

FAITH ^{AND} VICTORY

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The Veil Taken Away

When Moses from the mount came down,
 In heaven's presence having been,
 His features glowed to all around
 Too brightly for their hearts of sin.
 And so a veil was given him
 His face to cover as He spake,
 His shining countenance to dim
 For all their darkened shameful sake.
 The veil he wore before the crowd,
 But when he went before the Lord
 He took it off and lowly bowed
 Before his God whom he adored.
 What was the veil in all of this?
 It really hung upon the heart,
 And kept the soul from heaven's bliss,
 From light the Lord sought to impart.
 Still hangs the veil unmoved today
 From many hearts deceived by sin;
 But if from sin we turn away
 His blessed light can shine within.
 And we with open face behold
 As in a mirror crystal clear
 The Lord in all His beauty told
 Our souls to bless, our hearts to cheer.
 With open face, unveiled by pride,
 We look on Him who lives above;
 His image is impressed inside
 And stamped upon our hearts by love.
 With open face unveiled by shame,
 By condemnation hid no more,
 We see the wonders of His name
 And wealth of His abundant store.
 With eyes unblinded and made clear,
 Set from the god of this world free,
 We see the King of Glory near
 To fill our lives with victory!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Reasons For Being A Christian

It is the privilege of every child of God to know that he is saved and to know why he is what he is. Many people, when asked why they affiliate themselves with a certain religious body do not seem to know, except that father, mother, grandfather, or someone else was a member before them. God wants us to look deeper into our relationship with Him than that. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." (I Peter 3:15).

In the business life the man who is successful is the man who informs himself. He must know his business. The successful farmer is the farmer who keeps informed. He learns from farm journals, as well as from his own and others' experiences, what kind of crops to plant, when to plant, how to take proper care of the soil, etc. The traveling salesman studies his work. I once heard two traveling salesmen in conversation, and one was telling the other how to make a sale. "If you go into a store," he said, "to sell the merchant some sugar, and he tells you he doesn't need sugar, it's your business to convince him that he does need that sugar." Isn't it strange that in every walk of life men are informed and have an answer for your query, but so few are educated in religious things, the most important of all? It is clear from the text quoted that God wants us to be informed, and ready to stand in defense of the gospel, and this applies to the laity as well as to the ministry.

I shall here give four of what I believe to be good logical reasons why every man should be a Christian.

We belong to God by creative right and should serve Him.—Every man is indebted to God for the life that he now has. Paul placed

this beyond question in his sermon on Mars' Hill. "God that made the world," he said, "and all things that are therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; . . . For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." We have an existence because God gave us that existence. We live moment by moment because God supplies us with breath. We are entirely dependent on Him. When once a man can feel the greatness of his dependence on God, he will become humble. "Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?" I believe that life itself is one of the greatest evidences of the reality of God. The fact that God started with nothing and created all things that have life, and placed within each, power to generate life and reproduce itself, is abundant proof of His reality. The scientist and the philosopher are unable to explain how the egg will turn to a chicken after three weeks of proper care, but it does. Reader, you live because God permits you to live. Do you not feel that He has a claim on you, and

what ownership we feel we have over ourselves and acknowledge God as rightful owner.

We are responsible for our influence upon others.—The power of influence is great. The Bible tells us that "none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." This is true. We are in the world and we cannot avoid association with others. Association starts influences to work, and whether good or bad, like the leaven, they continue their work of life or death. A man who had a family told me once, when I exhorted him to give his heart to God, "that no one cared whether he was saved or not." Think of it! Those little children are walking in the footsteps of that father, that noble wife is looking to him, the head of the house, to live right. Probably in after-years, when sin has done its deadly work, and his children's lives are wrecked in this world and their souls are lost in eternity, he will realize what his influence has been.

Reader, do you want to serve sin and drag your children, brothers, sisters, relatives, and friends down the broad way to destruction with you; or do you want to serve God and lead them up the shining way to eternal peace and

"The fact that we were hopelessly lost, and that God has paid such an enormous price to redeem us should destroy forever a spirit of independence in our lives."

that you are under obligation to serve Him?

We belong to God by redemptive right.—That God is the author of man's salvation is an undebatable question. From the time man fell into sin until the day Jesus Christ said on the cross, "It is finished," God planned to bring to the world a Saviour. And that God has done this without our consent, makes us none the less responsible. The fact that Christ died for me, even without my consent, creates an obligation on my part. He has placed the issue squarely before me, and I must meet it. A man may wish he had never been born, but the fact that he has been born still remains. In I Corinthians 6:19-20 Paul places this before the Corinthian church in its true light: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

The fact that we were hopelessly lost, and that God has paid such an enormous price to redeem us should destroy forever a spirit of independence in our lives. We should relinquish

happiness? You are doing one or the other.

Our happiness here and hereafter depends upon it.—All men are created with a nature and desire to worship. We can be happy only when God is the sole object of our worship (Matt. 4:10). It is folly to seek for lasting peace in sin. A workman was once plastering a house for a rich man, and was singing as he worked. The owner interrupted him by saying, "If I were as happy as you are, I would give half of my possessions." "If I had what you have I should be happier still," the man replied. The owner told him that he was mistaken, and then he told of the restless nights, the anxious days, and the trouble he was having.

This life will soon end. A long eternity awaits us. How shall we spend it? God's presence in eternity is the goal of true happiness. If we lose that, we can expect torment; we must take our place with the lost of all ages. The very atmosphere of hell will be filled with the fumes of the deepest-dyed iniquity. From the bottomless pit will arise the shrieks, groans, and curses of earth's worst criminals. Think of being in such company in eternity! —Fred Bruffett

From The Depths of Despair

Here is good news! God can give you a singing heart though you are in the very depths of trial and conditions are seemingly hopeless. Listen carefully with your heart as you read these inspiring words, "... For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11.

Who wrote these words? A man who was in prison—the apostle Paul. He had learned to be content in whatever state or situation came his way. There is no doubt he was acquainted with the depths of anguish and despair, but he realized to give way to his feelings would not change his circumstances. Paul learned to set his eyes on God instead of his problems, and God was always faithful to supply the grace. When we read the following Scriptures, we will have to admit that our problems seem very small in comparison. "Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, ..." II Corinthians 11:24-26. Later, he was imprisoned, but his spirit remained free.

This was remarkable, for to be confined crushes all hopes, dreams and plans. It can crush your very spirit and deem life a complete failure. How did Paul's spirit remain free? The answer is found in the first and second chapters of Acts.

After Jesus had been crucified and then resurrected, He tarried forty days before His ascension, instructing and teaching His disciples more fully "of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3). Their hearts and minds were open to His instructions and commandments, for they were fully persuaded that Jesus was the Son of God and that His Words were truth and must be obeyed.

Here are Jesus' last Words to the apostles: "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight." Acts 1:8, 9.

Please read carefully, for here is the key to happiness! Let God open your spiritual eyes to His full plan of salvation.

