

FAITH AND VICTORY

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How Wondrous, Gracious, and Wise!

How gracious the God and the Father of all
Who framed all the heavens and earth,
From whom all the blessings of life sweetly fall
To bring us such wonderful worth!

How wise are His ways in His dealings with man,
All things to provide that we need:
Food, clothing, and means in our short mortal
span,

Such blessings His praises to plead!

How wondrous the plan through the ages unfurled

To save us from sin and its strife,
To send us His Son to this sinful, dark world
And to show us His pure holy life!

How gracious the Son, our Redeemer and Lord
To come all our sorrows to share,
To teach us what heaven wills now to afford
And offer release from our care!

How tender the love that He showed unto men
To lift up the Satan-oppressed;
To comfort and counsel the erring in sin
And offer the weary His rest!

How humble and meek to bear all of our sin,
And go up to Calv'ry to die,
A curse made for us that our spirits may win
A hope in the sweet by and by!

How mighty the power in Him that was wrought
When upward He rose evermore;
How great was the battle the Conqueror fought,
The vict'ry He gives o'er and o'er!

How wondrous to see Him ascending above
To sit as our wonderful King,
To reign and control in His Kingdom of love
His own while His praises we sing!

How sweet is His Spirit He sends us to fill!
How precious the life we can live!
How happy we're made as we do His sweet will!
How blessed the hope He can give!

—Leslie C. Busbee

Patience



When Jesus sets up housekeeping in our hearts, He stocks our shelves with good things. One of these good things is patience and we need to stock up with a good supply of it. It takes a real calm endurance to cope with the pressure and stress of modern day life. There is certainly no shortage of things to challenge and try our patience. II Peter 1:5-7 says, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity." Notice that patience is listed in this chain of Christian virtues. The Lord wants these qualities to abound in our everyday lives. When you feel like you are just about to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on! Never, never, never give up, but patiently endure to the end of the race. Patience is a willingness to put up with waiting, pain, or anything that annoys, troubles or hurts. Patience is a calm endurance without complaining or losing self-control. Life is not always going to be easy, but God's grace is greater than all of our problems.

God is able to work our problems out in His own good time. Psalm 37:7 says "Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him." Don't try to hurry the Lord. He has His own timetable, and time does not matter so much to the Eternal One as it does to us. "With the Lord a thousand years is as a day, and one day is as a thousand years." It is important that we synchronize our lives with His divine timetable. We need to learn to rest in the Lord, and not allow the devil to get us all ruffled and upset. There is a hiding place and a resting place in the Lord! When some trouble threatens us and we become alarmed and try to help God out by taking the matter into our own hands, we are liable to get into trouble. God was on the scene long before

we ever got here and He is well able to handle things without us getting in His way. This universe runs very harmoniously, except when man gets in God's way.

Life is an endurance race or a marathon; it is not merely a sprint or a 100-yard dash. Someone can get a jackrabbit start in the Christian race, but if he falls by the wayside after a period of time, what has he really accomplished? Those that patiently plod ahead will eventually cross the finish line with victory in their souls. Sometimes you may feel weary in well doing, but patience will plod ahead anyway. "The trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work." It is when your faith is put on trial, and God can witness a calm submission flowing out of your life, that He is truly glorified. We need to meet the little trying and provoking things of life in a patient manner. May people be able to witness a meekness and mildness in our temperament.

We are living in an age of impatience. That is one reason some people have the money problems they have. Many folks are seeking instant gratification. They want what they want now! As a result, they go head over heels into debt, which leads to a lot of tension and stress in the home. Many couples resort to quarreling and fighting over money problems. We would do well to learn to be patient and wait, and not always be wanting things right now. It is not reasonable for a newly married couple to expect to have all of the material goods that their parents have accumulated over many, many years of hard work. "Godliness with contentment is great gain." (I Tim. 6:6). It would be far better to make do with less, rather than to impatiently over-extend yourself with financial obligations. We can make ourselves slaves to a world of stuff if we are not careful. If you do that, you are liable to find that there is "too much month at the end of the money." A lot of our problems are homemade, and "self" is the number one troublemaker. Romans 15:5 says, "Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus." This verse lets us know that God is a God of patience and He wants us to be like-minded. He wants His patience to spill over into our very own lives.

