

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Meddling With The Scales



By C. W. Naylor

No matter how accurate and reliable a set of scales may be, if they are meddled with they may be made inaccurate and undependable. If we were weighing coal and the scales were out of balance a few pounds, it would not matter so much; but if we were weighing diamonds or gold, a very little variation would amount to a great deal. The more valuable that which we weigh, the more necessary it is that the scales be properly adjusted and accurate to a high degree. When it comes to a standard of weighing the human soul, that should be the most accurate of all standards. When it comes to judging ourselves, it is important that we have a right standard of judgment. That right standard God furnishes in His Word. It will weigh us accurately if we take it as it is; but if we misinterpret it or turn it out of its natural course and meaning, we may judge ourselves very wrongly by it. What we need to do is to be absolutely fair with ourselves. We must not allow ourselves to be prejudiced either in our favor or against ourselves. If our standard of judgment is so low that it permits us to be impure in heart and purposes and to do things that are wrong in the sight of God, that standard is evil for us, and we are not just to ourselves. If we have too high a standard and require more of ourselves than is just and right, again we do ourselves an injury.

We must learn to be fair to ourselves. We must require of ourselves all that we ought to

require, but nothing more than that. In many lives the ideal is far too low, and consequently the life is too low. In other cases the ideal is too high and is entirely out of reach and can never be attained. We should have high ideals, but these ideals should be practicable and should not overlook the facts of human life. They should always be balanced by common sense. We should not live in a spiritual dreamland; for in practice we shall ever have to face the cold facts of life. These facts, not our dreams and imaginations, are what we must adjust ourselves to. If we have too high a standard, we shall always be coming short of it and condemning ourselves. A high ideal, if not too high, is a strong incentive to progress; but when it is made the standard by which we judge our present attainment, it tends to discourage us and becomes a real barrier to our progress. We can never attain to our ideals because they will ever grow as we grow, and they will continue to be in advance of us no matter how fast we grow. We must have a practicable, not an ideal, standard of judgment.

Making someone else our standard has its dangers. We cannot see another's inner life. We know nothing of his conflicts or his secret faults. We can see only the external manifestations. We do know our own inner life, but we can know theirs only as we judge it from outward appearance. God wants each of us to judge himself by His Word, not by any other standard, and He does not want us to judge ourselves by an ideal

Attend National Camp Meeting, July 21 to July 30, Neosho (Monark Springs), MO.

beyond our reach.

People often make a serious mistake in comparing themselves with someone of a different temperament. It is very common to suppose that if a person makes many demonstrations in religion, he has a great deal of religion, and that if he is very quiet, he has no religion to speak of. I traveled for a number of years in the gospel work with a minister whose temperament was decidedly emotional and who would sometimes become very demonstrative, leaping and shouting, and manifesting his feelings very plainly. I was of a rather unemotional temperament. I had powerful emotions sometimes, but it was not my disposition to give vent to them. People therefore judged that he had a much better experience than I had, and oftentimes I heard people remark that they wished that they had an experience like his. No one ever seemed to wish that about me. No one seemed to covet in the least an experience like mine. They all wanted one like his, because they thought he was so happy. We both had the same salvation and served the same God. The difference was a difference of temperament.

Salvation is not a thing of temperament, though manifestation is. To make our feelings and emotions a standard, is to make our tem-

in the attitude of his heart towards God.

Preaching should never go beyond the bounds of common sense. We should never let our enthusiasm run away with our judgment. When feelings are preached, the strong-nerved preacher will preach a strong-nerved gospel, and the weak-nerved one will preach a weak-nerved gospel. The first will make no allowance for those who have weak nerves and who suffer the trials incident to their nervous condition; so he is likely to be the cause of bringing them into severe trials and conflicts. He has no idea of how things look and are to them. The other makes allowance for the infirmities of the weak and preaches his own experience. The strong-nerved persons who hear him know that his experience is not like theirs, and they think that he is lowering the standard. The thing to do is to preach the Word. We may use our experiences to illustrate the things that we preach, but we ought to make it clear that experiences differ widely in many respects and that we should never judge one another by our experiences, nor should we expect our experiences to correspond fully with that of someone else.

The effect of too high a standard is always to discourage. We should have a proper standard, but not an ideal standard. We ought to

“Preaching should never go beyond the bounds of common sense.”

perament the standard. Those of other temperaments will differ from us. They can not and will not have the same experience so far as feelings and emotions are concerned. Great havoc has been caused by unwise preaching on these points. Preachers often relate their experiences, telling how happy they were and what wonderful emotions they had when they were converted. Others, hearing them, are led to suppose that if they too obtain salvation they will have these same emotions; so when they seek salvation, they seek these emotions. If they are of a different temperament, they do not experience them, and as a result they find it very difficult to suppose that they are saved at all. The preaching that emotion is ever a sign of salvation, in the sense that we can base our hope of God's favor and heaven upon it, is a serious error. Faith is the fundamental. Believing in God is what counts. Emotion is a superficial thing. It is not reliable evidence, and when people are taught to look upon their feelings as evidences, they do not get a settled experience, an experience that will take them through hard places when their feelings subside. A man's religion does not consist in the joy that he has nor in the amount of noise he makes, but

require nothing of ourselves or others beyond a practical and common-sense Christian life. Sometimes the standard of a sanctified life is placed altogether too high, being out of reach. I once heard a sermon that left the impression on me that the preacher felt thus: “I am up here and a few others are up here, but most of you are down there, and you know that you are down there, and you are going to have a very hard time to get up here if you ever do succeed.” The effect of that sermon was very discouraging, but it is far from the only one of the sort that has been preached. Many souls have been crushed by such preaching.

Many times I have heard the experience of sanctification described as such an ideal state that I knew the preacher himself nor anyone else had ever attained to such a state and never would in this life. Sanctification means the purification of our natures, but it does not mean the perfecting of our human faculties. It does not mean that we are automatically perfect in patience or kindness nor that we are in a state where our emotions will always be sweet and ideal. It does not mean that we shall never have a feeling of impatience or anger. Anger

comes from the violation of our sense of justice. . . .

We ought to have the same standard of judgment for ourselves as we have for others. There are those who have a lower standard for themselves and excuse in themselves that which they could not and would not excuse in someone else. They are ready to condemn others for doing the very same things that they themselves do or things that involve the same principle. They find no excuse for others, but only condemnation, but they have a ready excuse for themselves whenever they are guilty of a like thing. Others go to the opposite extreme. They have a higher standard for themselves than they have for anyone else. They can excuse others for doing what they themselves would not feel clear in doing. They condemn themselves for things that they would not condemn others for. They can find excuses for others, but none for themselves. By adopting either of these courses, we do wrong to ourselves. God has the same standard for judging all people, and He desires that we have the same standard for judging ourselves. The standard we set for others is more likely to be correct than the one we set for ourselves. If the standard we set for ourselves is not a proper standard by which to judge others, it is not the proper one by which to judge ourselves. There is a true and just standard. Let us seek that and apply it to our own lives and the lives of others. The true standard is neither too high nor too low.