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And

there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them." Acts 2:1-3.

God intervened in a miraculous way the first time Paul was cast into prison. At this particular time, Silas was also in prison with him, and their feet had been put into stocks. At midnight, Paul and Silas had been praying. They both had received such a blessing from the Lord, that they began singing praises unto God.

God saw fit to deliver them, and caused an earthquake to shake the prison, the doors were opened, and their chains fell off. In the final outcome, the jailer and all his household received salvation, and Paul and Silas were free to go.

Paul and the other apostles were led by the Holy Ghost to preach Christ in several different places, and many people were saved. The spread of the gospel abounded till the Sadducees, Pharisees, and some other Jews became very jealous of their great following. The very same spirit that caused Jesus to be crucified, again rose up in their hearts; a self-righteous spirit that was determined to quell and subdue anything that deviated from their rigid standards of the law. They deeply resented the humble way of life that was taught and the conversion of the Gentiles, so drastic measures were taken. The apostles were cast into prison and later put to death. (Except for John, who was banished on the Isle of Patmos for his punishment. It was there God revealed many things to him, and he wrote them down.)

God also had a great work for Paul to do while he was in prison, before he was later executed. God laid a burden on Paul to write many letters and exhortations to various people and congregations. (Many of his inspired writings are in the New Testament.) In following God's leadings I'm sure Paul's own heart was uplifted and comforted, even though he was in bonds. This is the secret of a singing heart, in spite of adversity. Get close to God and ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart, and then be willing to follow God's leadings. His leadership will lift your own spirit far above your problems and will also encourage others to follow Christ.

Paul had learned whatever state he was in to be content since he had the Holy Ghost dwelling in his heart. You too can have this power, if you have first been forgiven of your sins. There is not a strict or set time on how soon after you have been justified (saved), as to when you get sanctified (receive the Holy Ghost), but Jesus plainly taught it to His disciples before His ascension. He commanded them to tarry in Jerusalem till they became indued with power. So the only way we can rise from the depths of despair is to have that special sanctifying

(continued on page 13)

FAITH AND VICTORY

16-PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

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

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

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

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

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

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EDITORIALS

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Matt. 16:24. Even though this instruction was given to the twelve disciples, the truth of it still appeals to the hearts of those who will follow Him. We also realize the seriousness of what Jesus said when we read in the next verse (Matt. 16:25) that it means the difference between the gain or loss of eternal life. Since this is an inescapable decision, we would do well to give the subject some in-depth thought.

There are many who live a superficial life of self-denial by being in bondage to a misconstrued concept of what it means. J. R. Miller in some of his writings stated, "One does without meat on Fridays, eating fish instead, and thinks he has denied himself in a most commendable way. Another gives up social dissipation for forty days in Lent, and is complacent over the merit of great self-denial. Others make themselves miserable in various ways, inflicting pain, making useless and uncalled for sacrifices as if God were pleased when they suffer." Another minister dating back more than a century ago wrote, "To you self-denial may only mean weariness, restraint, ennui; but it means also, love, perfection, sanctification."

True self-denial is the yielding of the whole life to Christ's influence. It is constantly living, not to please ourselves, nor to advance our own personal ambitions, but to please our Lord and advance His spiritual and humanitarian work on this earth.

Self-denial, like all other Christ-like traits, is most perfectly lived out when it is unconscience of itself. It is not something that is a strain to accomplish, but a positive by-product of true love for our Saviour that will help draw others unto Him.

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We have in stock wall calendars for 1990. The price this year will be \$1.80 each plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. The calendar measures 7¼ x 13½ inches, and includes a colorful nature scene for every month.

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Ever since Sis. Dorothy Keiser passed away and the Church in Ghana has been without someone to help them, the work of the Lord there has suffered. Yet in our correspondence with the brethren in that area we feel there are still some who want the truth preserved. The four ministers who are currently in Akumadan, where the mission house was built, have written stating, "The government of Ghana is request-

ing every church, including our own, to register with the ministry of culture. The new deadline for the registration is Nov. 14 1989." This registration will cost approximately 500 U.S. dollars. We feel that it would be good to do what we can in retaining this work in Ghana. If the Lord should lay the burden on some to help with this need, we would be grateful for what is sent towards this project.

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We would like to ask for your continued prayers for this work. It is through your interest in the work of the Lord that we have been able to send gospel literature to many places around the world. It is encouraging when we get letters from countries that we have never heard from before and it helps to give meaning to our labors and the sacrifices of the saints.

At this time there are several obligations that must soon be met. One outstanding need is for more paper. A shipment will have to be ordered in the near future.

Let us continue steadfast in our dedication to seeing the Word of God carried to every hungry heart.

—Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

OH—"Pray for my daughter. She is sorely afflicted with nerves and it is hindering her work. Also, pray for my body that I may be completely healed of all my afflictions."

—Juanita Blankenship

NC—"I am requesting prayer for the healing of my hip; I am suffering much pain."

—Sis. Leila Lewis

MI—"I have a prayer request for my son, Pat, who was hit by a snowplow on 2/18/89 and is still in a coma."

—Edward N. Yetzke

CO—"Pray for my healing, also for some special requests."

—Leona Carey

CA—"Please pray for my eyes to be healed."

—Letha Reece

MS—"Remember some special requests for me."

—Merle James

CA—"Please pray for my complete healing. Also, pray for Rhonda Catright of Ohio; she has Multiple Sclerosis."

—Sis. Mildred Vaught

VA—"Sis. Lillian Bohannon needs a touch of healing, also my son."

—Sis. Nannie Connell

OH—"Bro. David Hurless has some heavy burdens and also a terminal illness."

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"Salvation works. I don't know anything else that can take an old black heart and wash it in red blood and make it white as snow."

—Bro. Mart Samons

Campground Relocation Progress Report

The saints' chapel and campground at Guthrie, OK weathered yet another flood when the Cottonwood Creek left its banks on Sept. 13 for the second time in thirty days. Water rose quickly and receded slowly leaving the chapel and other buildings on the campground under water for several hours. The usual mud and debris was left behind in its wake. The water level was close to eighteen inches deep in the chapel this time, high enough to leave a film of mud on the seats of the pews after it receded. There was about thirty inches of water in the dining hall. Unfortunately the heavy oak pews received considerable damage from being under the water for so long. While the chapel stood under water the saints met for prayer meeting in the school at the new campground location where work is underway on the new chapel and dining hall. Saints from the Enid and Oklahoma City congregations came to help with the clean-up. Their presence and assistance was greatly appreciated.

We are happy to report that the concrete floor of the new chapel and dining hall has been poured and finished. That completes phase two of the building project. Sufficient funds to start phase three have not been received yet.