If you are physically worn out it can react on the spiritual. When you need to be patient the most is when you feel your patience is nearly exhausted. Harshness and irritability are the opposite of mildness and patience. Impatient speech can get us into trouble. To explode emotionally, to be a screamer, or to have a harsh, cutting tone of voice is not good. Let's "stop, look, and listen" before we respond. If

you act like a skunk, someone's liable to get wind of it, and that can damage your Christian testimony and influence. If you feel uptight and your tolerance for frustrations seems to be wearing thin, then call a time-out so you can get a better handle on things. Some people may try your patience more than others, but I Thessalonians 5:14 says, "Be patient toward all men." When the Word of God says "all men," that covers all the territory you can cover. It is our responsibility to exemplify patience, regardless of whom we may be dealing with. Impatient words and actions can mar the image of Jesus in your soul. God expects us to bear good fruit even under unfavorable circumstances. If you want to be a real conqueror in the hour of temptation, you'll be careful to keep mild and sweet under trying circumstances. Sometimes it may take real exertion to maintain a heavenly frame of mind in the face of dealing with some very earthly people.

Some people's impatience can grow with every delay. There's no shortage of irritable drivers. Even if you are in heavy, hectic traffic, life is still not so short but that there is time enough for Christian courtesy. Remember that if you want every light to be a green light for you, what you are saying, in effect, is that you want the other fellow to get a red light. There are times when life can seem so compressed. You may have to cram so many things into such a limited space of time, and yet still not be able to get everything done. Hurry, hurry, hurry can cause us to lose sight of what is really important in life. "Take time to smell the roses." Patience is a very key thing; remember that you get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it. "To every thing there is a season." Adopt the pace of nature; her secret is patience. Let things unfold in your life in God's will and in His timing. Speed is only good when wisdom leads the way. When you are engulfed by the responsibilities of family life and the time pressures are so real, you have to keep a cool head and make sure that you don't mishandle stress.

Aging should be a ripening, mellowing process. Youth can sometimes be rash, impatient, and headstrong, but Ecclesiastes 5:2 says, "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few." How carefully and conscientiously we need to live this life. There is a Silent Listener who is monitoring every conversation we hold with anyone. May the beauty of holiness flow out of our life. A true Christian is one who makes you think of Jesus. Some people are like cats in that if you rub them the right way, they will purr, but if you rub them the wrong

way, they will bite and scratch. Patience will help us learn to adjust with one another. We are all liable to have our own little peculiarities, so two of our favorite animals should be "bear and forbear." Be willing to lovingly and patiently bear with one another in a spirit of forgiveness. Don't inflate the minor problems and wind up making mountains out of molehills. Do you bristle up at the least little irritation? God has more grace for you than that! In the nine things that are listed under the fruit of the Spirit in the book of Galatians, one of them is longsuffering. May the Lord be able to see this longsuffering or patience shine forth out of our life.

I Corinthians 13:4-5, 7 says, "Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Patience is willing to suffer long with people, and yet still be kind. It is not easily provoked and it will endure all things. Unfortunately, patience is a flower that doesn't grow in everyone's garden. Jesus is the Rose of Sharon and He should be blooming abundantly in the garden of our heart. Are your words as soft, as mild, and as full of tenderness and love as they should be? When you get the Rose, you also get the thorns that go with it. They that "live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Expect to encounter tribulations in this life, but let these difficulties perfect your patience. "With patient mind thy course of duty run; God nothing does or suffers to be done, but thou wouldst do thyself if thou couldest see the end of all events as well as He." In this time world we will never fully understand why things happen as they happen, but rest assured that the Judge of all the earth will always do right. Never question the dealings of God with your soul. His ultimate aim and goal is to get your soul to heaven. Our biblical brethren in past ages went through great tribulation, but they were able to patiently persevere because there was a faithful God in heaven to help them make it. You can't live a Christian life on just human resources, but you need to look unto Jesus, "the author and finisher of our faith," to supply you with the riches of His grace. "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

—Bro. Jerry Gossard

"Since God knows what niche we are to fill, let us trust Him to shape us to it. Since He knows what work we are to do, let us trust Him to drill us for the proper preparation."