The standard by which God judges us is flexible, that is, He holds us responsible only for what we know; hence, the greater the light, the greater the responsibility of the person. Others will never be judged by our light nor we by theirs. It is only when persons have the same degree of light and when the circumstances are alike that the same standard is applicable to two or more individuals. But where light and circumstances are the same on any point, all must be judged by the same rule; and what is right for one is right for all, and what is wrong for one is wrong for all.

Overvaluing or depreciating ourselves and our work is another unwise thing. Whichever we do will turn out bad. It is not true humility to be always criticizing and undervaluing ourselves. If we do a thing, it is neither better nor worse than if someone else had done it, and we should not so regard it. Let us not have a double standard, one for ourselves and one for others, but let us have the same standard for all, and let that be a just and right standard, one that God's approval will rest upon. Then we may live satisfactory lives and have the blessings and approval of God upon us.

—Taken from the book, *Winning a Crown*

God's Scales Of Justice

Many people in the world today are very much interested in their physical weight. They watch it closely and live and eat in order to keep it correct. Not so many are interested in their spiritual weight, which is much more important. God weighs us by scales of justice. Our lives must weigh out even with the Word of God.

Job knew about God's scales of justice. He was greatly concerned about how he weighed. Job said, "Let me be weighed in an even balance, that God may know mine integrity." Job 31:6. He wanted the balance of justice to weigh him so God could see his integrity, honesty, purity, soundness, and sincerity. He did not want to come up short or long, but wanted to weigh out evenly.

Let us see how Job weighed out as recorded in the first and second chapters of Job. What did he say when he was told that the Sabeans had killed his servants and had taken his oxen and asses? How did he weigh out? Did he question God? How did he weigh out when he was told about the loss of his sheep, shepherds, camels and servants? This was a great loss and made him a poor man. Did he still love God? Praise God, we hear Job saying, ". . . The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21. He loved God more than his possessions and that is how he weighed out in this trial.

Next came a servant telling Job that a wind had destroyed the house his children were in and they were all killed. Job rent his clothes and fell upon the ground worshiping God, and said, "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job weighed correctly in one of the supreme tests of his life.

Job was weighed again in the balances of justice. He was smitten with sore boils from the sole of his feet to the crown of his head. His wife, who had also gone through the fire in the loss of all things, thought that this was too much. She was weighed and found wanting; she turned against God and questioned Job's integrity and sincerity. "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die," she declared. But Job weighed out well in this supreme test. His weight was pure gold. He said, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

A neighbor's hogs got into the potato patch of a godly man. He drove them out and spoke kindly to his neighbor about it, but the neighbor did nothing to correct the situation. One day the man of God came home and the hogs were in

(To be 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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SUBSCRIPTION RATES



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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



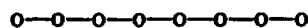
"It is this that made the future of Christianity—its gladness, not its sorrow, . . . its drawing from the spiritual world a source of joy so abundant that it ran over upon the material world and transfigured it." This a quote attributed to the English educator, Matthew Arnold, and while he may have viewed Christ's work upon this earth from a historic or secular perspective, there is substance for thought in what was said.

When Jesus attended the marriage celebration in Cana of Galilee, the attendants faced a shortage of wine. This is a very striking comparison to the joys of this world. Just as there was an insufficient supply to last until the end of the feast, there are not enough pleasures of this world to satisfy the hunger of a soul in this life. Earth's pleasures are soon consumed. The prodigal son took his small horde and enjoyed it to its fullest, but was soon in want.

This analogy is true even of the wholesome pleasures we enjoy in life. Time alters the things that we hold dear. The family and home which we so thoroughly enjoy is not permanent. There comes a time when loved ones are taken and our lives are rudely bent to conform to change and circumstances. It is sad to see those who have drunk dry the joys of this life and have found nothing greater to comfort them or satisfy.

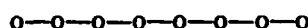
How different when a person is drinking from the source of joy which God provides. Jesus came that we might have a supply that never runs dry. This joy does not come in limited amounts, but it is a part of that river which John the revelator saw proceeding out of the throne of God. (Revelation 11:1). This river, flowing into the heart of man, makes a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (John 4:14.)

It is this aspect of Christianity that makes the life of a saint so very attractive. Such inner joy has sustained many a pilgrim down through the ages and is offered to all today who will avail themselves of their privileges.



Since the National Camp Meeting at Monark Springs, MO, will be in progress the last of July, according to our usual custom we will not print an August issue of *Faith and Victory*.

Work on the new bookstore at the Monark Campground has progressed nicely. We may not be able to complete all of the inside furnishings, but it will be a real improvement over what has been used in the past.



We would like to remind our readers who send in book and tract orders to be sure to write or print legibly. Much time and expense can be

avoided by doing so. Especially is this true if the orders are from a foreign country.

—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

CA—Sis. Hazel Davis needs complete healing.

CA—John Carter needs prayer for soul and body.

AL—"I have an urgent request for a great-grandson, also for my healing."

—Sis. Leora Frink

IL—"Please pray for Betty Tarr; she has cancer."

—Wilma Horsely

OH—"Sis. Iona Baker is still bedfast. Please remember both of us in prayer."

—Sis. Jessie Turner

AR—"Please pray for me and my daughter. Also pray that my son will get settled."

—Lillian Farris

CA—Bro. Robert Mays needs prayer.

NY—"Please pray for the healing, deliverance and restoration of my mind, body, soul and spirit."

—Matilda Ramos

TX—"Pray for my strength to hold up to care for my husband. I do need complete healing too, for my eyes."

—Louise Strickland

OK—Don Dellenbough has heart problems and desires prayer.

TN—"Pray for Eugene, my sister's grandson, who has muscular dystrophy."

—Sis. Kathleen Willis

CHAPEL AND CAMPGROUND RELOCATION REPORT

We are glad to report that ground has been broken for construction of the Church of God chapel and dining hall on the new campgrounds at Guthrie, OK. The building site has been leveled, and a contract has been let for the foundation and floor. Construction should be underway by the first of July.

The past several months have been spent taking a closer look at certain areas of the building design. Engineering assistance was enlisted to help in the design of the foundation, floor, structure, heat and air system. We have been working with several professional people in the building design and construction business which has taken considerable time. This has all been done in an effort to assure ourselves of a good sound structure, adequate to serve the needs of the saints and the work of the Lord here in the years to come. The trustees feel greatly the responsibility of seeing this project satisfactorily through to the end. The cooperative support of the saints is greatly coveted and appreciated.

The financing of this project is being accomplished by the freewill offerings of God's people. This is not a local effort but a joint effort of all the saint congregations in Oklahoma and others in surrounding states. There has been concern expressed by some that this project will put the saints under a great burden of financial indebtedness. It is not the intention of the trustees to go out and borrow the money necessary for this project. By the same token, however, that should not lessen the financial responsibility we should each feel to support this part of the Lord's work. By not borrowing we will not incur the high interest payments that accompany such loans.