The cooperation of all the saints in erecting this building in any way that God leads you will be accepted and appreciated. All the saints, in Oklahoma especially, should cooperate to supply the means and material for this Oklahoma State Campground building. It would be good for each congregation of the saints in Oklahoma to set aside one Lord's day offering a month to put towards this project. Let us again review our consecration and see if all that we possess still belongs to the Lord and He may use it wherever He chooses in His service. We need your prayers that the Lord will so supply that there will be no hindrances in the erection of this much needed building. We currently have about one third of the necessary means to complete the next phase.

Heartfelt appreciation and thanks goes out to each one who is supporting this project with your prayers and means. May God bless you every one.

Correspondence may be addressed to: Church of God, % Brenda Wilkins, treasurer, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044.—Bro. Bob Saltee for the Campground Relocation Committee

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"Let prayer be the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening." —Matthew Henry

NATIONAL CAMP MEETING SINGING TAPES AVAILABLE

Bro. Harlan Sorrell has available two 90 minute cassette tapes of the Monark Springs, MO Camp Meeting songs. The tapes are entitled "Zion's Glad Triumphant Songs" and sell for \$3.00 each. Bro. Harlan's address is: Rt. 1, Box 118-A, Myrtle, MO 65778.

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FALL WORK DAY AT MONARK SPRINGS, MO CAMPGROUNDS

Bro. Ed Johnston, business manager for the Monark Springs Campgrounds has announced that there will be a fall work day on Saturday, Oct. 21. The purpose of it is to prepare the grounds for winter. All helpers will be appreciated.

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MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

BAKERSFIELD, CA CAMP MEETING REPORT

Truly we praise the Lord for the wonderful camp meeting He bestowed upon us in Bakersfield. The Word of the Lord was preached in its fullness. Souls were saved, bodies healed and the saints drawn to a closer walk with the Lord. On the last Sunday the Lord sent a special outpouring of His Spirit upon the service, stirring the lost to make the right choice and strengthen those who have to continue steadfast to the end. We appreciate all who came to labor in the meeting, and those who supported us with their prayers. We thank God for His faithfulness. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:8.—Sis. Tina Cox

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DURHAM, NC CAMP MEETING REPORT

We are very thankful for a blessed camp meeting. We had a real good attendance each service and souls received help at the altar. We are thankful for the two souls that accepted Christ. We appreciate the ministers that came and preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. We are thankful for all the saints who supported us with their prayers.

Yours in Christ, —Bro. Jerry Lennon

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BOLEY, OK CAMP MEETING REPORT

We are very thankful to the Lord for blessing us with a wonderful camp meeting in Boley, OK. The attendance was good, also the altar services.

We appreciated the ministers and workers that came to help in the battle against sin. The

Word was preached under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord reward each one for their labor of love.

The theme of the meeting was unity, love and humility. We praise God for all the good we received to our souls. To Him we give all the glory and honor.

Also we want to thank the saints and friends for your contributions to help in the building of the women's dormitory.

Yours in His great name,

—Katherine Williams

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GUTHRIE, OK REVIVAL

The Church of God at Guthrie will be having a revival meeting, Lord willing, beginning Sunday morning, Oct. 8, at 10:30 a.m. It will continue with nightly services at 7:30 p.m. through Oct. 13. Bro. Ostis Wilson plans to be in this meeting and we cordially invite the saints to attend.

Please pray for this meeting that souls will be saved, sanctified and edified. For further information you may contact Bro. Carl Shaffer, P. O. Box 21343, Oklahoma City, OK 73156, phone, (405) 771-4522.

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SPRINGFIELD, MO REVIVAL

A revival meeting has been planned by the Springfield congregation for Oct. 15-22. Lord willing, Bro. Ostis Wilson will be with them.

On Saturday, Oct. 14, at 4 p.m., a special young people's meeting will be held.

The chapel address is: 444 E. Evergreen, Springfield, MO 65803. The chapel phone is (417) 864-4930. For more information you may contact the pastor, Bro. James Bell, (417) 833-3723. Everyone is given a hearty invitation to attend!

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SHAWNEE, OK REVIVAL

A revival at the Shawnee, OK Church of God has been announced to begin on Oct. 22, 1989. No closing date has been set. Lord willing, Bro. Charles Elwell of Gladstone, OR will be holding the meeting. Please pray that his physical strength will be sustained through the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

—The Shawnee Congregation

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LORANGER, LA ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lord willing, the Loranger, LA Assembly Meeting will be Sunday, Nov. 19 through Sunday, Nov. 26. Watch for a complete announcement in the November issue.

**GOLDEN RULE HOME
TRANSPORTATION OBTAINED**

The Golden Rule Home has recently purchased a vehicle to be used in transporting some of the residents to church and other needed places. The station wagon that has been in use is no longer dependable which has necessitated this purchase. A good down payment has been made, but there is still a sizable balance yet to be met. If you would like to help with a donation, you may do so by sending it to Sis. Janyce Porter, Rt. 6, Box 10, Shawnee, OK 74801.

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From the Mailbox . . .

MO—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt: I thank you very much for your sweet letter. I was glad to get it. That is the kind I love to read. Yes, God is a present help in time of need and we sure do need Him. We can't do without Him, for He is so good to us. I love Him because He first loved me and gave His life on the cross for my sins. . . .

God bless one and all at the Print Shop.
Your sister in Christ Jesus, —Eathel Hill

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CA—Dear Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in Jesus' name . . . Things are changing. The devil is trying to kill God's work on this earth. It sure looks like the trumpet will soon be sounding for God's children to come home.

Continue to pray for my eyes as I am left to carry the business load of the church here at Orland since Sister Loretta went home. It is hard to do the work as my eyes are getting worse. Our Father knows I have to have good eyes to care for the church work. Our Father says to wait on Him and be of good courage, so I am doing that. Also pray for a finger I mashed.

The wickedness here in my part of the world is something horrible. As the days come and go we must fight harder and harder against all evil. The devil is determined to cause every soul to be lost in hell. Everything points to the trumpet sounding. I sure want to meet my Saviour in peace. "Behold, now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation." (II Cor. 6:2). May God help people to wake up before it is too late. It will be glorious when we can go home to heaven. . . .

—Sis. Letha Reece

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AR—Dearest Friends: I trust at this time you are found abounding in the love, mercy and grace of our dear Lord.

I have wanted to let you know that never before have I enjoyed a Monark Camp Meeting

any more than the one just past. Not only did I enjoy the feeling of being on holy ground, but the security I felt in my soul and the precious love demonstrated among the saints. The sweet unity was manifested everywhere we turned. I'm still rejoicing and thanking God that I found the Church of God. I'm so happy that one day I said "yes" to God. I want to be obedient in all God demands of me. I want to do the things Jesus would do if He were here.

It is true we miss those that God has taken home, but we are grateful for each of the new ones God has added to His great kingdom.

We need to be sure to remember to pray one for another. We have lost loved ones and neighbors, but I think of James 5:16, ". . . The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Our weather here is nice. Things are so green and pretty. There are lots of flowers for Sept 19. . . .