—Selected

God Never Fails

We begin by thanking and praising our Lord who is making it possible daily for unwanted children or children whose parent/s are mentally ill, to have a chance to be brought up in a Christian home. I am a single parent with 3 lovely, God-sent daughters, who has been given the opportunity to open up my home and raise a fourth daughter, who in actuality is my sister's child. My sister, being mentally ill at the birth time of little Wakema, was and still is unable to care for a child. Remembering back to my teenage years, I recall making a solemn vow with my only sister that should anything ever happen to us (when we got married and had children) and our children had no place to go, we would accept the responsibility of raising them and teaching them the story of Jesus. I remember us laughing about it after we made our vow and saying, "We'll never let each other down, for this is the way God would have it."

Much later in life, my sister gave birth to a little baby girl. Unable to care for herself she thought it best to sign papers releasing this child over to my husband and me. I brought the baby home from the hospital with the knowledge that our budget would change, also not quite sure as to whether the child had been affected mentally. However, the Lord showed us that it was for us to take Wakema and give her a home. We listened and obeyed. We went against the normal odds of an already financially struggling family and put it into the Lord's hands. The Lord blessed time after time.

Today the absence of a father takes its toll on the family, but God is even greater than that. With a continuance of "never failing," the Lord reaches out and "fathers" the girls. It is indeed a challenge of one's love to God and humanity when a decision is made in today's society to raise the child of another. It goes far beyond just finances. Love for the child causes one to search deep into their souls for anything that might hinder the beauty of what God has allowed. For sooner or later it leads into adoption, should the mother be unable to properly care for her child. Such was this case.

When I brought Wakema home from the hospital, I felt in my heart that I had entered a part of life that I knew nothing about. Fortunately, I had a few close friends who were sisters in the church that had fostered and adopted children. To hear their stories meant a lot because I now was undergoing the same experience.

My first experience with the judicial system regarding the placement of a child came when Wakema was 6 months old. The courts wanted

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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 Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

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Notice to subscribers: Whenever you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 30¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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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 Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II 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. All donations are tax deductible.

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.

In order to comply with the Oklahoma laws as a non-profit religious work, the Faith Publishing House is incorporated thereunder.

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE

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EDITORIALS

With this March issue of the *Faith and Victory* we begin our 68th year of publication. Such a milestone has been reached through the blessing and provision of God. We also want to thank those who love and respect the gospel for your interest and support over the years.

As we look back on the immediate past, we see where inroads have been made by the gospel. The loss of Aunt Maybelle Pruitt is a difficulty to overcome, but God is proving faithful in His help concerning this matter. Through all of the years of publishing there have been obstacles to surmount, and we anticipate more in the future, but our aim and goal is the same which grandfather Fred Pruitt expressed in the editorials of the very first *Faith and Victory*. He wrote, "As far as we know the mind and will of God, this paper will be devoted to the upbuilding of God's people wherever they are and whoever they may be, 'for in every nation he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him.' . . . We care not to speak or write as the Scribes and Pharisees, but as the oracles of God, as of the ability which God giveth, that spiritual food may be imparted to the needy souls, that sick souls or lame souls may be nursed, that lambs may be given meat in due season as the Holy Ghost works in and through the members of the body of Christ."

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This issue contains a list of camp meeting dates for 1990. Some which we regularly print have yet to be received. Those desiring meeting dates published in the April *Faith and Victory* should mail them in promptly.

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Word has been received of the death of Bro. Frank Dietrich on Jan. 31. For many years he and his wife, who preceded him in death, were faithful in maintaining a church at Stanley, WI.

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We live in a time when belief in Christ is constantly assaulted, both openly and subtly. There are those who profess a belief in Him, yet upon close examination, their advocated persuasions deny His proper deity. Others, like Madeline Murry O'Hare, whose organization presently has 14 lawsuits pending in our court system, openly defy the acknowledgement of God. People are perpetually pressed to re-evaluate a belief in His existence.

It is as it was when Pilate cried, "Behold the man!" (John 19:5). Humiliated with a crown of thorns and mockingly clothed in purple, he presented Christ before the people. However,

Pilate acknowledged that he could find no fault in Jesus. Likewise, although many hold up Christ for ridicule they cannot gainsay His works.

Another instance recorded in the Bible tells of John the Baptist who acknowledged Jesus with these words, "Behold the Lamb of God." (John 1:29). The Spirit of God invites each soul into this world to behold Christ. It is a glimpse of more than just a man. The Holy Spirit will witness of a Lamb without blemish and without spot; the sinless Son of God.

The facts are before us. We may see Him as He is. It is up to us whether we will behold Him in the light of ridicule or accept Him as the One who can take away our sins and give us eternal life.