The current plans are to complete the total project in phases as the finances are made available. When adequate funds are on hand to complete the next phase, then that phase will be started. The first phase was the purchase of the property and the initial landscaping and leveling of the building site. That has been paid for. The second phase will consist of concrete work; the building footings, floor, and other concrete work in and about the building site. We should have adequate finances on hand to cover this phase. Phase three will consist of the purchase and erection of the main building structure and those materials necessary to seal the building up from the weather. This and each subsequent phase we will do as the Lord provides the finances. Hopefully, one phase can follow another without delay.

Please pray much for the brethren that have been given the responsibility for the oversight of this project. They are carrying a big load.

Those desiring to send assistance for this work may do so by addressing it to: Church of God, %Brenda Wilkins—treasurer, Route #6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044. Any questions you may have should be addressed to the building committee at the same address.

Your continued prayerful support will be greatly appreciated. —Bro. Bob Sallee for the Campground Relocation Committee

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates for 1989

Fresno, CA — July 7-16

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO
July 21-30

Bakersfield, CA — August 4-13

Duncannon, PA — August 6-13

Ensenada, Mexico — August 13-20

Durham, NC — Aug. 13-20

Boley, OK — Aug. 20-27

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 25—Sept. 3

FIFTY-SECOND NATIONAL CAMP MEETING

The National Camp Meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO July 21-30, 1989. A hearty invitation is extended to all.

The Monark Springs Campground is located approximately five miles east of Neosho, MO. It is one mile east and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of the intersection of highways 86 and 71 Alternate.

If you travel to Neosho by bus, you may take a taxi to the campground or telephone 472-6427 (Granby, MO) for free transportation.

The camp meeting is conducted on a freewill offering basis. There is no charge for meals or lodging on the campground. You are welcome to come and enjoy the meeting. We are confident that God will supply every need. Meals will be served in the dining hall. Dormitory space, tents and trailer spots are available on the campground on a first come first served basis. Trailer spots include electricity, water and sewer hook-ups. Motels are available nearby, but reservations should be made in advance.

All correspondence about tent orders or dormitory space should be addressed to Sister Delores Bradley, Route 1, Box 28, Bartlett, KS 67332, phone (316) 226-3390. She will be coordinating requests for sleeping quarters on the campground.

If you have any questions about the meeting or arrangements, I will be glad to help. Please come with a burden for the meeting and praying for the benefit of souls.

—Bro. Jim Wall (Business Manager)
5817 East 64th Street, Tulsa, OK 74136

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PRAYER AND FAST DAY

A number of ministers feel it would be good for all the ministers who are free and able, to come for a special day of prayer and fasting on July 20th for the National Camp Meeting. It will be held in the Neosho, MO chapel. We know there is power in agreement. We would like for all the ministers who can, to come and let us spend the day together. We are expecting a special outpouring of God's blessings at Monark this year. If you cannot come, agree in prayer with us.

Further information can be obtained from myself, Bro. Mart Samons, (304) 456-4469 or Bro. Bob Huskey, (417) 472-6427.

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The tent meeting at the Duncannon Church of God will be held, Lord willing, on August 6-13, 1989, on the chapel grounds located approximately 5.5 miles west from Duncannon on Route 849. Services will be held daily at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. The tent will be erected

on Saturday and if enough interest is shown, services will be held August 5 at 7:30 p.m. as well. Meals and lodging will be provided. There is room for campers, but hook-ups are limited.

Though this is a small meeting, the Lord blesses with sweet fellowship and interesting and informative Bible studies as time allows. All are welcome.

For information and accommodations, call Bro. or Sis. Stanley Huss (717) 834-4490, Sis. Virginia Myers (717) 834-4595. The chapel phone is (717) 567-6988.

Your prayers are coveted whether or not you can come. We pray God to send the workers and ministers of His choosing to help in the meeting.

In Christ, —Barbara J. Campbell

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CAMP MEETING IN ENSENADA, MEXICO

This year we will have a camp meeting in Ensenada from August 13-20. This congregation of the Church of God gives a cordial invitation to all who can come. The saints here are making room in their homes for use as dormitories, and food will be served from our kitchen. God always supplies for His people. At this time of the year it is not very hot as we are less than a mile from the Pacific Ocean, so bring light clothing for the day and sometimes a light sweater or jacket is good for the evening.

Our address is: Callejon (street) Chapultepec #654, Ejido (rural village) Chapultepec, B.C. This is 7 miles south of Ensenada, which is 80 miles south of San Diego, CA, on Pacific Coast Highway #1. For more information you can contact Sis. Opal Kelly, (405) 424-8782, Bro. James Huskey, (405) 282-3386 or Sis. Edith Lara, (619) 399-1208.

We need ministers with a God-given burden. There will be interpreters to help those who don't speak Spanish. —Bro. Mayarino Escobar

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DURHAM, NC CAMP MEETING

The camp meeting of the Church of God at Durham, NC, will be held, Lord willing, August 13-20. There will be services daily at 11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Come praying that the Lord will bless in each service. We are praying that the Lord will send Holy Ghost filled ministers and workers of His choosing. Meals will be served on the grounds daily.

Directions to the chapel are as follows: Take the Guess Road exit off of Interstate 85. Go north approximately 4 miles and turn left on Umstead Road, then take the first right on Bivens Road. At the stop sign, turn right on Russel Road, then left on Kelvin Drive. The chapel will be on the right hand side.

For further information contact Bro. Melvin Lennon, 3203 Apex Highway, Durham, NC 27713, phone (919) 544-2891. You may also contact Bro. Jerry Lennon at (919) 477-9451. The chapel phone is (919) 471-1613. —Bro. Jerry Lennon

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CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING NOTICE

The California State Camp Meeting will convene, Lord willing, on August 25 and continue through September 3, 1989. The campground is located at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA. The chapel phone is (818) 899-9021.

Accommodations will be provided for all who attend. The expense of the meeting will be met by freewill offerings.

Come expecting a blessing, and come with a burden for souls.

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

—Bro. Jim Kutra

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From the Mailbox . . .

WA—Dear *Faith and Victory*: This is a request for prayer. I do need healing for several things—the result of a stroke some time ago. I need better vision as I have to use a magnifying glass to read at all, and also my hearing is nearly gone.

I am asking you for prayer, as I don't know anyone in our town who believes in prayer.

I am the 91-year-old daughter of a Church of God minister, and was taught to have faith in God and prayer. . . .

Please pray for me, and thank you.

—Orpha M. Aldridge

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CA—Dear Bro. Murphey and saints: Greetings in the Lord who is worthy of all praise for His great love to us and His creation. As David said in Psalm 26:8, "Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." The love that God gives to us is the crowning point of our salvation. Oh that our hearts will be filled with His love, love for God and also for His cause in the world. God's cause in our hearts and His love burning in our souls, is what it will take to accomplish God's will.

I am surely enjoying God's dealings with me and my family. My desire is to stay where God has placed me. Having God as our Father and His love shed abroad in our hearts by a spiritual birth, according to II Corinthians

5:17, old things have passed away and all things have become new. This is the need of all men. We desire your prayers that God's will might be done in our life. We certainly enjoy the *Faith and Victory* very much. May the Lord continue to bless you in your labor of love is our prayer.