—Sis. Lou Bray

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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and co-workers: Still pray for me. I can hardly see to write anymore.

I am still on the road to heaven. Thank the Lord, He is so good to me. I will be 93 in November. I have fallen and hurt my back three times within three years. I can't walk, but the Lord takes care of me. . . .

—Sis. Mary Bush

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the workers at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

First of all I want to tell you about our camp meeting. We felt burdened to pray that God would send us the ministers of His own choosing. We all surely believe He did that very thing. This was the most wonderful camp meeting we have had for several years. The preaching was under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. God had His way in every service.

My soul was blessed by getting to hear all the good messages that I did, although I was not able to go to hear them all as I am very weary in body. I need your prayers.

—Sis. Agnes Huskey

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OK—"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. . . ." Deut. 33:27.

The eternal God is the One who "ever was and ever will be." A refuge is a safe and sheltered place, peace in time of trouble. "Everlasting" denotes an unlimited and unconquerable power eternally exerted on behalf of those who trust in God. What a powerhouse we have to draw on.

In one of the song services at the Monark Camp Meeting this summer, the song, "What A Friend We have In Jesus," was selected. As the saints sang the phrase, "Precious Saviour still our refuge," hands were raised all over the tabernacle. It was a beautiful, warming sight to me. How I could relate to these my brothers and sisters. We're all walking this road to heaven together; the same road many others have trod before us and the powerhouse is still in full charge. Everlasting—"the same yesterday, to day and for ever."

There is a refuge, a sheltered place without danger where peace is found. "All things work together for good to them that love God." (Rom. 8:28). But, what of the troubles, the suffering, the heavy burdens we sometimes have to bear? If God said it, it is so! All things are for good. That knowledge wipes away bitterness and is a refuge in itself, bringing a peace when life's battles are raging.

Fight on weary pilgrim, heaven is in view and God's Church is still victorious. Our God is everlasting. Fight on dear saints, there are lessons to learn, chastisements to be had, victories to be won and there are sinners looking for an example in life's battles.

God allows Satan just so much room, but turns it all to some good. Let's search for the good in hard places. God has a nugget hidden every time.

Just trust, trust and love. It is exciting to trust in God, to prove Him. It works! II Samuel 22:3, "The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield . . . my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge. . . ."

I'm learning of my Saviour,

—Brenda Wilkins

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

WA—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints at the Lord's Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I am glad to report that I am encouraged to go all the way with the Lord.

God's goodness is more than I can tell. First, He gave me life through Jesus and much more. Jesus is my all in all: teacher, friend, big brother, etc. . . .

Pray for me. I don't want to be found wanting.

I enjoy the saint's writings in the paper and am learning from them.

With much Christian love,

—Bro. Raymond Shaw

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Maybelle: Glory to the Lord's name, I am still saved and much encouraged. I love God, the truth and the

glorious Church of God. As one song says, "I wouldn't take nothing for my journey now, I've got to make it to heaven somehow." I truly appreciate my heavenly Father and my Saviour, Jesus, and I love to serve them. I truly mean to go right on until the crown is won.

I appreciated the portion of the meeting I was able to attend at Monark Springs, MO. I am fully persuaded that God truly wants His people to go forward as He witnessed to Bro. Samons. May we all be up and doing for, we don't have long to work. May God bless, help and keep each of His children is my prayer.

Christian love,

—Shirley Knight

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

SC—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the dear saints at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' dear name.

I give thanks to God for His wonderful power and mercy that He has given us. We are still encouraged to press on.

We are asking all of the saints to remember our meeting Oct 8-15. We are asking all who will to come. Pray for the meeting. We surely need the Lord.

We lost our youngest son, Friday morning, Sept 1, about six o'clock, when involved in a truck accident. We do thank all of the saints for their prayers and love to us in our time of sorrow. . . .

Yours in Christian love,

—Bro. Utson Platt

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OK—Dear ones at the Lord's Print Shop: We thank the Lord for the *Faith and Victory* paper. We enjoy the articles and testimonies. We love to hear from the saints. How precious are the family of God. I am so glad I can say I am one of them.

How we did enjoy the Monark Springs, MO Camp Meeting. Our souls feasted on manna from heaven.

Oh, it is so sweet and precious to live for Jesus. He is the only way. It's so good to be free from malice, hate, bad attitudes, faultfinding, backbiting, and all such works of the flesh, and be filled with love divine. Praise His dear name for victory. None of these works of the flesh will get into heaven. Heaven is a holy place and sin can not enter there.

We are going through a trial at present. (Sept. 8). Our son Donald is sick. We don't know just what it is. His nerves and heart both bother him and he is running fever. We are looking to the Lord for his healing. His son, Herschel, also has been real sick, but the Lord has raised him up. We sure thank the Lord.

We sure appreciate Bro. and Sis. Dickson and boys being here. Bro. Dickson is feeding our souls on the pure Word of God. We pray God's blessings on their labors so the work can grow.

May the Lord bless you each one.

Christian love and prayers,

—Albert and Margaret Eck

[Editor's note: Bro. Stanley Dickson has moved to Vinita, OK to take on the responsibility of the pastorship at the Four Corners congregation. For anyone who may want to contact him, his new address is, Rt. 1, Box 675, Vinita, OK 74301, phone (918) 256-8658.]

Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

OR—Dear Friends: It has been a long time since we wrote our testimony in the paper, and I'm sure that some have wondered what happened to us.

About two years ago we decided to buy a place in Washington. Jeff had had such a long period of unemployment, that we decided that he should seek another trade other than machinist, so he went to truck driving school in California. When he came home he was able, by the Lord's help, to get a good job. We got settled in our place and things went pretty smooth. Once in awhile we would hear from different ones of the saints, but we didn't have too many contacts. We went to a couple of services at the denomination down the highway from us, but it was dead and dry. It was another year before we went to service anywhere else and then we went to a place in town for service. It was a nice service etc. and everyone was real friendly, but we just couldn't go back.

All this time the Lord was faithful to me. So many times while I was working around the kitchen, He would begin to speak to me from His Word and I would get so blessed I would just cry. One time in particular I was washing dishes and He began to speak to me about a pure heart and being pure as Christ is pure (I John 3:2-3). The thoughts flooded my mind and the Lord spoke to me and said, "Elizabeth, be open, honest and truthful. Don't fake anything." My, it felt so wonderful to know that. He wanted us to walk together as true friends. There wasn't anywhere to go, so we just stayed home.

Then this past July 4th weekend, we had thought to go on a small trip somewhere, maybe to the Grand Coolee Dam, but the Lord brought it to our minds to call Bro. Clifford Wilson in Jefferson, OR. One thing led to another and we ended up in Jefferson for the weekend. The next thing I knew Jeff was out applying for jobs and

was saying we were going to move here. Jeff got all the jobs that he applied for and I put out fleece after fleece trying to make sure it was really the Lord's will. Everything came back, "Yes, go!" I won't begin to tell all the miracles the Lord has worked out since we have been here.

