Lord for His continued faithfulness and praise His name. Many sought the Lord at the altar

for help of one kind or another and two people were saved. We pray they will continue on and go all the way.

We appreciate the different ministers and saints in general that came to help in the battle. We are praying that God will bless abundantly in all of the meetings that will be held in different places this summer.

—Submitted by Sis. Shirley Knight

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GREEN BANK, WV CAMP MEETING

The camp meeting of the Church of God at Green Bank will begin June 10th through the 19th.

The first service will be Friday night. There will be two services daily, meals will be served and all who come will be cared for. We have dormitories and the saints' homes are open. There are places to park trailers and motor homes. Also, there are motels nearby.

All are welcome to come and receive a blessing. A special invitation is given to all of God's people who are scattered around in WV and surrounding areas. The Lord has been blessing the work here in a wonderful way. We are expecting something special from God this year, so we urge you to come and be in a good spiritual meeting. Bring a coat as the nights are cool.

Green Bank, WV is located on Rt. 92, 57 miles North of White Sulphur Springs, WV and 50 miles South of Elkins, WV.

For further information contact Bro. Mart Samons, P.O. Box 127, Green Bank, WV 24944, phone (304) 456-4469, or Bro. Mancil Doolittle, (304) 456-4884. The church phone is (304) 456-4069.

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**GENERAL SOUTHERN CAMP MEETING
LORANGER, LA**

The camp meeting will start, Lord willing, Friday night, June 24, continuing daily through July 3, 1988. Its purpose is for the good of souls and the edifying of the Church. Come praying for the meeting.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings. From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more informaton write Nelson Doolittle, Rt. 1, Box 192, Loranger, LA 70446, or call the

pastor, Bro. Eddie Wilson, whose phone number is (504) 878-4559. The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788.

Prayer Requests

IN—"Please remember my unsaved loved ones; they need God. A granddaughter was in a bad wreck. Remember her and a grandson that I took care of." —Dessie Wilson

NM—"Please pray for my healing. I have calcific tendonitis in one ankle and hip, and arthritis in my spine and other joints." —Doretha E. Harden

OK—"Please pray for my granddaughter to be healed and delivered of fear." —Sis. Ruby Blanchard

OK—Bro. Leslie Busbee needs special prayer for his physical condition.

CA—Sis. Helen Carson needs special prayer.

IN—"Please pray for my lost loved ones and for the healing of my body. Also, pray for my daughter." —Mary J. Rogers

OH—Sis. Hiles really needs prayer. Also remember her daughter, Betty.

LA—Pray for Bro. Kenneth Flynn's healing. God knows all about it, but there is power in agreement.

MI—"Please pray for me." —R. Hess

OK—Sis. Ruby Stover still needs prayer. She is better and we are thankful for what God has done.

KY—"My wife suffers with arthritis, please pray for her." —Jesse E. Smedley

NC—"Thank the Lord for answering prayer." —Anna Hypes

The work in Ghana needs to be backed up with your prayers. The enemy is working hard to destroy the work there, but there are a few holding up the truth.

ADDRESS CHANGE

The Lord has directed us in a change in our lives. We are now with the saints in the Loranger, LA area for the time being. Our new address is: Rt. 1 Box 185, Loranger, LA 70446. Phone (504) 878-4559.

We desire an interest in your prayers as we are depending heavily upon the guidance and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

—Bro. Ed and Sis. Roberta Wilson

The comfortable and the comforting people are those who look upon the bright side of life, gathering its roses and sunshine and making the things that happen seem the best.

—Selected

From the Mailbox . . .

OH—Dear Ones at the Print Shop: May God bless each one there with health, wealth and spiritual blessings. This is a day when the Word of God needs to get out to a lost and dying world. Keep up the good work until the Lord comes.

We are facing so much trouble and sin at this present time. Everywhere you turn there is so much crime going on. People are getting killed on the street, in their yards, in churches, at home and in stores. It is no wonder that people should be ready to meet God. You never know when you can be killed. . . .

Please pray for my loved ones that are not ready to meet God. Also I have many that need God to touch and heal their bodies.

I am glad today that I am a child of God. I know after this life I have a better place to go. By God's help I mean to make heaven my home. Pray for me.

Yours in Christ, —Chester Dunaway

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

CA—Dear Saints at the Print Shop: I am so happy and encouraged to press my way on in the dear Lord. I thank my Saviour for salvation today.

I am sending this poem, to be published in the *Faith and Victory* paper if at all possible. Maybe it will be a help to some soul.