—Wayne Murphey

MEETING REPORTS AND NOTICES

Camp Meeting Dates for 1990

Missouri State at Myrtle, MO — May 9-13
Oklahoma State at Guthrie, OK —

May 25-June 3

Jefferson, OR — June 8-17

Tulsa, OK — June 8-17

Green Bank, WV — June 15-24

General Southern at Loranger, LA —

June 29-July 8

National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO —

July 20-29

Durham, NC — Aug. 12-19

Boley, OK — Aug. 19-26

California State at Pacoima, CA —

Aug. 24-Sept 2

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MUSKOGEE, OK REVIVAL REPORT

We do thank God for the meeting that was held here in Muskogee, OK, November 24-25. The Word went forth with power and under the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Several went to the altar for help. The meeting was a real success.

We appreciate Sis. Mary Lawson's efforts and labors of love. She has been faithful in preaching the Word of God to the small congregation here in Muskogee. We thank God for all of His saints. May God richly bless one and all is our prayer. Pray for the work here in Muskogee.

Christian love,

—Lucille Johnson

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SHREVEPORT, LA REVIVAL

Lord willing, Bro. Toney Samons will be in

Shreveport, LA March 7-11 for a revival. There will be emphasis on singing Saturday night, March 10. A hearty welcome is extended to all.

For further information, call Bro. Jerry Melot, (318) 938-7233, or Bro. Arnett Carver, (318) 635-2214.

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SPRING REVIVAL, GREEN PASTURES, OK

The spring revival for the Green Pastures, OK congregation will be March 13-18, 1990. Bro. Calvin Hobbs of San Bernardino, CA will be the evangelist. We desire all who can to come and worship with us. Please pray for the success of the meeting.

For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Chandler, at (405) 769-7413. The church phone number is (405) 771-3710. The chapel address is 5721 N. Denver, Spencer, OK 73084.

—Sis. Francis Chandler, secretary

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JEFFERSON, OR SPRING MEETING

The saints at Jefferson, OR would like to announce a spring meeting to be held here at the chapel on Skelton Rd. from Wednesday, March 21, through Sunday, March 25. There will be services nightly from Wednesday through Saturday and then three services on Sunday, March 25. We extend a hearty welcome to all to come be with us through the meeting. We are praying for the Lord to send us ministerial help of His own choosing.

Any who may be flying in will be met at the airport. Please notify us when and where you will arrive. You may call Bro. Clifford Wilson, (503) 362-4384, or Bro. Clifford Smith, (503) 581-4575. We would love to have you attend, but if you can't, please remember us in prayer.

—Bro. Clifford W. Wilson

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GUTHRIE, OK SPRING REVIVAL

The Guthrie congregation announces a spring revival beginning, Lord willing, Wednesday night, March 28, continuing through Sunday, April 1, 1990. There will be nightly services at 7:30 p.m., as well as Sunday school at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Bro. Chuck Elwell plans to be with us. We cordially invite everyone to come be with us in service. Be praying with us.—Bro. Carl Shaffer

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WICHITA, KS SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting in Wichita, KS will be held, Lord willing, April 13-22. We are looking for God's help in every way. Please be praying

with us.

If you need to contact anyone, you may get in touch with Bro. Raymond Johnson, 1947 Piatt, Wichita, KS 67214, phone (316) 264-5803, or Bro. Keith Marsh, 501 Topaz, Wichita, KS 67209, phone (316) 722-8114.

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ALL-DAY MEETING AT DAYTON, OH

The Dayton, OH congregation plans to have all-day services the first Sunday of every other month, starting April 1.

For more information contact the pastor, Bro. Donald Sharp, 822 Weinland, New Carlisle, OH 45344, phone (513) 849-0239.

HONDURAS, C.A. MISSIONARY TRIP

On April 25, Lord willing, a company of saints and young people are going on a missionary journey to Honduras, Central America. We will visit the island of Roatan and the mainland of Honduras. The schedule will include a tent revival and personal evangelistic work. At the last of the visit, opportunity will be available to acquire souvenirs or memorabilia.

Interest was stirred last year among the young people during missionary sessions in the camp meeting season. It was also expressed at this time that this is not a vacation, but an opportunity for saved, concerned young people to have exposure to the work of the Lord.

On April 18, Lord willing, some of the brethren will leave for Honduras to prepare the way for the arrival of the company on April 25. We are asking that those young people who have expressed an interest in going, or anyone else who has a sincere burden to go, contact us as soon as possible. Also, it is important that you get your passport right away and mail them to Bro. Louis Kimble by April 11.