I am still determined to walk in all the light that the Lord has shone on my path. I don't want to get ahead, nor do I want to drag behind. What I do want is to have such an assurance in my heart that what I am doing is right that I can face the onslaughts of the enemy secure in the Lord.

Please remember to pray for us. We really need the Lord's help. The fellowship here in Jefferson is sweet and the Lord is blessing.

Sincerely,

—Sis. Elizabeth Redington

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OH—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' precious name. I am thankful to be saved in these perilous times. We thank the Lord we can say we are satisfied in Jesus' keeping. "He's my choice forevermore, fade life's joys so short and fleeting, mine are over on that shore." Praise God for His mercy unto me.

I thank Him for healing my body of different afflictions I had in the last year. In June of '88 I had a place on my face. I was anointed and prayed for and the Lord healed me. In March of this year I took seriously ill and was sick for about three weeks, but praise God I was anointed and prayed for and the Lord healed me of that affliction. In July of this year I again took seriously ill. My husband called the saints for prayer during the Monark Springs, MO Meeting, and also saints in other places, and the Lord healed me of that affliction. We still desire your prayers.

Pray for our unsaved loved ones.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all the saints everywhere for their prayers, telephone calls, cards and visits during our illness, also during the death of Sister Lillie Bell Crisp.

Your sister in Christ, —Alberta Bruner

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear saints everywhere: We greet you in Jesus' dear name—the One who died for us and gave us victory over sin and the world that we could live holy lives in this life.

I feel real burdened to write this letter. It was in May of this year when the Lord gave me a complete touch of healing in my body. I had been suffering with chest pains and weakness in my body for over two years. Just before my healing, I was in a meeting at Coffeyville, KS, and while driving home from this meeting, my

breathing became very difficult. I was alone and I didn't know if I would make it home or not. I finally made it home for which I was very grateful. I felt that if the Lord didn't help me, I wouldn't be here very long. Right after this I was lying on the couch when I felt an inward work. It was a divine touch from God. It has been almost four months now and I have had no more symptoms of that affliction. God has been so real to me. Saints, God is still able to heal every affliction.

If the Lord hadn't healed my heart, I don't see how I could have withstood this next affliction. After I came back from the Boley Camp Meeting in August, I became severely ill with a high fever. I passed out and then later became delirious. This affliction lasted for a period of six days and then the Lord came on the scene and completely healed my body. We know there is a Healer in Zion. Pray for me to stay true to God until the end of life's journey.

Christian fellowship,

—Bro. Gordon Humphrey

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CA—Dear saints of God: We are yet thankful for salvation. God is so good. His name alone is worthy of all praise. The Lord reminded us that we needed to glorify His name in answer to prayer in behalf of our three-year-old son.

When he began to walk his legs were bowed and one knee turned inward. We sought the Lord for his healing and looked for it. It seemed like nothing happened.

We took him to church and had him anointed and prayed for and then looked by faith for God to do the work.

Gradually we saw the hand of God reshaping his limbs and turning his knee correct. Praise the Lord for His wonderful works unto His children. He is still the God of miracles.

We are now waiting for God to touch our daughter who is five. She is hard of hearing and her speech is delayed. We look to God to again send forth His healing touch in a miraculous way. Let us pray one for another. We are much encouraged.

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Lela Hobbs

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MI—Dearest Sis. Maybelle: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus! I pray all is well in the Lord's work and with all His dear workers. God is so good to us and blesses us so richly day by day. We can never repay Him for all His goodness to us.

I do feel some better. I was doing fair the 9th of August until I had a bad fall. I fell backwards and hit my back and bad arm, but thank

God I didn't break any bones. It sure hurt when I hit the ground. My back bothers me some from the fall and I can't raise my right arm as high as my good arm yet, but the Lord didn't let me have too much pain. Our great God takes care of us. He is so faithful and loving and He knows all about our aches and pains.

I sure thank all of you for standing by me with your prayers. They help me so much. I want to get stronger in the Lord as He is the strength of our life.

All my love and prayers,

—Sis. Olive Getterson

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OK—To all the dear saints: May the dear Lord bless each one richly who remembered us when we were so ill. We appreciate each one, and can truly thank the Lord for His mercy and goodness toward us.

What would we do without our blessed Lord and the dear saints? Our desire is to keep trusting Him, use wisdom in all things and stay true and faithful to the end.

Yours in Christ,

—Martha Classen

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From West Africa . . .

Aug. 16—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings in the precious and marvelous name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He heals, He provides, sanctifies and refines those that put their trust in Him. Also, He promised not to allow shame to befall any of His children and that He would not allow any of His children to be going from house to house begging for food.

By the grace of God the church here in Kwale is moving along. The Church of God will be holding this year's camp meeting at Okpai, Ndokwat local government area, which is in Bendel State. All the congregations within Bendel State will be present and the majority of the brethren from other states in the country. Pray with us that God will prepare His ministers with the anointing of the Holy Ghost for the meeting. Also, pray for the material things that will help to make this meeting a success, furthermore, that the Lord will have mercy on all souls that hear the messages.

Yours in Christian brotherhood,

—Bro. Anthony Avese Irobo

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From India . . .

Aug. 28—Dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt, Bro. Wayne Murphey, each dear one in the Print Shop and beloved saints in America: Greetings

to you all again in the glorious name of Jesus Christ.

I was glad to know that God blessed you all this year with very blessed and wonderful camp meetings in different places.

God helped us to start a new congregation at Edappally, which is near Cochin. We had a blessed monthly meeting there one week ago. My wife and I visited that congregation and other northern region congregations last week. Please pray for the needs of this new congregation. At this time they assemble in a rented room.

September 10-17 are our national festival days in Kerala and we have decided to arrange street meetings and youth camps in different places during those days. Our desire is to win many souls through these crusades. The only problem is the lack of a vehicle. We are not able to buy one yet. Please pray for and support this need.

We have plenty of rain this year which is resulting in flooding in different parts of India. My wife sends her love to each dear sister there.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

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From the Philippines . . .

Sept. 2—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey and Sis. Maybelle Pruitt: Greetings to you and all the workers in the Publishing House in Jesus' glorious and precious name. I hope this finds you sound in the Lord.

I am thankful to the Lord who has been faithful and merciful to keep me and my family in His care. I also thank the Lord for the grace He bestows on me.

The gospel work here is growing. I give glory to God for this. I pray hard that our Lord will pour out His merciful love and blessings on us so we can all carry out His work to the fullest extent.

May our dear Lord keep you all under His loving care.