Your sister in Christ,

—Gladys Montgomery

"HELL IS THE PRISON HOUSE OF DESPAIR. Here are some things that won't be there: No flowers will bloom on the banks of hell. No beauties of nature we love so well. No comforts of home, music and song. No friendship of joy will be found in that throng. No children to brighten the long, weary night. No love nor peace nor one ray of light. No blood-washed soul with face beaming bright. No loving smile in the region of night. No mercy, no pity, no pardon nor grace. No water, Oh God! What a terrible place! The pains of the lost no human can tell. Not one moment's rest there. There is no rest in hell! Why go to the prison house of despair, for it was not made for you and me, but for the devil and his angels you see. For with faith and repentance do I reach a loving and forgiving God who cares, who has in His hands the keys to set me free from the prison house of despair!"

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

LA—Dear Bro. Murphey, Sis. Pruitt, and Co-workers: It has been some time since I have heard from you, except I get the *Faith and Victory* paper and read the editorials, etc., so I

get to hear from quite a few of you in a way. There are quite a lot of articles printed in it that I enjoy reading as well as hearing from many of the brethren.

I was getting along fairly well up until a few weeks ago when I went to sit down at the dining table on one of the cane-bottomed chairs. For some unknown reason it just went over backwards throwing me on the floor. I hit on my back, not only hurting it some, but also shocking my nervous system as well as my digestive or respiratory system. I need your prayers that I will get over it. By way of information, I am 94 years of age this summer . . .

My goal in life is to be a blessing to as many people as I can while I am living. So I want you to pray for me, for I wish that everyone else knew what I have learned from our God and the Bible.

May our heavenly Father bless you all.

Love and best Christian wishes,

—Charles B. Joiner

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and saints there: With loving thoughts and prayers I will begin to write this letter with the hopes that I will be able to finish and send it on its way. I have meant to write ever so long ago but have been hindered by one thing or another and just haven't done it.

The meeting in Chapultepec, Mexico during Easter week has come and has gone, but we feel it was owned of God and that His blessing was upon us then. We feel we are seeing results from it even now. God's Holy Spirit was felt among the people with a sense of real unity as we worked, worshiped and were among the saints for those few days. It was sweet and we have happy memories of it. The messages were precious and inspiring and stirring and there was a goodly number who came to the altar for help. Most every one left the altar victorious. The meeting was pretty well attended by the surrounding communities. Of course we would have loved to see a lot more come and embrace the truth but are glad for those who have come. We still carry a burden for some there who used to come to meeting all of the time but do not come now. We ask an interest in your prayers about this situation and of course there are other needs also. The chapel looked really nice inside with its pale yellow paint and the benches that were in the chapel in Ejido Patzcuaro where we used to live. This year they had the cement floor and the windows in. We all appreciate each one who has helped it be so nice. We also appreciate each one who helped us pray for the success of the meeting, and please continue to do so. The chapel still doesn't have

paint on the outside yet and some more small things, but we trust that in the near future it can be done.

We might add that the Lord has blessed some of the brethren and they in return have given Brother and Sister Escobar a Dodge maxi van. It is a 15 passenger van. This of course seems ideal for him to be able to bring people to meeting that are too far away to come. We were all so happy for them and trust the Lord to bless and reward the brethren who so kindly shared with them. There is a problem however. The van has to be imported to the country of Mexico. Brother Mayarino says it will cost close to \$700 to do this. If it isn't taken care of within a certain time limit then the van can be taken from them. Brother Mayarino has a job, but with his salary and his family it seems a pretty large amount for him to pay. I thought I might express the need and if any of you would feel led to help, I am sure it would be appreciated.

I trust the Lord is blessing you each one in every way and that all can report good victory in your souls. I can gratefully say that I love the Lord and that in the depth of my soul is a sincere desire to be all the Lord would have me be and to live in a way that He can use me in His vineyard. We would appreciate your prayers any time you might think of us.

With much Christian love,

—Sister Edith Lara

—————o—————

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the King that is our very own personal heavenly Father. I marvel often how the highest King of all power, glory and honor would take the time and care to be "my Father." Oh, how unworthy I am, but how I need Him and thank Him for being to me just what I need. My heart's cry is expressed in an old song, "More About Jesus." The lessons to learn of Jesus are so sweet and pure. How I love to be taught of God. I just pray to always remain teachable. Even if I live to be old, I want to still cry from the heart, not lips, "more of my Jesus let me learn."

How many poor hurting souls need to know God hears and cares. My mind goes to a few years back when I was away from God (I had loving Christian parents, but that didn't save me) I had tried to find help — I knew I was wrong and I wanted freedom from sin and self to love and serve God. I would try so hard. I spent many hours weeping. I should have turned to my parents, but I couldn't hurt them so I carried the load all alone. I went to "some preachers." They told me how bad I was but I didn't find the way out. So I walked on all alone.