If anyone desires to help finance a young person who is financially unable to go, please send your donation to: Bro. Louis Kimble, P. O. Box 73835, Metairie, LA 70033.

For further information you may contact Bro. Herschel Hargrave (305) 258-4102, Bro. Louis Kimble (504) 467-9039, or Bro. Keith Fuller (216) 864-1128.

CASSETTE TAPES OF HEART TALKS AVAILABLE

The book, *Heart Talks*, by C. W. Naylor, has been put on four 95 minute cassette tapes. These would be very convenient for those who would like to receive good from this enlightening and inspiring book but want to do so while busy at

other things, or by those whose eyes will not permit the reading of the book.

One set sells for \$10.00. This includes the price of the tapes and the postage of mailing them. Address your orders to: Janet McMurrin, Rt. 6, Box 223, Harrison, AR 72601.

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1989 CAMP MEETING TAPES

Cassette tapes of several different Church of God camp meetings in 1989 are available. You may write the below address for a free list of the sermons recorded.

There have been some of these tapes sent out which were of unacceptable quality due to a tape copier defect. Since that time the Lord has provided a new copier. If you have a defective tape and would like it replaced, feel free to write. Address your correspondence to: Doris Halladay, 1406 S. Pine, Guthrie, OK 73044.

Prayer Requests

CA—"My sister is in really bad health."

—Bro. Leo McIntosh

VA—Bro. Robert Powell's wife is in a bad condition with nerves and heart problems.

AR—Sis. Mary Foster would like to have her infant grandson remembered in prayer. He has been diagnosed as having an enlarged heart and liver, and a heart murmur.

MI—Sis. June Plank is experiencing physical problems for which she desires prayer.

CA—"My sister, Beulah Bearce, is in really bad health; she has congestive heart failure."

MO—"Please pray for 2 brothers-in-law to be reconciled, also a lady with a malignant tumor."

—Mrs. Harry Hanson

CA—"Keep praying for our Father to heal my eyes."

—Sis. Letha Reece

AL—"Please help me pray for my home."

—Jeanette Mooney

WV—"I am awfully sick and am sending my prayer request. Please unite all the saints in prayer for me."

—Gladys Morgan

AL—"Please pray for me and all others who want the truth."

—Ray Long

OH—Earl McCoy has a severe ailment and desires prayer.

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"Simon of Cyrene didn't expect to carry a cross when he went to see what all the commotion was about. It was a challenge thrust upon him, which he took up, maybe with reluctance, maybe with compassion, maybe to avoid a Roman flogging. Some of life's challenges are surprises like Simon's. Some are with us every day. But we all face challenges." —Selected

From The Mailbox . . .

NC—Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour. I have a burden I would like to share which I have carried for several years about a certain church building close to my home. I have tried to rent the building many times to have some services in it, but the people in charge would not do it.

We are what is left of the Spruce Pine congregation. There are only 4 of us, but we love the Lord and our heart's desire is to have a place to worship. This building is now in the hands of a realtor. I called them and asked what they wanted for it. There is three tenths of an acre that goes with it and they are asking \$35,000. I am going on faith alone, looking to the Author and Finisher of our faith. Our Father is rich and can help us if He wants us to have this building.

We ask the saints everywhere to pray about this.

Prayerfully submitted,

—Bro. and Sis. David Lottahall

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WV—Dear Bro. Wayne, workers at the Print Shop, saints and friends everywhere: I trust you are keeping encouraged in the work God has given you to do. We have been praying much for the printing work, knowing a great responsibility has fallen upon you to keep the truth going out.

We are thankful we can report victory over the enemy of our souls even though it seems the Lord has us in the furnace. We are right in the fire, but the Lord is taking the burn out. We are not being consumed but are waiting for the Lord to open the door and let us out. We don't want out till He has accomplished what He has in mind for us. We feel the same way the three Hebrew children felt. We know the God whom we serve is able to deliver us. From the human standpoint things don't look very good, but through eyes of faith, we can only see victory.

I am not surprised at the things the Lord has been allowing the Church here in America to go through in the last few years. In January, 1982, the Lord showed me two high black walls on each side of the road. As I was traveling the straight path, the walls started to cave in on me. I put up my hands to push them back. This is when the Lord showed me the straight path and said, "Steady as you go." We have been through some dark times in the last 8 years, but that straight path has always been there. That path was the way of humility.