With Christian love, —Nonilon Capuyan

OUR TESTIMONIES



If you want to make me hungry, tell me of the good things you have to eat. The religious world says, "Don't tell me what I ought to do, but tell me how you enjoy what you have in your soul." All honest seekers of the Messiah today are saying, "Have you found Him?" Let our testimonies, both in public and in private, be such as will cause them to want to "come and see". —Selected

In Memoriam

Minnie Ola Jones, daughter and second oldest child of Bud and Lizzie Jones, was born July 15, 1898 in Tyler, TX, Cherokee County. She passed away on July 14, 1989.

Minnie Ola was saved and baptized at an early age and lived a devoted Christian life.

She finished High School in Boley, OK, and graduated from several colleges. She taught in the Oklahoma School System for many years. Additionally, she worked in the aircraft industry, at Tinker Field Air Force Base in Oklahoma City, OK, for many years. Later she moved to Los Angeles, CA where she worked in the school system as well as other occupations.

Finally, upon retirement, she did Christian missionary work in her extensive traveling.

One of her favorite songs was "Sing His Praise" number 62 in the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal.

She leaves to mourn her passing, one brother, Allison Jones, one sister, Australia J. Kelley, as well as nieces, nephews, saints and friends.

Officiating the funeral service was Bro. Calvin Hobbs, assisted by Bro. Nathaniel Francisco and Bro. Leon Phillips. Interment was in the Rosedale Cemetery, Los Angeles, CA.

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Alfred Peterson, born in Centerville, IA, on Nov. 9, 1908, passed from this life on Aug. 14, 1989 at The Golden Rule Home, Shawnee, OK, at the age of 80 years.

Alfred was reared in an orphanage until he was adopted at the age of six. He lived on various farms in Iowa until he started traveling west at the age of 21. During his travels across Missouri he stopped at a strawberry patch where he met his future wife, Beulah Gardner. After their marriage, they lived in Sarcoxie, MO for several years before moving back to Iowa. He returned to Missouri again before moving to Shawnee, OK in 1987.

Alfred worked as a heavy equipment operator on farms until his retirement.

While living in Missouri he was preceded in death by his wife, Beulah. In 1987 he was united in marriage to Lucille Trimble.

Alfred was a member of The Church of God.

Survivors include his wife, Lucille, of the home; four sons, Johnny and Cecil Peterson, both of Shawnee, OK, Carl Peterson, Colcord, OK, Bobby Peterson, Anderson, MO; three daughters, Neva Lee Cox and Kathleen Peterson, both of Neosho, MO, Sharon Peterson, Shawnee, OK; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in the Church of God chapel on South Beard in Shawnee, OK with Bro. Merrill Smith officiating. Interment was in the Bethel Cemetery, Pottawatomie County, OK.

NOTE OF THANKS

Many thanks to the friends and saints who were so kind to us during Alfred's illness of one week in The Golden Rule Home. Bro. Merrill Smith and the nurses at The Golden Rule Home were greatly appreciated for their kindness.

—The Peterson family

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Ruth Esther Pletcher was born Oct. 26, 1911 to Henry and Martha Pletcher in Webb City, MO. She passed from this life on Aug. 26, 1989 at her home in Springfield, MO where she had lived for over 60 years.

She is survived by five nieces and nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. James Bell on Aug. 29 in Springfield, MO.

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William Platt, was born on April 8th, 1942, to Utson and Rosalee Platt, and passed from this life on Sept. 1, 1989, at the age of 47 years and 5 months.

William accepted the Lord some years ago and served Him to all he knew. He was faithful in the work of the Lord. He was a certified welder for Limehouse Construction Company for 28 years.

He leaves to mourn his passing, his mother and father, his wife, Leo, two daughters, one son, one granddaughter, one brother, one sister and one adopted sister.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Curtis Williams.

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please give us a lesson on how to raise our children and teach and train them.

Answer: In Psalm 127:3-5 we read, "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."

God ordained that the man (Adam) and the

woman (Eve) which He created should be joined together in holy wedlock and that they should produce children (offspring) and bring forth fruit unto God. This first pair was the pattern for all succeeding generations. God adds children to a marriage as one major means of blessing the parents, enriching their lives and giving luster, cheer and pleasure to the home and family. In these verses He teaches that the children are a valuable asset to the parents and are a source of strength and support to them.

We need first of all to recognize the value and importance of our children in God's sight. They should be precious and of prime importance in our sight also. They are a blessing from God and are the heritage of the parents from Him. In Genesis 33:5 Jacob referred to the children which God had graciously given Him. In Genesis 48:9 "Joseph said unto his father, 'They are my sons, whom God hath given me in this place.'"

God, however, gives children to parents for a specific purpose beyond what has yet been mentioned. Within those little bodies are souls that Christ died for and are precious in God's sight. He has intrusted those souls to the care of parents that they might train, teach and nurture them in the ways of the Lord, and so beget within them a desire for salvation and to love and serve Him. He wants to increase the population of heaven, and the size of His own family with those souls, and has strictly charged the parents to whom He intrusted those souls to do all in their power to take good care of them so they may be returned to Him as redeemed souls at the end. Every set of parents has a good missionary project in their own home.

In Psalm 48:12-13 we read, "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof, Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generations following." Psalm 102:18 says, "This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord." We see, then, that God values our children as much as us and He wants them to be saved the same as us. He expects us to bring them up knowing the same truth that we know and believing in the same God. He charges all parents with the responsibility of teaching and training their children in a way that they will know what salvation is and how to get it. We will be held accountable to God for failing to do this as much as we will be held accountable for failure to do God's will on any other line. Please read in connection with this Deuteronomy 4:9-10, 8:6-9, 11:18-21, to see how diligently God commands His people to continually have these truths before their children.

Adam Clarke commenting on Deuteronomy

6:7 says that the Hebrew word used here (diligently) means to repeat or do a thing again. He further says at this place, "God's testimonies must be taught to our children, and the utmost diligence must be used to make them understand them. This is a most difficult task; and it requires much patience, much prudence, much judgment, and much piety in the parents, to enable them to do this good, this most important work, in the best and most effectual manner."

If we want our children to really get a firm hold on the truths of God's Word, we must diligently teach them in a spiritual way, not just like a school class or teach the Bible like a schoolbook, but we must be very spiritual ourselves and teach them in that atmosphere—by example as well as precept. I was told that Bro. Willie Murphey used to instruct his boys when they were growing up, "Boys, you watch me, and anything you see me do will be all right for you to do. If you don't see me do it, you better not do it." I would say that is good solid teaching and training. We must be obeying and practicing God's Word ourselves and let our children see it in actuality as it is being taught to them. In other words, teach them the truths and principles of God's Word and then tell them, "Now just watch me and I will show you how to do it and how it works out in everyday living." If we can't do this we are totally defeated to start with.

This is the way Jesus taught His disciples and us. I Peter 2:21-23 says that Christ left us an example that we should follow in His steps. In John 13:15 Jesus said, "I have given you an example that ye should do as I have done." That is the way He taught His disciples and us, and that is the way we must teach our children if we want them to really get it. If you want to really confuse your children and discourage them, then just try the old "Don't do as I do; but do as I say" theory. II Timothy 2:6 says, "The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits." This will apply to you teaching your children as well as your pastor teaching you. This is of extreme importance.