The load was too heavy for "little ole me." So on my way home from work I pulled the car over and began to pray and pray and pray, but still I remained hopeless. Then and there I decided my only hope was death. I fixed all the details to make it look like "foul play," and I left my car to jump to my death. As I looked downward into the darkness, a voice so tender, soft and sweet rang through those hills and said, "Look up." I did. At first I was scared — I turned to find I was still there all alone — I looked up, and Oh the beauty of the mountains touching the sky. Never had I seen this place so beautiful. I stood in wonder. Then I turned my eyes back to jumping. Again, the same voice spoke to me saying, "Don't you know if I made all of this I can take care of your needs?" It came in such a way that I felt I had to answer one way or the other. I looked up again, and as the tears rolled down my face I answered, "Yes." At that moment I felt I could fly. The heavy burden was gone. I walked back to my car in sweet peace. How I love to sound hopes message. Many need to hear it. . . .

"Ever keep heaven in view." That alone will add strength and courage because the lights of heaven will never go out but shine bright to cheer and warm our hearts and light our path to guide our feet in the straight and narrow path. Heaven is not far away.

A sister for souls, —Elaine Dunn

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—For quite some time, I have felt a need for a deeper experience. I have studied the tabernacle and its construction and location and position in the camp of the Israelites, the altars, sacrifices, etc. I have studied the (flooded) Jordan crossing, the "witness stones," the battles, the victories, the giants, the milk and honey. I have watched the saints; their battles and burdens, the God-given grace and their rejoicing in victories won. I have observed some beautiful lives. Praise God.

All this put a stir in my soul. There was something I needed and didn't possess. There was obviously a grace, a power, or endurance, a closeness to God which I desired. The longer I sought this experience, the more I desired it, but I had a problem.

I understood that sanctification meant "a setting apart." I really meant business in living justified. I was willing to go through some rather difficult things by His help. However, I think I was "bargaining" with the Lord — something like, "Lord, YOU can sit in the driver's seat, but you will let me have one hand on the wheel? Please? Or, "Lord, I need you to

untangle all the knots and snarls in this 'ball of twine,' but I will hold to this end of the string." Or, like the Indian who was willing to put all his possessions inside the circle drawn on the ground. He could fairly easily go that far, but hesitated to put himself in that circle, symbolizing complete submission to God. I realized God wanted only a "tool He could use." I realized that some are called to "special service" in His Church, but others are called to live the life in many every day positions. This is just as important as any "special service." It isn't for us to choose where He puts us. Oh, yes, I understood all this. But how was I to overcome this drawing back — this hesitancy? And why did I feel timidity in pressing forward when I felt certain everything would be for my good? I wanted the experience, but to obtain it I would have to lay me aside. One part of me said, "Amen, so let it be, right now." Another part of me said, "Don't get so serious about this, hang on (to the self-life) as long as you can." I was miserable. God kept dealing with me. Well, on Sunday morning of the Myrtle, MO camp meeting, I was packing the car to leave for home. I was using a number of grocery sacks. I thought something like this, "We sure accumulate a lot of these around the house. They are certainly not worth very much, but they came in handy when we packed this time."

Bro. Curtis Williams, concerning sanctification, told me something like, "Bro. Gene, you're right there. Just step on over." Now, that should be simple — but that self-life was stubborn, I guess. Bro. Mart Samons said something like, "You're making it too complicated. It is simpler than that." All this is good instruction, but what does it take for a person to break completely free from bondage to self?

My wife and I were some 6 or 8 miles from the Myrtle camp grounds when, as I drove along still seeking, asking, pondering the services, the songs and all, something came to my mind along with, I suppose a half-dozen other thoughts that flooded my mind as though they were one thought.

The picture of a brown paper bag, a grocery bag, flashed in my mind. A thought — the bag wasn't worth very much. Another thought — the bag was empty. Another thought — the bag was like my life and all I have! I didn't hear a voice, but it was as though I was asked, "Will you give me A BROWN PAPER BAG? That struck a responsive cord somewhere down inside. I said (in my mind, my wife didn't know anything was going on) Lord, I can give you a brown paper bag." But I felt an urging to go further than that. I said, "Lord, I give YOU my

BROWN PAPER BAG. Now!"

Can you imagine this? I was sitting in the car, not down on my knees, driving down the road, not at an altar of prayer, when in the sanctuary of my heart, without a word spoken aloud, the transaction was completed. I can take you back to where it happened.

I was told it would be simple, but a brown paper bag? Why? Would you understand my saying, "God speaks the language of the heart"? By that, I mean He knows how to communicate with us. He knows best how to warn us, instruct us, bless us, encourage us, guide us, humble us, strengthen us and on and on.

He will speak to one of us one way, to someone else a different way. I do believe He will speak simply so we can understand clearly. I knew what He meant about the brown paper bag. Something like, "Just give it to me. Now, drop your hands down to your sides. Let me fold it up and put it on the shelf, if I choose to do so. Or, let me put it in it any of a variety of things. Let me put it over here or over there, as I see best. It is mine, now."