There was a message at Monark a few years ago about cleansing. It was brought out that the

Lord was purging some things out of His Church. I believe He has been doing that. I want to stay humble. I don't want to be purged out. I thank God for His humble saints; they are so precious.

We would especially like to say how much we appreciate all the prayers and love that has been and is being shown. All the many cards, phone calls and love offerings are an encouragement. The faith and courage the Lord has given wife is far above anything human. All we can say is "thank you." Keep praying for us.

Yours for the straight and humble way,

—Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons

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CA—We send our love to all. . . . We surely do enjoy the *Faith and Victory* and also the Bible study books. We find so much soul food. I have kept all of them and read them over many times. Thank God for the truth. . . .

I have some urgent requests for prayer. Please pray with us. The Devil is busy because his time is short. Pray that our faith will stand the test.

Love and prayers,

—Bro. and Sis. Underwood

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OR—Dear Bro. Wayne: We were shocked and saddened to hear of the loss of Sister Maybelle. Yet we rejoice that she has now entered into paradise to enjoy the presence of our Saviour and hear Him say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matt. 25:21). She was always so faithful to write me every month, and her letters were always uplifting. I loved her dearly.

May God bless the good work you are doing there and all your helpers.

I have arthritis which is painful at times, so I would appreciate prayer.

Christian love,

—Sister Grace Jones

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and co-workers: Just a few lines to let you know I am still saved and enjoying the daily blessings of the Lord. There is so much to be thankful for in spite of the evil all around us.

I was sorry to read in the February issue that Sis. Maybelle had passed away. Even though I never met her in person, I have had several nice and encouraging letters from her.

I still desire the prayers of the saints that my children and other loved ones will be saved before they leave this world. All the worldly treasures and pleasures cannot give one the peace of mind that salvation brings.

I enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory* so much and look forward to each issue.

I am trusting in the Lord to keep me in good health again this year that I might be able to raise another garden to share with family, friends and neighbors.

May the Lord bless each and every one of His dear saints and keep them in the straight and narrow way.

Christian love, —Sis. Violet Sinkhorn

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OH—Dear Publishers: I want to thank you for some very fine reading material. It has been an answer to prayer. I am sure you are aware of the great difficulty that exists in securing good, wholesome and edifying reading material. *Touching Incidents and Remarkable Answers to Prayer* opened my eyes to a very different type of child, a godly child which is so rare to see these days. After reading this book, I asked the Lord to provide me with more. One day the Spirit just told me to write to you and find out what other material you have. When I received the reply I was so happy. Since then, we have sent in two orders for books and I am enclosing a third order.

I am a mother of four children. Their ages are 7, 5, 3, and 11 months. I feel that I am part of a generation that has not had the things of God passed down to them. At times it has been a real struggle to determine how to instruct my children in the things of God when I wasn't instructed in them myself. Yet our wonderful and mighty God knows all things and He has been so gracious unto me. These books have helped me to see some areas I needed to correct, areas for diligent prayer, needs of children and many, many other things related to family life. I am so very appreciative. I thank God literature of this type is still available. . . .

Sincerely, —Mrs. A. F. Thomas

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

IN—Dear saints and workers at the Print Shop: So sorry to learn about the passing of our dear Sister Maybelle. I am sure she had finished her work on earth and the Lord saw fit to call her home. I know she will be greatly missed by everyone who ever knew her and heard of her.

I am so glad we are serving a mighty and great God who is always near when we call on Him.

I am sending a small donation to receive the paper, for I like to read the good paper. It is food for the soul.

Please pray for my unsaved loved ones and for my healing, please.—Sis. Mary Jane Rogers

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

NC—To all the fine folks at the Print Shop: It has been a long time since you heard from

me. Last year was a very difficult time for me; a lot of sickness and suffering in the flesh. I finally was forced to come into a rest home because I could not live alone.

I do trust everything and everybody are getting along good at the Print Shop. The good things of God are still very much in evidence. Regretably, the evil things of Satan are too. . . .

Please pray for me; my heart keeps me down so much. I have also suffered with arthritis.