Sincerely,

—Edward Davenport

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OK—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Maybelle: May God bless and encourage your hearts in the Lord's work for the salvation of souls. There may not be big earthly rewards, but to the true and the faithful to the end, there is eternal life and a crown of glory. . . . Let us keep pressing on. The joy of the Lord is our strength.

The Lord has been so good to me. I do not want to fail to praise and glorify Him now while on earth.

Humbly in Christ,—Sister Julia Llewellyn

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MO—Dear saints and friends in the Lord: Greetings to everyone of you wherever you may be. God sees where all His people are and beholds each one's labors for Him.

This has been a nice month here. There have been enough showers to keep the weather cool. We thank the Lord for all His daily blessings and benefits; they are numberless.

We are striving to press on and keep heaven in view. So many terrible things are happening and there are many sorrows and burdens for the children of God, but we know it won't be for long. We know God is standing by each one, so let us just press on to the end.

Onward with victory, —Zella Dollins

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OK—Dear ones at the Printing Office and abroad: I am thankful to say that I am saved and living for the Lord. I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is food to my soul. I read it as soon as I get it.

I have an unspoken request and I am asking the saints to pray for this request.

I thank the Lord for healing my body in March of 1989. I also want to thank Him for blessing me with my eyesight.

With love to all, —Della Mustin

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MO—Dear Sister Maybelle, co-workers, and saints: It has been over 2 years since I have sent in my testimony, but I am still trusting in the Lord and counting my many blessings day after day.

The Lord has been good to me and blessed me in so many ways since losing my dear husband in May of 1987. I have had excellent health and I enjoy keeping busy, and there seems

to be no end to the things I can find to do. Without God's help I could do nothing.

We have planted a large garden and it is looking good and I am trusting God to supply the rain that we are needing so badly.

Do remember to pray for my unsaved loved ones. It seems that too many people have time for business and time for pleasure, but no time for Jesus. How sad!

Please pray for me that I will be more like Jesus each day of my life.

Christian love, —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn

—————o—————

Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

CA—Greetings to you in Jesus' dear name: This letter finds us still saved, sanctified and encouraged to follow the Lord. While coming home from Rialto the Lord impressed me to send in my testimony. . . . One song comes to my mind which implores God's guidance. I am thankful for how the Lord guided us along the highway and helped us to make it home safely.

Continue to remember us in your prayers.
Christian love, —Bro. and Sis. Bramlett

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

MO—Greetings to all in the sweet name of Jesus: I feel good in my soul and love to testify for my Lord who stands by us in all trials, tests and sorrows. He is our help and strength. I cannot understand why more don't want this wonderful way.

I see so much happening because of that three-letter-word "sin." I had a nephew just recently, who was only 37, who lost his life because of sin. It is so sad. Dear ones, it seems we are in perilous times and it is so hard to reach souls. All we can do is watch our lives and pray as never before. I love everyone's soul and am so burdened for the lost. We all had better watch. The Devil is really working hard, for he knows he doesn't have long. It behooves us to keep God on our minds and to be prayed up.

When the *Faith and Victory* paper comes and I stop what I am doing and read it, it helps me, as I am so isolated here. The Lord has been so good to me since I have lost loved ones. I don't drive and it has been hard. I am thankful for strength to care for myself at 81. None of my family live near me, so I need your prayers that I can stay in my home until I leave this world. I am anxious at times to go on.

God bless all, —Sis. Hettie Clements

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

CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle and all there at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in the name of our

dear Lord, Jesus Christ, who gave His life on the cruel cross that we might be saved from our sins. I am glad that His dying was not in vain in my behalf. I am yet saved, sanctified and encouraged to go all the way no matter what the cost may be. . . .

I will be 91 years old this year, so please continue to pray for me.

Your sister in Christ, —Flora B. Davis

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

CA—Dear Sister Maybelle and all the saints: Greetings in Jesus' name. I thank the Lord today for saving and sanctifying me. I also thank Him for keeping me saved. In times past, I always asked the Lord to help me to be more like Him and to give me victory over self and every obstacle that would hinder me in Christ. This last year I became very sincere, with a deep longing and an earnest desire, more than I can express. By continuing in prayer before the Lord, just before the new year began, the Lord showed me I was going to have several hard trials this year. God asked me if I wanted to go through them or if I wanted them lightened. He let me know what He meant by that. I said with all my heart, "Lord, I want to go through. Don't move them, but please take me through." I told the congregation the first day of this year what lay before me and to please pray for me.

The last part of February I got the shock of my life, but the Lord was right there to hold me with His right hand. Before I was brought to despair, the Lord sent an angel to strengthen me. It was the most glorious time I have ever witnessed in my life. I would not have been able to stand without it. Ever since that day, the Lord has been doing more for me than I can ask or think. I cannot express the Lord's goodness to me in words. All the evil things that come to me, God turns them into good.

This year is just half over and I am still in the greatest trial I have ever had. I know not what tomorrow may bring, but I do know that my Father, my Lord and my God is with me and will see me through. I have seen and witnessed more of the great power of God than I can ever imagine. God is good and Jesus my Saviour will help me to stand through it all. Please pray for me.

Your sister in Christ, —Geneva Norling

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

OK—Dear Print Shop family and readers: My testimony is overdue, but my burden and desire is to share a portion of God's wonderful works in my life. In my collection of notes which contain Scriptures that have gained the victories for me, I recently found my first *Faith and Victory* testimony. It was written as a newly saved 13-year-old, testifying to my first

healing. How I rejoiced! The Lord has been faithful to keep me in His care from age 13 to the grandmother I am today. I have never found anything dear enough to trade my salvation for. He is so precious to me!

My first near-brush with death was as a bride of one year, age 19. I experienced a painful, fearful, heart-searching 3 months of physical problems. The Lord gave me Hebrews 10:35, 36. He healed me!

In 1962 I suffered a heart attack. I begged the Lord to spare my life to cherish, train and care for my sweet 4-month-old baby girl, and 2 sons, ages 5 and 7. It was a hard year of recuperation, but the Lord healed me.

In 1964-65, I suffered a total nervous breakdown with severe anemia. I now had 2 baby girls and 2 boys. The saints and relatives again supported me with their love and prayers. The Lord was faithful and He gave me Isaiah 40:28-31. I was able to gain strength to care for my precious family once more.

In 1961-69, I suffered another severe physical affliction of which the Lord healed me.

It was in 1969-73 that I suffered severe attacks with gallstones, lasting days at times. I doubled in pain for hours, and would be sore for 2 to 3 days. Caring for my growing family was difficult. An examination revealed my condition critical and in the last stages. I searched my heart, presenting to God my ever-present burden for my children's souls and their need of a mother's care and my faith soared. The Lord healed me! In 2 or 3 months I was able to eat a normal meal, and slowly I regained my strength.

In 1977, I developed a severe kidney infection and suffered severe pain. I felt so weary and longed to see Jesus. The saints came in singing hymns and praying the prayer of faith. The Lord healed me!