In just an instant, my mind's eye saw something else. It was a picture of the Jordan River, parted. There was an unobstructed path for me over into Canaan. I had just walked over that path through the flooded Jordan River!

Well, what about the rest of the day? First we stopped in Thayer where I told this to our traveling companions, Bro. Edwin and Sis. Lillian Eck. We stopped in Springfield where I told our daughter and son-in-law. We arrived in Guthrie early enough so I could testify about it at the close of the service.

Most of the afternoon, as we drove along, I felt I would almost "burst at the seams." This human body could hardly contain all the fulness being poured out within.

I think I can better understand the poet's thought who wrote:

"Yielded to Thee, fully yielded to Thee,
Nothing withheld, Thou art reigning in me;
All on the altar, my faith shall not falter,
I'm yielded to Thee, Lord, yielded to Thee."

—Haldon Lillenas

I need your prayers,

—Gene Beisly

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—God saved me when I was 35 years of age and did many miracles for our family. He even healed our youngest boy instantly when he was dying. This was only the beginning of miracles.

Two and one half years passed. We received a letter from some very good friends in the

Church of God, inviting us to stay all day with them the following Sunday. The lady of the house said they were going to services in the morning, but for us to go on to the house and they would come later. I knew that my husband would not care to go to services, but the rest of us desired to go. I began to pray and afterward, knowing that my husband had formerly lived in the town where services were held, asked him, "Honey, do you know enough people there to visit with for a couple of hours?" (I silently prayed that he would go with us to service.)

He said, "Well, I think I do, Why?"

"Well, the boys and I would like to go to service and I know you don't care to go." He said that was fine and we left it there, but I kept praying that he would go with us. When we arrived at the chapel, he got out with us. I rejoiced and thanked the Lord.

The pastor preached a message on "Waiting on the Lord." While he was preaching, the Lord was talking to me. First, He related to me all the miracles He had performed for our family, then, He said, "Earnest, (my husband) knows about all of them and if he doesn't accept me today, my mercy is running out."

When we stood up to sing the invitation hymn, I had my arm through his and realized he was trembling. Also, the knuckles of his hands were white from the tight grip he had on the bench in front of us, but he did not go to the altar!

When we arrived at the house of our friends, she (the lady) and I were out in back of the house. We were watching Earnest, her husband and all the children of both families going across a small bridge to the barn. I, remembering with sadness how God had dealt with Earnest in service, said, "I don't believe Earnest is going to live very long."

She was frightened and almost shouted at me, "Why do you say that?" I related to her the things that had transpired that morning in service, and she very sadly said, "Oh, Opal, I hope it isn't so."

In two and one half weeks, I got a bad catch in my back and couldn't walk a single step without crutches. I was that way for three days. Saturday night, Earnest said, "Honey, I'm not going to say you can't go to church tomorrow, but I believe it would be better if you didn't go." The place I was regularly attending was 12 miles from our house, but I figured a country road by which to go that I'd only have to use the brakes one time, so we did go.

When we returned to the house, Earnest had just finished eating breakfast. He opened the door, held the screen all the way back, and said,

"Honey, I wish I could do something to help you."

"Well, honey, don't worry about me, I'll be alright" I said, and came up the steps with my crutches. As the screen door closed behind me, he enfolded me in his arms and kissed me. (Little did I dream it could possibly be the last time.)

After the boys and I ate, I lay down and our neighbor knocked on the door. He had a new boat and asked if Earnest and I wanted to go to the lake with him to try it out. He was planning to pull the boat and trailer with his car. Earnest immediately said, "Well, yes, I would like to go, but maybe it would be better if I didn't as Opal isn't feeling well." I insisted that he go and since Chester's wife had been ill too, I could stay with her. Finally, they helped me get to the neighbors and they left. They took their and our boys with them and dropped them off at a place where they wanted to go.

At 3:55 p.m. I abruptly got up from the divan (I had barely been able to get up before) and said, "I'm going home." Twila said, "Why, that's foolish. The boys will be calling soon, I'll go get them, then you can go home." I did not argue with her, so sat down again. As soon as she got out of the driveway, I got up and went home (not really knowing why, but it must have been intuition) and lay down again.

The boys came and we three listened to "The Greatest Story Ever Told" on the radio.

As my son, Gail, clicked off the radio, I saw four of my neighbor ladies walking into my yard. Gail let them in, but only two of them came into the bedroom.

I said, "Weren't Kitty and Twila with you? Where are they?"

Mrs. Nesbitt said, "Yes, they are in the living room."

"Well, tell them to come on in," I said.

She hesitated a little and said, "No, we can't stay long." (They were repeatedly walking all around my bed.)