If you teach your children to love God above all else and put Him first in their lives, then let them see you putting Him first in your lives and loving Him supremely. If you teach your children to be unselfish and to share, then let them see no selfishness in you and see you sharing with one another and with them. If you teach your children that they must not strive, nor quarrel among themselves, then let them never, never hear you, their parents, striving, quarrelling, speaking harsh, sharp, cutting words one to another nor arguing between yourselves. If you teach them to be humble and

submissive one to another and to you, their parents, then let them see you manifesting a lot of humility and submission one to another in the fear of God. Especially let them see their mother humbly and graciously submitting herself to their father as the Word of God instructs her to do. If you teach them to live in peace among themselves, make sure that they see you living in peace between yourselves. If you teach your children to deny themselves and never contend for their own way, then let them never hear either of their parents contending for their own way, but let them see them both denying themselves and submitting one to another.

(To be continued)

From The Depths Of Despair

(continued from page 13)

power that gives us victory and power to face any circumstance. Tarry before God in prayer with your heart in complete submission to God's will, and He will send His Holy Spirit. The Devil will really oppose this submission to God, for he hates God's power. He will make you think that God will expect too much of you, but the Devil is a liar. God's way is easy compared to the Devil's way. Satan's way can be so alluring and is the way of least resistance, but it is so shallow and meaningless and his ways will lead you to any number of vices of the flesh. These vices bring ruin and heartache, and the reaping of sin is total **despair**.

Dear friend, if you are in despair, don't listen to any negative thoughts. They are all from the Devil. Jesus so tenderly says, "Come unto me and I will give you rest." This invitation is extended to even the vilest of sinners. Even if you have lived a life that has brought bitter reaping your way, you can have a singing heart if you have a clear conscience toward God. Though your past sins have brought on a deplorable condition, God is eager to help you and give you grace. Refuse to listen to the devil and keep your ears open to the "still small voice" of God. His voice is tenderly imploring you to have steadfast faith in Him. Be completely free to pour out all your troubles and griefs to Him, then tarry before Him and wait for His voice. He will impress you with a thought of comfort, or give you a promise to claim. The Devil will never fail to contest your encouragement, but stand on what God has told you. This is having faith. Diligently read God's Word, and He will again speak directly to you and reveal something precious and wonderful to your soul. It is then you will have grace and power in your life—and a **singing heart!**

A child of God,

—Carol Cole

Soul Winners

Does a vision of earth's perishing multitudes grip your heart? The mission of the Church of God is to "rescue the perishing and care for the dying." Proverbs 11:30 tells us that, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise." To win souls is a very wise and profitable undertaking. Don't complain about world conditions and then not make the effort to do anything about them. Christianity is a missionary faith. It is a matter of sharing and caring. We are to publish the Good News of salvation far and wide. As the sun rises in the morning, billions of people are in the land of the living. Before the sun sets, in the space of just a few hours, what a change; thousands of precious souls have spent their last day on earth. As they departed into eternity, where did they go? Satan doesn't want lost souls to get alarmed about their spiritual condition, he would prefer that they would just glide along and not be thinking about the vital things of life. Nothing is more vital than to be saved and ready to depart this life with Jesus the Lord of our life. "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." Souls must be awakened out of their fatal slumber. We are to fish for lost souls in the sea of humanity all around us. Christ is a haven of hope and He has comforting words for those precious souls that have been bruised and crushed along life's way. God loved the unlovely, which is what we were when we lived in rebellion and disobedience.

Can you see those hands of Jesus that were nailed to the cross, outstretched and inviting souls to Him? Multitudes are drowning in the sea of sin, and Jesus is the lifeline. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Christianity is not a spectator religion. Get involved, put Christ's love in action! The nature of literal fire is to spread, and if we are on fire for God it should only be natural for us to want to spread the Good News of the gospel to others.

The Church of God should be a haven of love and concern. Its assigned mission is to engage in a massive rescue operation toward those that are lost in their sins. Look on every sinner as a potential saint. Look beyond the sin and see that underneath that crust of worldliness is a precious soul for whom Jesus died.

Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." There is a shortage of harvesters in the Lord's vineyard.

Someone said, "The Church that does not evangelize will fossilize." A fossil is the hardened, stony remains of something that used to

be alive. We don't want to wither up and die. We must emphasize evangelism and reproduce. We need a child-bearing Church that brings forth spiritual babes. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Let's not become like a stagnant pond that doesn't have a fresh source of souls flowing into the Kingdom.

Beseech God earnestly for an outpouring of His Spirit. We should have a soul travail and soul anguish that a deep conviction of sin would rest upon those who are not ready to meet their Maker. "For as soon as Zion [The Church of God] travailed, she brought forth her children." (Isaiah 66:8). Become a real prayer intercessor for souls! The Church of God must be a soul saving, soul nurturing institution.

Our nation is wrapped in apathy or indifference. Somebody needs to care! Our nation is on the doorstep of hell, as far as the majority of it. God didn't redeem man at so great a price to have the subject taken lightly. A national emergency exists, and that emergency is **sin**. This world needs a great spiritual awakening.

One of the properties of salt is that it creates thirst. Saints are to be the salt of the world. Have you ever made anybody thirsty for Jesus Christ? Are we aggressive or passive? The devil is bold and busy, and we as ambassadors of Christ need to be aggressive and bold as well. Many folks are slipping toward permanent failure, unless they repent and get saved. How many hearts are aching, crying and hurting? Can we sit idly by and watch folks go to hell? Daniel 12:3 says, "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." Let's endeavor to turn many to righteousness and then we will shine like the stars out in eternity.

See people through Christ's eyes of compassion. We need a burning passion for souls. When we live for others, we find the richest life. The best exercise on earth is to lift someone up. The Bible has no tongue, will you lend yours? The Bible has no hands, will you lend yours? The Bible has no finances, will you lend yours?

Invest your life in getting people ready for heaven. It will be an investment that will pay spectacular returns.

You may be that one that could throw out the lifeline and rescue that drowning and perishing soul by pointing him to Jesus, the Lamb of God, who can take away the sins of the world. Let's be faithful at our post of duty, realizing that eternity is drawing near. Time is so short!

—Bro. Jerry Gossard

—The closet is the right place for long prayers.

—Selected

The Preacher A Builder

The work which Jesus gave the apostles to do was a constructive work. They were to take the tools, or instrumentalities, of grace and perform a work, a constructive work, upon individuals and upon society. In order to do good work, the preacher must have a clear perception of the finished product. The artist has the picture in his mind before he applies his brush to the canvas. The architect sees how the building will look before he begins drawing his plans and specifications. So the successful preacher carries in his mind the finished product of his labor.