Prior to 1983, a small spot on my lower right leg began to spread, growing into a mole-like area. A soreness began to develop in it. In the fall of 1986, the need of a dermatologist's examination was required. The verdict was malignant melanoma. This is the most dreaded of 3 skin cancer types. Surgery was advised as a must. In medical news reports it states that early detection of malignant melanoma with surgery can add 10 years of life. In more advanced cases, only 5 years is added by surgery. Melanoma spreads quickly throughout the body in the advanced stage and is fatal. I told the doctor of God's great healings in my past, and that my trust was still in Him. She was troubled and gave me 6 months to live at the most without surgery. In my work, I see the results of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, etc. What I see everyday encourages me to look to the Lord.

The Word of God has always been so real

since the Lord saved me at age 13 in the Jefferson Oregon Camp Meeting. As I look on the past I value Sis. Mattie Wilson who spent her life working with young people. She taught me the value of faith. My dear mother, Mable Melot, set an example for me in teaching her family about God. My dear mother-in-law, Lillian Meek, helped me win many battles and to gain victories. I obeyed James 5:13-15 one more time to gain another victory. This was in the fall of 1986 and yet my leg grew worse. The need to work full time on my feet all day, along with home duties, took its toll on my nervous system. It required super strength from the Lord to shoulder my heavy responsibilities, to keep going and not give up.

I reminded the Lord often of His promises. The saints again kept me in their prayers and showed love and concern; as well as friends, relatives and neighbors. The Lord held me close.

In September 1988, I removed a bandage for the last time. Praise the Lord! A very small spot remained my Peniel. "I have seen God." (Genesis 32:30). All praise and honor is due our Saviour. Oh, how dear the saints have been. I am glad they are my people! It means so much to support the afflicted children of God with love, prayers, letters and phone calls, and I desire to do my part. Rejoice with me, that we may all reap His rich benefits together.

These are not all of God's healing touches to me, but I felt impressed to share these few. "What a mighty God we serve!" "I've started for heaven, my heart filled with song." "Yes, Jesus took my burden and left me with a song." "If I had ten thousand lives in which to praise Him, I could not enough my blessed Lord adore!" May the Lord reward each of you richly. Let us endeavor to the end, for heaven will be worth more than every tear, pain, or battle.

Christian love,

—Wilma Meek

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Lagos, Nigeria . . .

June 8—Dear Bro. Murphey: Greetings of love to you, Sis. Pruitt, and all the workers in the Publishing House, in Jesus' precious name, to whom all thanks is due. Hope this finds you sound in the Lord. Glory be to our God.

Through the grace of God we are marching on in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We very much hope to make heaven at all costs. Despite hinderances, the gospel is preached to all who give attention to it.

We are lacking tracts over here. Also, we need doctrinal books. This is important. I herewith enclose the sum of \$5.00 for a copy of *Evening Light Songs*, although I know the price

is much higher. We are using this songbook, though they are very few. As a result of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and Second Tier Foreign Exchange Market (SFEM), the value of this country's money is nothing to talk about, and food is not within the reach of the ordinary man. Only last week students of higher institutions master-minded riots because of the programme and many lives were lost.

Pray for the saints in this country.

Yours for Christ,—Bro. Emmanuel Dokubo

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From Bendel State, Nigeria . . .

Dear Sis. Maybelle Pruitt and all the faithful ones: Greetings in the wonderful name of Jesus, our Saviour, healer, and sanctifier. The sun and the moon and the stars above, all say He is wonderful. We cannot gainsay the contention that He is wonderful.

We have this year placed premium on the necessity and effectiveness of personal evangelism and have embarked upon it faithfully. The result has been most impressive. Once Philip was found, he went out to find. Answering Christ's call, out he went and became instrumental in Nathanael's conversion and call. It is true of this perishing world that multitudes seek sin, pleasure, wealth and self-satisfaction, but seek not Him who is the secret source of every precious thing. However, discoveries have been made as we pressed on, of many precious souls languishing in different prisons of false religion who needed Christ to open for them the prison gates. How glad and thankful are the brethren who were set free and have arrived to be with us in the spiritual Kingdom of God's dear Son. We are being blessed with a big catch.

The Lord blesses everything we have been laying our hands to do, thereby providing against the depression which untold hardship in Nigeria has brought in its train. We lift our eyes up to the hills from whence cometh all our help. Thanks to God for the cooperation of His saints with us every step of the way. We love and serve the same Lord. Christ has a place for each of us, irrespective of all our personal peculiarities and complexions. We are safe in Zion, bright and joyful in the Church of Christ's creation, a city of spiritual people. We live in it. Praise God.

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

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

From India . . .

May 19—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey and the dear saints scattered abroad: Greetings to you dear ones again in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ.

We had a wonderful youth camp and a few days of night meetings at Nadukkunnu last week. Several young people consecrated their lives for Jesus. Soon after that meeting, I went to the northern parts of Kerala state to visit the congregations there and preach in some of the meetings.

We pray for the blessings of God upon the camp meetings in America this summer. ". . . My goodness extendeth . . . to the saints that are in the earth, and to the excellent, in whom is all my delight." Psalm 16:2, 3.

We are waiting for the monsoon rains. We have had a long time of dry weather and badly need rain.

With love and prayers, —John Varghese

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From Mexico . . .

June 10—We salute you all in the holy and precious name of our loving Saviour, Jesus Christ. We trust that all are well in health and very encouraged in the ministry that God has commissioned you with.

Precious saints of God, I write these words with much love, giving thanks to God for His grace and mercy to us. He did save and sanctify us by His Spirit and has kept us till today with our head up, looking to the light of the truth and not at confusion and sin. Blessed be the Lord forever.

I want to testify how the Lord has blessed here in the work. Last Sunday the altar was full of young people and adults seeking more of God. Almost all were crying because of the workings of the Lord in this unusual service. We are all real encouraged and consecrated to serve the Lord. Pray that this will continue. (II Thessalonians 3:1-3).

We thank God that the work is growing and will continue to grow if we do His will by putting our time, strength, patience and love into His work. We are having activity everyday of the week, as it is the desire of the saints here that they may grow in the Lord and bring in more souls. Glory to God for all this.

Yours in Christ,

—Mayarino Escobar and family

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HONDURAS MISSIONARY REPORT

Dear saints: The following is our travel experience in Honduras, Central America. On Wednesday, May 17, 1989, a group consisting of Bro. Louis Kimble, Bro. Keith Fuller, and his two daughters, Tauna and Krista, and Sis. Dianne Fuller left for Honduras. Arriving on the same day at Roatan Island, Honduras, we were

met by the saints and proceeded to our home base in Politele. This is the home of Bro. and Sis. Sanders.

The following day we set up the gospel tent in the town of Punta Gordo. The site was on the beach right on the edge of the sea. The Lord blessed the services for 3 consecutive evenings and Sunday morning. On Friday morning we had a large group of children in attendance for a children's meeting. Each night the tent was full on the inside and many stood on the outside as the Lord blessed His Word to be preached. Conviction was present in each service, and through the power of the Spirit of God, the power of the enemy was broken. On Friday evening several souls made their way to an altar of prayer.