"Well, you can sit down while you're here."

In a moment she said, "Opal, this is the hardest thing I ever did in my life, but, Mr. Kelly is dead."

I said, "Mr. Kelly?" (thinking she meant my husband's father).

She hesitated again and said, "Yes, your Mr. Kelly." (He had fallen dead at 3:55 p.m.)

I hardly remember anything else until Chester arrived to take me to the hospital, but I had changed my dress. I could hardly realize he was really gone as he was only 39 years of age.

The Lord protected me for 2 weeks in not permitting me to think of what He had told me in service when Earnest was by my side.

For a year and a half I absolutely thought I'd lose my mind, but then, the Lord consoled me with Romans 8:35, 38, 39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." He again spoke to me in this way: "If Earnest had really wanted to be saved, there is nothing that could have prevented him the privilege. It is not a great consolation, but God knows that with all my heart I tried to live before Earnest the best I knew to win him to Christ. The Lord let me know Earnest, himself, would be accountable to Him.

It has now been 33 years since Earnest passed. I have told all this in detail to show you how faithful God is to deal with souls, but His mercy does run out.

And you? You are just one breath from eternity at all times. Are you prepared to meet God? Please don't wait another minute, for the Lord says, "...Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

—Sister Opal Kelly

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OH—Dear Saints: We would like to give God the praise for His faithfulness and love He has shown to us. We thank God for salvation. He has always been there when we needed Him and has always proved faithful.

On March 12, we noticed our son Jeremy, who was 16 months old at the time, had a hernia. It seemed to grow progressively worse each day. Different ones were telling us that normally he should have been in much pain, but the Lord so wonderfully helped him that when he would play, no one would even know he had this affliction.

We kept our trust in the Lord, standing on the Scripture in Psalm 37:5, "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." We were praying daily as a family for Jeremy. Jason and Janna would wake up in the morning and ask how the baby was doing. They were just waiting for the day of his healing.

Word got across the country to a lot of saints. We appreciate the cards, phone calls and all the prayers offered up in our behalf. We thought of all the promises in the Bible God has given. We as a family would sing the song, "Standing on the Promises."

On Mother's Day we woke up and our little Jeremy was a well boy. Praise the Lord! We

think of the song in our book, "God Answered Prayer For Me." Verse number three says, "When e're I meet with trouble, to Him in prayer I go; For He is always willing to answer me I know."

Please pray for us that we will always live a life to please God that our prayers not be hindered.

Christian love,

—Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Abbott

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

NC—Dear Saints: We are rejoicing in God's answer to prayer and we want to share the good news with you. I believe it was February when we requested prayer concerning the red tide polluting North Carolina waters. God began to work as soon as the request went in. The news reported lower bacteria counts each week thereafter. By the last week of April all but a very small section was reopened for shellfishing. It is wonderful to know we serve a prayer answering God. We appreciate the privilege of being a part of the family of God. Thank you for helping us carry this burden.

I also want to thank God for healing me of a neck injury I received in October of 1985. My faith was inspired that I should be anointed and prayed for in June of 1987. That night and each day following, I had several hours with no pain. Within a month or so all the pain was gone and I had the normal use of my neck again! Praise the Lord! He does a perfect work.

—Frankie and Lynne Millis

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Nigeria . . .

Apr. 22—Dear Wayne Murphey: I forward my hearty greetings to you this morning in the most holy name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, who shed His righteous blood for the redemption of all mankind. We cannot thank Him enough through our feeble lips, but we appreciate His love by obeying and living for Him whether the devil likes it or not. We are praying for you and the work there in America and everywhere. God is doing a wonderful work in my body. Praise Him! Pray more for us as we are praying for you.

—Bro. Ben Taylor

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From India . . .

Apr. 25—" . . . God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." 1 Corinthians 1:27. I am that weak and foolish one, but it pleased God to save me and bring me

under His mighty wings. It so happened on one great day of my life that I attended a gospel meeting. As I was totally blind spiritually, I did not understand or receive anything from God's Word. As I was going home in that busy city of Bombay I could hear distinctly the still small voice of the Lord, "Behold your house is left unto you desolate."

God who created heaven and earth by His Word had spoken to my heart in a personal way. It was a small voice that convicted me as the Spirit of the Lord heavily moved on me, showing my sinful condition and my need of the Saviour. I swiftly entered my room and closed the door to be alone with the Lord. I humbly knelt down and cried like a child, pouring out my heavy burden of sin. That was a solemn moment of meeting my Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He heard my prayer and forgave all my sins as I confessed before Him. He has given me the JOY unspeakable and full of glory. Ever since, He has kept me under His mighty wings. He has never failed nor forsaken me as I humbly hide myself under His shadow. I thank and praise my Saviour and my Lord and I want to serve Him all my days.