The preacher is an artist, not of material matter, but of souls, of lives. Every sermon of his should be like the blows of Michael Angelo's chisel, and the hidden figure should emerge at every stroke. Without the clear perspective of what he desires to accomplish, the preacher merely gives a blow here and there, and the results are uncertain, sometimes one thing resulting, sometimes another, and often the whole work is spoiled. The Lord told the apostles to

When God sent Jesus to the world to build the Church, both He and Jesus had a definite object in view, a definite kind of building. And as God was careful to reveal to Moses the exact pattern of the tabernacle, so Jesus spent much time in teaching the apostles the pattern of the New Testament Church. But I am not now aiming to speak so much of the Church universal, but of the Church local. What the Church local will be at any given point or place will largely be what the preacher's perspective of it is. If he has a small, inadequate conception of the Church local, that church itself will be small and inadequate.

The lack of a clear perspective is apparent on every side, or if the perspective is true and clear, there is either lack of understanding of how to use the gospel tools or else a neglect of using them. There is no use denying that upon ministers lies the main responsibility of bringing out a pure church. But I am persuaded that the chief fault lies in the blurred or imperfect perception of what kind of a church the Church

***"It is the minister's work to transform
sinful, erring, stubborn, selfish men into
pure, true, willing, unselfish Christians."***

abide in Jerusalem until they were endued with the Holy Ghost. I believe one reason why Jesus commanded this was for the purpose of creating in their minds a clear vision of what their work should be. They were rather expecting to see a literal, earthly kingdom set up, and, of course, were desiring to help bring about such a result. But their work was to be vastly different from what they expected, and much more important. They were to be builders of souls, of character, and collectively, builders of a church.

The preacher aims directly at the building of character. The pattern by which he is working is the life of Jesus Christ. It is the minister's work to transform sinful, erring, stubborn, selfish men into pure, true, willing, unselfish Christians. This character of Jesus Christ must be indelibly fixed in the minister's mind. He must have in view the perfect Christian, the humble, free, victorious, sanctified Christian.

Just as the preacher is a builder of individual character, aiming at reconstructed manhood, so also he is a builder of the Church.

of God should be. To look at the work of some ministers, or listen to them, that is, watch them building character or a church, one would think that a perfect character consists of a man whose head is full of doctrine. If he can imbibe what the preacher calls the "truth," the minister seems satisfied. Another seems to think that all that is needed is a heart full of love. Well, now, as to the two, a man full of love is better than a man whose head is full of doctrine, but a little of both, or both in proper proportions, is the thing to be aimed at, and is better than either of the others.

A minister should have in mind a church of men and women and boys and girls that represent Jesus Christ by their everyday lives, and that collectively represent the forces of spiritual grace for the good of the community. A Church local, to do good, must have influence; it must have power. Its meetings must be warm, enthusiastic, helpful, uplifting. They must grip the souls of sinners and religious people by the power of a glowing spirituality. Deadness, for-

mality, coldness, and depression form a poisonous miasma that chills and repels the people. There are various causes for unfavorable conditions, one of which is the lack of a clear perspective of what the Church should be. This want of perspective results in aimless sermons, sermons that are like the blows of one who knows not what he wants to produce. Every sermon, every service should be planned to accomplish certain results, and they all should result in restored and reconstructed manhood and a live, influential congregation.

This vision of what the individual character and local Church should be must be passed on by the preacher until his people have caught it also. When the Bible ideal becomes their ideal as well as yours, then spirituality and power will rapidly expand.

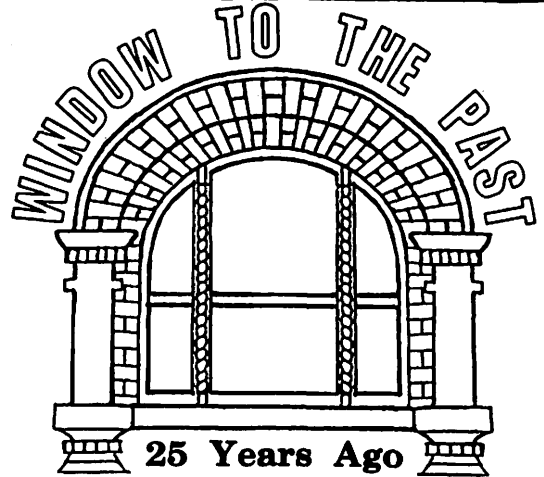
—R. L. Berry

God's Ministers

When the Lord calls His servant to preach, He makes it definite, and in order to keep in favor with Him, he must preach the gospel and fill his place in the body of Christ, either as an apostle, an evangelist, a pastor or teacher. (Ephesians 4:11). Now, we are confronted with the question: Is every one a God-sent minister who takes the pulpit? It is sometimes the case that someone has such a desire to preach that he takes the pulpit without the call from God. Such an one can take up much precious time by getting into the pulpit time after time, and eventually working havoc in the congregation. Souls might have gotten saved, but leave disheartened and even disgusted, and may never want to come back to services again. The saints are disappointed because much precious time is wasted and souls discouraged, and many give a sigh of relief when the speaker sits down, hoping there will be no like repetition. And the speaker may be a sincere soul, but his desire to preach has gotten ahead of his leadings from the Lord. He needs to wait on the Lord for definite leadings.

There are many other gifts and callings of God (I Corinthians 12:4-11) and He has a beautiful place for each saint to fill in the Church of God which is the one body of Christ, where we automatically work together in sweet unity. The saints do not have, nor approve of, a pulpit committee, for the Holy Ghost should have complete control of our lives, whether in or out of the pulpit. Then we conclude that God makes room or prospers a God-sent minister, but without the call it works havoc. May the dear Lord help each of us to know what place He has for us to fill in His great vineyard.

—Sister Katherine Key



Excerpts Taken From

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"When this paper was printed, the following telegram was received at this office from Bro. Ostis Wilson at 2:10 p.m., Sept. 19: 'Opal very sick, needs prayer urgently.' Let the Church everywhere prevail in fervent prayer for Sister Wilson."

—Lawrence Pruitt

"It is Christ's desire not that we always be free from temptation, but that we will triumph over temptation in every form and come forth stronger in spirit, wiser unto the enemy and more dependent on God."

—Mrs. K. R. Hand

"Down in the depth of sin and woe,
Entombed in death lay a wretched soul,
Lost and sentenced to meet its doom,
Like a fly in the spider's loom.

"Down in the depth a searching light
Penetrated the dismal night,
Hope brought light in obscurity,
By grace through faith He lifted me.

"Like a ship that is lost at sea,
Tossed and sinking in misery,
Seeking a harbor of sweet rest,
Seeking a guiding hand to bless.

"O'er the boisterous, restless wave,
A harbor light, a Hand to save—
Christ the Pilot, o'er life's rough sea,
Brought home at last, one soul
made free.

"Such freedom that was wrought about,
Redeeming grace has brought me out—
Out of sin and its misery,
Up from the depth, I'm fully free!"

—Donald W. Sharp