Perhaps the greatest resistance in this meeting came in the form of religious spirits. We thank God that during a time when there was a great stir in the services, the Lord moved on a local minister to announce his stand with the saints in light. Things then opened widely as the Lord's presence was keenly felt. The meeting progressed on to Sunday afternoon when the Lord blessed us with an inspiring baptismal service.

Besides the tent meeting, we were also able to do some personal work. We visited and prayed for several sick ones. Among these were a man badly burned by scalding water, an elderly man near death's door and an invalid sister. We also witnessed the repeating of the wedding vows of a young couple who were saved last year and who desired the official blessings of the Lord on their marriage.

On Sunday afternoon, we left Roatan Island enroute to LaCeiba on the mainland. Here we had a refreshing stay at the home of Sis. Lydia Bennett. On Monday afternoon we left LaCeiba headed to Tela by bus. The bus ride was quite an adventure as much of the countryside and the Honduran people and their customs were observed. Our souls are touched as we see the teeming thousands headed for eternity unprepared to meet the Lord. May God help us not to forget the thought, "What is this world, but perishing souls at stake today?"

In Tela, we lodged at Sis. Elsa Costly's. On Monday evening we had service in her yard with several neighbors and friends present. The Lord blessed the meeting and the Word was preached bringing conviction into the service. There were respondents at the altar, and notable among these was Sis. Costly's son who arose from the altar with a changed countenance and who testified of his salvation.

On Tuesday morning we prepared to travel to San Pedro Sula where we spent the day pur-

chasing gifts and preparing to return to the States. On Wednesday afternoon, May 24, we arrived back in the States with a full week of activity behind us. We thank the Lord for all that was accomplished. The Lord is endeavoring to lay a sound nucleus of truth in Honduras. We do thank all for their prayers towards this behalf.

Transportation still poses a problem as our travel is mainly by taxi. Please be agreed that this need be met. All inquiries about the work and any offerings may be addressed to Bro. Louis Kimble, 2712 Phoenix St., Kenner, LA 70063.

—Submitted by Bro. Keith Fuller

In Memoriam

Margaret Olson was born July 9, 1908 in Lovell, Wyoming, and departed this life February 21, 1989 at Shawnee, OK. She was one of a family of 7 children, all of which have preceded her in death but one sister, Mary Streeter, of Portland, OR.

In the year of 1925, Margaret moved to Oregon where in 1927 she was united in marriage to Charles Hensel Olson. Her husband preceded her in death by 18 years. She was the mother of four children. One son, Bill Olson, preceded her in death. Her living children are Elnora Coughman and Charles Olson, Jr. of Portland, OR and Margaret Stover of Tulsa, OK. She is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

In 1956 the Olsons moved to Jefferson, OR where they were much loved and appreciated members of the Church of God. In 1985, due to failing health, Margaret moved to Oklahoma to be with her daughter, Margaret Stover. Later she moved to The Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, OK where she remained until passing.

Funeral services were held in the Church of God chapel at Jefferson, OR with Bro. Charles Elwell and Bro. Clifford Wilson officiating. Interment was in the Willamette Memorial Park in Albany, OR.

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Erma Rae Flynn Doolittle was born to Angus and Myrtis Flynn, September 26, 1940, in Loranger, LA. She passed from this life on Thursday, March 23, 1989 at her home in Elizabethtown, KY at the age of 48 years and 6 months.

On October 16, 1959 she was united in marriage to Glen Doolittle of Kernville, CA. To this union 4 children were born, 3 sons and 1 daugh-

ter. They resided in CA until 1976 when the family moved to Elizabethtown, KY.

Erma was a faithful wife and mother and meant much to her family, all of whom still reside at home except for 1 son who works in Lexington, but is home on weekends. Needless to say, they miss her greatly.

For more than 3 years, Erma courageously fought a losing battle with a fatal affliction. After a period of time she began turning her heart towards the Lord, and before her passing she was fully committed to her heavenly Father. She is survived by her loving husband, Glenn; 3 sons, Gary of Lexington and Elizabethtown, Micheal and Glenn Jr. of the home; 1 daughter, Holly, of the home; her mother, Myrtis Flynn, Loranger, LA and 1 sister, Vivian Gibson of Guthrie, OK. She was preceded in death by her father in 1977.

Funeral services were held in the Oak Grove Church of God chapel, Loranger, LA with burial in the church cemetery. Bro. Mancil Doolittle and Bro. Bob Forbes were the officiating ministers.

NOTE OF THANKS

Erma enjoyed and appreciated the cards, phone calls, letters, flowers and words of encouragement during her illness. Now the members of her family, mother and sister, wish to thank everyone for the food, flowers, phone calls, prayers and every act of love shown during and following her death.

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

Nancy Riley, daughter of Evander and Mary Gaines, was born January 29, 1917 in Bristow, OK. She departed this life to be with the Lord on Monday, May 23, 1989 in Bakersfield, CA, at the age of 72 years, 3 months and 23 days.

As a child she lived in and around Bristow where she attended the local schools and where she also faithfully, with her parents and family, attended church regularly.

Later, Nancy, along with the family, moved to Tulsa, OK where she met and married Jessie Riley on September 18, 1936. While in Tulsa, as a young lady, she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour.

After a few years of marriage Nancy and her husband moved to Oakland, CA. Shortly thereafter they moved to Bakersfield, CA. In Bakersfield she worshiped with the Church of God. She served on the board of trustees, was dining hall supervisor and a teacher of vacation Bible school.

She will be missed by all the people she worked with and the others she was associated with.

Nancy was preceded in death by her father, mother and one brother.

Her survivors include 2 sisters, Edith Sherman, Bakersfield, CA and Ruth Shehee, Pacoima, CA; 2 aunts, Ethel Jackson and Katie Gaines, both of Bakersfield, CA; 2 special neices and nephews, Judy and Arthur Keyes, Charlesetta and Elatis Bradford; and daughter, Andrea Bradford, all of Bakersfield, CA; a host of other neices, nephews, other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were held in the saint's chapel at Bakersfield, CA, conducted by Sister Beverly Reed, Bros. Robert Mays, Archie Sherman and Eddie R. Johnson. She was laid to rest in Hillcrest Memorial Park, Bakersfield, CA.

NOTE OF THANKS

It is utterly impossible to find the words to express our gratefulness and gratitude to everyone for the love, prayers, concern and support which was shown to us during the time of our great bereavement. The Lord greatly manifested Himself in many ways and showed Himself strong in our behalf.

We also thank and appreciate the many cards, telegrams and phone calls. They were a blessing.

We earnestly desire a continued interest in your prayers that God will continue to sustain and console our hearts and to keep us in the way He would have us to go.

—The Riley and Gaines families

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Sara Loretta Miles, daughter of the late Carter and Meda Jane Wattenbarger, was born February 21, 1926 and departed this earthly life June 1, 1989, in Oregon City, OR.

Sis. Loretta was a member of the Church of God and pastored at the congregation in Orland, CA.

On December 7, 1944 she was married to Samuel Robert Miles and to this union 2 sons were born, James Carter Miles and Samuel Paul Miles. Her husband preceded her in death on October 19, 1967.