It was a privilege of meeting you and sharing the Christian fellowship during my last visit to America. It is the Lord that opened the way for me to come to you. I love you, and remember you all in my prayers. We are here laboring to win some souls for Christ.

I have become convinced that one of the greatest needs in the missionary enterprise is to scatter gospel news by the printed page in the Indian languages. There are 14 major languages spoken in different parts of India. We need thousands of gospel tracts to give out freely in our gospel campaigns and open air preaching.

Your brother in His service,

—Bro. K. H. Paul

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Apr. 28—Dear beloved elder sister Maybelle, Bro. Wayne Murphey and other dear saints abroad: Greetings to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus.

Last week I was at Elltiagiri in Tamil Nadu State to preach in the convention there. We went there as a group and conducted the meetings. As that place does not have electricity, we carried our generator with us for light and sound. After conducting the meetings we reached home safely. Lord willing, I plan to go to Trichy which is also another part of Tamil Nadu State for another 3 days meeting next week. After the Trichy meeting I shall go to Madras to apply for a visa in the American consular office to visit America in the last week of May. I have some busy programmes to do and attend before

I leave for America. Please remember all these needs in your prayers.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

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From Ghana . . .

Apr. 21—Dear Saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I am saved and enjoying salvation that delivers my soul from sin. I am still enjoying the *Faith and Victory* paper. We cease not to glorify the Lord with thanks, for the paper is full of God's Word and news that we need everyday.

Many are spiritually hungry and are waiting to hear something encouraging from the Bible: hospitals, prisons, markets, bankers, police, etc. For many years I had faith in idol worshipping more than in Christ. About four months after Sis. Dorothy Keiser's death, I got saved. The Holy Spirit, my sanctifier, has now become my guide as to the way I should go.

May God bless you all at the Print Shop as you continue to print this wonderful paper.

Yours in the one family,

—Francis Owusu

In Memoriam

In Boley, Oklahoma on April 14, 1912, a baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Evans. They named her Mattie. She grew up in Boley where she attended school and church. At an early age she was born into the Church of God where she worked and sang until her health failed.

She was united in Holy Wedlock to Elihue Celestine, who preceded her in death January 8, 1948.

In later years she met and married Andrew Lijon. Their life together was short. Several years later she met and married Bro. Francisco, who preceded her in death. She was a faithful and loving sister and will be missed by all who knew her. She departed this life March 22, 1988.

She leaves to cherish her Homegoing: three daughters, Wilma Jackson of Oakland, CA, Nettie Celestine and Elizabeth Moore, both of Tulsa, OK; two sons, Willie Jr. Celestine of Grayson, OK, and Elvert Celestine of Tulsa, OK; two brothers, Matt Evans (her twin) of Boley, OK and Charlie Dell Evans of Wichita, KS; two sisters, Nannie Bell Moore of Bakersfield, CA, and Ioler Johnson of Boley, OK; 18 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, fourteen step-children, a host of friends, relatives and saints.

Funeral services were held in the Church of

God chapel on March 26, 1988. It was officiated by Bro. Woodrow Warren. Interment was in Chilesville Cemetery, Boley, OK.

Mildred Ethel (Andrews) Sherman was born January 28, 1930 in Boley, Oklahoma to Irene and Ellis Andrews. She was united in marriage to Robert L. Sherman on February 15, 1947. Of this household there were two children. A son Henry Eugene Harris (who preceded her in death) and a daughter Sandra Lee Sherman. While in the home they learned about Jesus and the Word of God.

Sister Mildred was taught at an early age to love and fear the Lord and embraced the truth in December 1964 in Los Angeles, California. Through her faithfulness to God her husband was saved the following year. She remained faithful until the Lord called her home on May 4, 1988 at the age of 58 years 3 months and 6 days.

Sister Mildred carried a burden for lost souls. She sang praises to the Lord and together with her husband and other singers she edified and inspired many with her ministry in song. In 1971 the Lord extended her burden to preaching the gospel. In answer to the call she and her companion moved out by faith and became caretakers of the Church of God Senior Citizens Home in Pacoima, California. Her husband supported her in her ministry and labored with her in the missionary field in Mexico. They traveled many miles praying, preaching, exhorting and singing under the inspiration of the Lord. She would often say she wanted all that she did to be to the glory of God.