In 1969 Sis. Loretta was united in marriage to Bro. A. E. (Gene) Harmon. They made their home in Orland, CA until Bro. Harmon preceded her in death in 1983.

Bro. Harmon pastored at the Church of God in Orland, CA until his health failed at which time Sis. Loretta assumed the pastoring responsibilities as long as she was able.

Sis. Loretta is survived by her 2 sons; 3 grandchildren; 4 sisters, Nellavar Rogers of Hixon, TN, Glenna Inman of Brandenton, FL, Levana Leon of Whittier, CA, Nicole Crial of

La Habra Hights, CA, and 1 brother, Harvey Wattenbarger of Salem, OR.

Sis. Loretta's parents, 1 sister, Zellamae, 2 brothers, Paul and Gordon Wattenbarger, preceded her in death.

Those who knew Sis. Loretta loved her dearly and will miss her greatly.

The funeral service was conducted in Oregon City, OR by Bro. Charles R. Elwell.

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Loren Don Williamson, the youngest son and child of the late Bro. Don Williamson, and his wife, Sis. Annetta Luehring Williamson, of Loranger, LA was born October 11, 1983 in Salem, OR. He was called from this life to his eternal home to be with Jesus on Friday, June 2, 1989, after having had a short illness, at the age of 5 years, 7 months and a few days, from his home in Loranger, LA where he had been living with his mother, an older sister and two older brothers.

Loren was preceded in death by an infant brother, his father, Murray Don Williamson and paternal grandparents, Merrill and Ruby Williamson. He is survived by his mother, Annetta L. Williamson; 1 sister, Cynthia; 2 brothers, Keith and Todd, all of the home; his maternal grandparents, Earnest Leuhring of Shawnee, OK and Virginia Leuhring of Lebanon, OR, and many aunts, uncles and close relatives.

NOTE OF THANKS

Dear saints: We want to thank each and every one for all your love, help, care and concern shown to us in every way during the sickness and death of both our husband and son. We have strongly felt the prayers of the saints and we love and appreciate you all.

With heartfelt thanks,

—Sis. Annetta Williamson and children

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Clyde M. Lea, was born July 23, 1907, in Kentwood, LA and died June 6, 1989 in the Golden Rule Home at Shawnee, OK at the age of 81 years. He was the son of Smiley Morris Lea and Betty Sarah Lea of Kentwood, LA, who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his first wife, Wilma Hilbun, who died in 1950, also their infant daughter, his second wife, Virginia Blaise, who died in 1952, and 1 brother, Floyd Lea.

He is survived by his present wife, Thelma, to whom he was married on January 1, 1953, in Chehalis, WA, who is now also living at The Golden Rule Home in Shawnee, OK; 2 sons, Donald, of OR and Norman, of CA; 5 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on June 9, 1989 in the Gaskill Funeral Home Chapel in Shawnee, OK. Interment was in the Hilbun Cemetery at Kentwood, LA.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: What is the meaning of the term "peculiar people" in I Peter 2:9? Does it mean strange or odd?

Answer: Not at all. This text is speaking of what God's people are to Him, and God does not make a people who would be odd or strange unto Himself. On the contrary, they are His jewels (Malachi 3:17) and special treasure (Deuteronomy 7:6). They are the chosen of God, elect and precious. This is what God's people are to Him. Oh, the blessedness of being chosen by God to be one of His special people.

Of course, this does not describe what the saints are to the world nor the way the world looks at us. We are to them a strange spectacle with our conduct of self-denial, loving our enemies, doing good to them that hate us, praying for those who persecute and revile us, turning the other cheek, going the second mile, giving the cloak with coat, etc., as compared with the self-centeredness, every fellow for himself and the devil for us all, attitudes. But, as before mentioned, this text is referring to what the people of God are to Him and not to the world.

Now we will notice some texts which contain the term "peculiar," or its equivalent, and see what their use is in the Scriptures. "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and an holy nation. . . ." Exodus 19:5, 6. Note the use of the term here, a **peculiar treasure** unto me above all people. This would clearly refer to a separated group of people from among all the other people of the earth. In Deuteronomy 7:1-6 we read how the Israelites were to deal with the people of the land when they entered Canaan. They were to utterly destroy all their places and facilities for sacrifice and worship. Verse 6 plainly states the reason for this stern indictment. It says, "For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." This text uses the term "special people" instead of "peculiar treasure" as in Exodus 19:5, 6. These are alternate terms

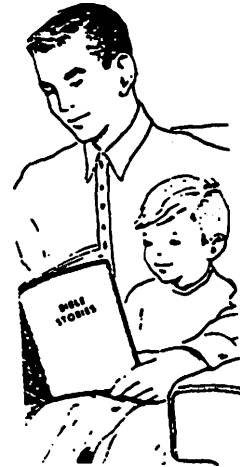
used in the same way and clearly mean the same things. Read also Deuteronomy 14:2; 26:16-19; 28:9; 29:13 and I Kings 8:53.

In all the above texts the terms of peculiar, holy, special and separate, have the same meaning and describe the same relationship between God and His people. This is just about, if not altogether, the total meaning and scriptural use of the term "peculiar people" in the Bible.

Our text (I Peter 2:9) and Titus 2:14 may be the only places in the New Testament where the term "peculiar people" is used, and clearly it is used in the same way and means the same thing as its use in the Old Testament in regard to ancient Israel, the chosen people of God in that time. Titus 2:14 says this, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." It is clear in this verse that the ultimate objective of Christ's sacrifice at Calvary was to redeem and save us from all sin and unrighteousness and purify unto Himself a peculiar or separated people. In II Corinthians 6:14-18 we read, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness: And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty." Here is clearly taught the doctrine of total separateness and the reason for it: because the opposites mentioned here can by no means blend. Therefore, since He has provided the sacrifice in His Son, Jesus to fully cleanse us from sin and purge us from every impure and unrighteous thing in His blood, He now requires us to be separated from all these things unto Him. He now requires us to touch none of the unclean things from which He has purged us in the blood of His Son, and maintain a holy and righteous life separated unto Him.

"Why were the saints, saints? Because they were cheerful when it was difficult to be cheerful, patient when it was difficult to be patient; and because they pushed on when they wanted to stand still, and kept silent when they wanted to talk, and were agreeable when they wanted to be disagreeable. That is all. It was quite simple and always will be." —Selected

HOME LIFE



The Worst Punishment

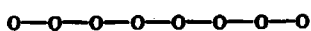
I know my daddy is the best
A boy could ever own;
He plays like he's another boy
Whenever he's at home.
We get right down upon the floor—
Ma says we are too rough—
But I keep on until I beat,
And make him cry "Enough!"
Just the same, he makes me obey
He says God wants him to;
Because He left me in his care
To teach me how to do.
He never scolds me—much—at all,
But once I disobeyed,
I didn't want to see him then,
Because I was afraid.
He punished me the most that time,
For what I did that day,
Perhaps you will not understand;
'Twas in a funny way.
I guess he never thought for once,
That he was hurtin' me;
Because he never whipped at all,
'Twas just like this, you see:—
When he asked "grace" at dinner time,
He said to me, "Look here;
There's something wrong with Jimmie boy;
Tell Daddy 'bout it dear."
Then I told what the matter was,
Though I was 'bout to cry;
I thought for sure he'd whip me, but
Of course I wouldn't lie.
He never said a single word,
My heart just beat and beat;
Ma passed him lots of victuals, but
He said he couldn't eat.
He always eats so heartily;
And Ma likes for him to,
I saw without her tellin' me,
That she was sufferin', too.