She leaves her husband, Robert L. Sherman, to cherish her memory along with one daughter, Sandra Lee Sherman, Moreno Valley, CA; one daughter-in-law, Gail Harris of Los Angeles, CA; six brothers, Ellis Andrews, Bakersfield, CA, Brownie Andrews, Los Angeles, CA, Luvell Andrews, Long Beach, CA, Alvin Andrews, Lynwood, CA, Cornelius Weldon, Los Angeles, CA and Mack Henry Weldon, Norsetown, PA; three sisters, Juanita Johnson, Wichita, KS, Velma Garcia, National City, CA, and Barbara Beachem, Pacoima, CA; twelve grandchildren; an aunt, Emily Matthews, Newark, NJ, and many nephews, nieces, other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted on May 12 by Sis. Beverly Reed, Bro. Adriel Bowman and Bro. Robert Mays. Interment was in the Eternal Valley Memorial Park in Newhall, CA.

NOTE OF THANKS

The family of Sis. Mildred Sherman want to thank everyone for their prayers, calls, cards,

telegrams, flowers and all concern shown at this time.

Question and Answer

(Continued from page 3)

sters with various gifts and callings to meet the health needs of the body and, among other things, to function as a kind of in-built self-healing facility so that the body may maintain a good healthy condition and function efficiently for its intended purpose — a soul saving and a soul nurturing institution. There is in the human body a specified quantity of blood and in that blood are multitudes of minute particles called corpuscles. The particular function of certain of these corpuscles is to fight infection and promote the healing process in any part where the body has been hurt or has sustained a severe wound, bruise or injury. The procedure is this: when such a thing happens in any part of the body, the blood immediately rushes to that part conveying these corpuscles to that area. These corpuscles just come swarming into that particular trouble spot and immediately set up a fight against infection and institute a healing process of the wound, bruise or injury. The ministry that God has set in the Church serve the body of Christ in a similar capacity. I saw this very beautifully demonstrated at a time when an infectious situation had developed in a certain area. An SOS call for help was sent out. Ministers heard the call in far distant places and in several states.

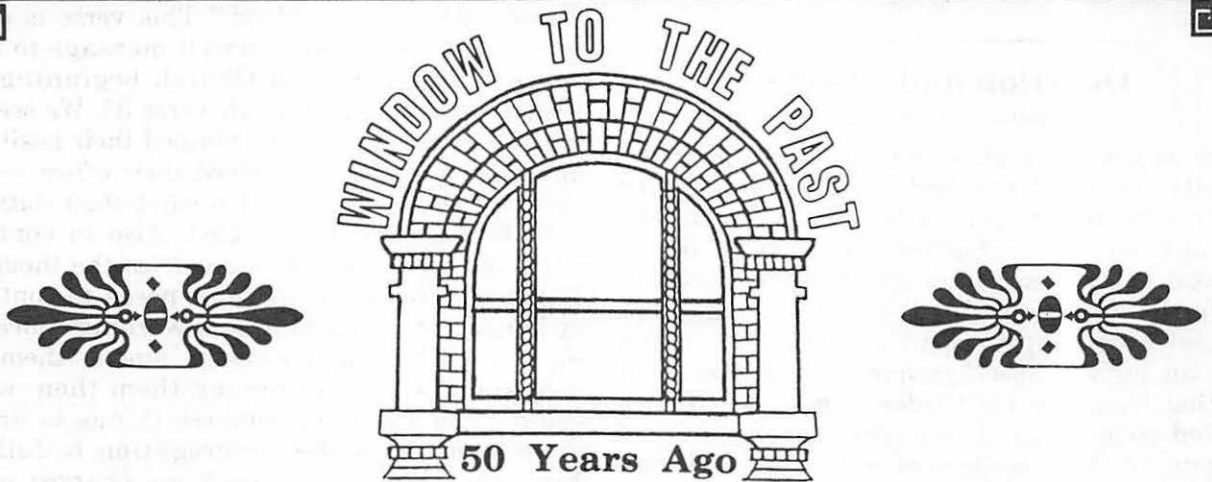
Those ministers were consecrated, dedicated men to God and His cause and the body had been severely injured and was in danger. When they received the call they immediately dropped what they were doing and immediately arranged plans to travel. Some came from a distance of 2500 miles and from several different states and converged on the infectious area ready to do battle with the infection and take steps to set up a healing process of the condition. Not only did the ministers respond in this case but the saints throughout this far-flung area rallied to the emergency and on very short notice raised sufficient money to cover the traveling expenses of all those ministers traveling by plane for great distances. But a severe emergency was existing, the body of Christ had received a severe injury and was in danger and the situation immediately set in motion the in-built self-healing agency that God has set up in the body of Christ when He built it. Actually nothing else mattered right then but to get there and get the infection stopped and set up a healing process for the condition.