You'd thought the way they acted that
 'Twas they who'd done the wrong,
 And it was me who punished them!

I couldn't stand it long.
 I went around where Daddy sat,
 And asked him to forgive,
 I never will forget that day
 As long as I shall live.

I'll never, never do again
 The thing I did that day,
 For I have learned for certain that
 I must not disobey.
 It hurt me worse than whipping, and
 The cure was so complete,
 I'll never grieve the ones I love
 Till Daddy cannot eat.

—Selected



Good Fathers

That a good mother is a gift from God is a truth we often hear attested, and it can be said with equal truthfulness that good fathers are God-given. It is true that the mother has the greater care of the child, especially in its infancy, but it is a mistake to thrust upon her all the responsibility of its training through childhood and youth. The mother has her part, but there is a part that belongs to the father, and if he fails, the child is robbed of part of its rights.

It is the father's part to provide for the temporal needs of his child, and to this responsibility every right-thinking man responds; but too often when the temporal needs are supplied, the father thinks he has done his part.

A good father keeps acquainted with his children. And this is no small undertaking if there are several little people in the home all rapidly growing and developing. He will have to be with them more than at mealtime and on Sunday afternoons to keep up a continuous acquaintance. And he will have to unbend himself and meet the children on their own territory and be a child with them. It is a good cordial for tired nerves just to have a merry romp with the children; and Father seems so close after such a romp. It is through play that children meet and know other children, and fathers also can best know their children if they meet them frequently this way. If the father keeps his eyes open, he will be able to detect the very tendencies that, unrestrained, will injure his children in coming years. And he can make the child see the fault much easier because he has seen it from the child's point of vantage. Good fathers, then, are good comrades with their children.

A good father respects the feelings of his children. He will not single out one little offender and make him and the rest of the family miserable during a whole meal with his scathing

reproofs and jeering remarks. He will not growl or roar at them till their little nerves tremble. "Like as a father pitieth his children" is an application which his children can understand. Even if he must correct severely, underneath his severity will be pity and compassion.

Good fathers are interested in the things that interest their children. Many a child has stood anxiously by with some work of his own hands desiring to show it to his father, but fearful lest he be sent away with an admonition not to bother, or that the father would look it over with a hasty glance and a "h'm" and then go on with his reading. Children want to please their fathers, want their association and appreciation, and will seek after them; but only a few fathers are truly responsive.

Our heavenly Father remembers that we are dust; and a good earthly father remembers that his children are weak and inexperienced, that their characters are yet unformed, that their judgment is yet unstable, and for these reasons he does not expect them to be able to act and think like men and women. He can be considerate with them when they are at fault, can feel compassion when they are in trouble, and forgive them when they repent. He cares more for their welfare and happiness than for his own, and not only toils day after day for them, but is able to meet them with a smile when the day is done.

—Mable Hale

God's Scales Of Justice

(Continued from page 3)

the potato patch again. The man said, "Those potatoes belong to God and those hogs belong to God. If God wants His hogs to eat His potatoes, that is His business." So he dropped the whole affair. Later the neighbor's daughter became very sick and he called the man of God to come and pray for her. The neighbor was won to God. This man weighed out right; he trusted God's wisdom in all that touched his life.

We are on one side of God's scales of justice and God's Word is on the other side. We should check daily to see that our lives measure up to the Word. Those who check their weight daily can correct any difference easily before it gets too large. It is important that we live a life dedicated to God's cause and reject any selfish desires or ways, thus proving that we love Him with all our hearts. We are only in the world a short time and we shall be weighed in the judgment day for the last time. On that day it will be a final weighing. There will not be any opportunity to correct any difference. Now is the time to watch our weight.

One day Jesus weighed a man who came running, then knelt before Him and asked,

"What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother." (Mark 10:17-22). He was being weighed by the Word of God. How did he weigh out thus far? The man felt good because he had kept all of these commandments from his youth. Jesus looked on him and loved him. God and His people appreciate those who live clean, upright lives, but it takes more than that to balance out correctly on God's scales. We must be "born again," and also surrender ourselves, possessions and our all into God's hands. We just become stewards of our lives, possessions and time. We do not belong to ourselves because we have been bought with a price. We belong to God. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

Jesus continued to weigh the man. He told him to sell all that he had and give to the poor, take up his cross and follow Him. The poor rich man was grieved. He was weighed and found wanting that time. He had opportunity to change his weight, but he refused and went away sorrowful. He lacked enough weight to balance out correctly with God's Word. Dear ones, it would have been better for him to have weighed out like Job. When God saw that Job weighed out correctly, He blessed him. He gave him more sons and daughters and twice as much in possessions as he had lost. His latter end was better than the beginning. (Job 42).

God has prepared a beautiful home in heaven for those who are faithful and endure to the end. This world is not our home. We are on our way to those treasures in heaven. We want to weigh correctly on God's scales of justice in this life so when we get on them for the last time in the judgment day we shall balance out correctly and be ready to enter God's heaven.

—Sis. Marie Miles

Your Call

The world is dark, but you are called to brighten
Some little corner, some secluded glen;
Somewhere a burden rests that you may lighten,
And thus reflect the Master's love for men.

Is there a brother drifting on life's ocean,
Who might be saved if you but speak a word?
Speak it today. The testing of devotion

Is our response when duty's call is heard.

—Selected



Excerpts Taken From

July, 1964 *Faith and Victory*

"The Lord has marvelously answered prayer in regard to the needs of the evangelistic tent work. All praise is due unto Him. A 24-foot, 1958 model Boles Aero, modern, fully equipped, all-aluminum travel house trailer has been purchased at a cost of \$2,250. A down payment of \$1,000 was made, and by faith we are expecting the Lord to provide the balance.

Through another answer to prayer the Lord has led Bro. and Sis. Albert Eck and daughter, of Bartlett, Kansas to go with the evangelistic tent for the summer. Sister Eck, with her faithful husband, has been the pastor of the Coffeyville, Kansas congregation for a number of years, and God has blessed her labors. As they move out into this evangelistic phase of God's work, we are praying and expecting the Lord to continue to bless their labors in a special way.

"The Lord is also leading Bro. Edwin Wilson of Guthrie, Okla. and Bro. Royal Taylor of California to help in this tent work. Let all the saints pray earnestly and continually for these consecrated workers, and that the gospel seed which is sown will germinate and produce a great harvest of souls."

—L. D. Pruitt

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"The way is sweeter and sweeter. The more trials we have, the sweeter it is to me. Understand that I do not pray for trials, but when the Lord permits them to come, I ask for help to go through, and there I find the honey in the Rock. In that way I can say it gets sweeter."

—Sister Margaret Cable