In Acts 20:28 we read, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers,

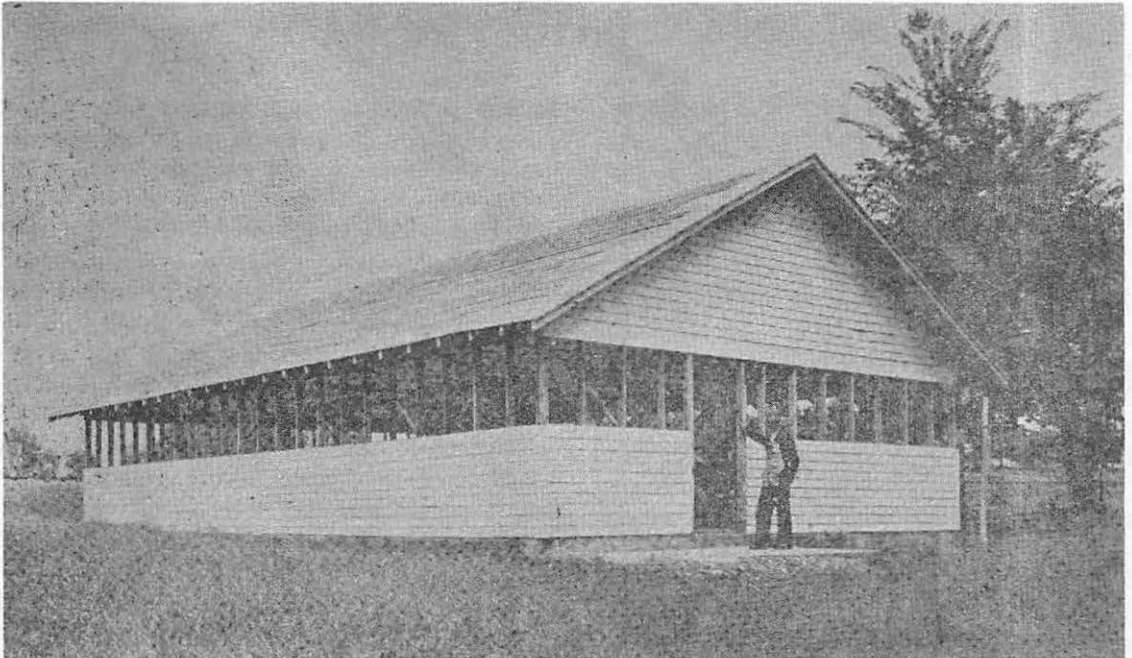
to feed the church of God; which he hath purchased with his own blood." This verse is contained in Paul's last farewell message to the elders of the Ephesian Church beginning in verse 17 continuing through verse 35. We see in this verse how the elders obtained their position and from whom they received their office — by the Holy Ghost. We see also what their duty is — to feed the Church of God. Also in context with the next 2 or 3 verses carries the thought that their feeding of the flock needs to contain an ingredient of teaching and warning concerning those who might come in among them or even some who were among them then, who would arise speaking perverse things to draw away some from the congregation to follow them. The elders or overseers are charged with the responsibility of watching for any signs of approaching danger for the flock and to sound out an admonition to the saints concerning it. Hebrews 13:17 says that "... They watch for your souls as they that must give account. . . ." In Acts 20:28, Paul charges the elders of the Ephesian Church to "Take heed unto yourselves." This was the first charge to them; then to take heed to the souls committed to their charge. From verse 13 through 19 he has been reminding them of his work among them; he had faithfully taught them publicly and privately from house to house by day and by night and had kept back nothing that was profitable to them and therefore he was free from the blood of all men. Then he said "Take heed THEREFORE unto yourselves. . . ." That word THEREFORE is important here. In other words, you have my example of my work among you to go by. Use that as a pattern for your work with the souls committed to your charge and go forth and be faithful to your post.

In 1 Peter 5:2, 3, we read Peter's exhortation to elders, "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." We see here Peter is giving the same instruction to the elders that Paul gave in Acts 20:28, "Feed the church of God. . . ." It is clear and evident that God wants the saints well-fed and instructed in the ways of truth and righteousness and well-warned and admonished concerning things that would affect them wrongfully and to avoid all such things. Let all of us to whom God has committed to our trust (Paul said "... He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. 1 Timothy 1:12.) be faithful at our post and serve Him in humility and fear so long as He places us in this responsibility.

(To be continued next month)



Excerpts Taken From
June, 1938 *Faith and Victory*



**Partially Completed Dining Hall
at Monark Springs Park, Neosho, Missouri.**

"The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God at Monark Springs Park, Neosho, Mo. will convene on the . . . day of July and continue two weeks. We are expecting saints and others from all over the United States and Canada to be present in this meeting. Each one coming should bring a drinking cup with them. There are nice cool springs of water to drink from, and plenty of shade trees in the park. Everyone should bring their own bedding if possible. Straw will be furnished free.

"On this page you will see the picture of the dining hall which has recently been erected on the camp grounds. It is good and roomy and will have screen wire around the middle part of the walls to make it cool and nice for dining purposes.

"This will be a lovely park to spend two weeks feasting on the good things from Father's table."