God bless everyone of you, —Leila Lewis

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

TX—Dear Bro. Murphey: I am writing to tell you to continue my subscription to the *Faith and Victory*. It is very inspiring and I am very thankful for those who still preach, teach and write the truth in these troublesome times. God is still the same and He expects Christians to live by His Holy Word. . . . —Juanita Hale

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: I was shocked and grieved to learn of Sis. Maybelle's death. I enjoyed her sweet letters so much and she always seemed to understand my sorrows. It won't seem the same without her, but it is wonderful to know her cares are all over. Now she is at rest. May God continue to bless at the Print Shop. I am sure He will. Keep encouraged.

A sister in the Lord,

—Minnie (Pernicka) Crabtree

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: We give Christian love to all at the Print Shop. I pray for you and each member who serves there. Please pray that I carry a deeper concern for my sisters and brothers who are carrying the load. We can't go as we used to go, but we can carry the load as best we can. We are now 87 and 89 years of age.

Much Christian love to all,

—Sister Margaret Hall

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

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

I am happy to say I am still saved, sanctified and satisfied with God's gracious dealings with me.

I am thankful for the saints' rest home here in Pacoima. It is a great blessing from God.

Sis. Opal Wilson had a real burden for getting this home started. Little did I then think that I would be a resident here someday. I am now 90 years old and have been in the home for more than 13 years.

With Christian love,—Sister Agnes Huskey

CA—Enclosed please find a \$1.00 bill for the *Faith and Victory* magazine. I enjoy reading it. I don't know who sent it to me, but I thank them very much.

I am not well and I ask for your prayers.

—Mrs. Vivian Adair

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings to you in Jesus' precious name. I hope all is going well with you and the work there. I am sure you miss Sis. Maybelle, but God is able to bless you dear ones there and cause the work to continue to prosper that souls may be blessed and His name glorified. We are praying for all of you there. Truly the work of God is great and the time is short. We should all be doing our best to further His great cause in the earth, that precious souls might be saved and saints encouraged to a closer walk with God.

I have a burden that I feel would be to the glory of God to express to the saints and readers of the *Faith and Victory* paper, concerning the evangelistic work. I am thinking mostly of the tent work. The Lord has been burdening me for some time along this line, and as I wait on the Lord, He seems to be leading on step by step. Last summer while attending the Pacoima, CA Camp Meeting, we met Bro. Allen Moles, a young man 23 years of age. He had just recently gotten saved and dedicated his life to the Lord and His service. He felt like the Lord was leading him back this way, so in September he came. He, at present, is making his home with us. He feels he would like to help in the tent work in whatever way he can. He is a good driver and willing to go wherever the Lord leads. We have already made some trips together in visiting isolated saints. I appreciate him and his service very much.

I would be new in the tent work, at least at having the responsibility of it, so I desire much prayer. I realize that just two people could not do much in this type of work, so that is the reason I would like to express my burden to the saints and to others scattered abroad. Perhaps God has other dedicated saints that would love to help in this work. We welcome any help from the ministry and those who have a burden for the work of the Lord on this line.

I, in company with Bro. and Sis. Ralph Beisly, have visited Bro. and Sis. L. D. Christman and talked with them some about my burden. Bro. L. D. says he has a trailer that is loaded with a tent, chairs, altar bench, lectern and song books; and that they are dedicated to the Lord's service wherever it might be.

Bro. Beisly said that as far as he knew there was only one place already scheduled for

meeting this spring. That is Fort Smith, AR. Bro. Doug Wall feels burdened to have a meeting there. He has talked to Bro. Bob Huskey about it already.

The ministry of spiritual singing is very essential and helpful to the success of a meeting. Saints who have the talent for singing have a wonderful opportunity to minister to others. I trust the Lord to put it in their hearts to prayerfully use their talents.

If anyone desires a tent meeting in your locality and needs more information concerning the tent work, you may address your letter to: Bro. Vada McMillian, Rt. 7, Box 327, Neosho, MO 64850, phone (417) 451-0278.

I certainly desire the earnest prayers of the saints that God would bless and uphold this effort.

If you desire a meeting this spring, summer, or fall, it would be wise to let us know as soon as you can so that we might begin to make arrangements for it.

We welcome any input that you may have by way of spiritual help or advice.

Your brother in Christ, —Vada McMillian

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Testimonies and Answers to Prayer

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name. We praise God for the healing touch He has given me. I was very low from the flu, as well as bothered by a heart problem. I requested prayer, and God touched me, but I am still holding on to God for complete healing.

I thank the saints for their prayers and I thank God for His healing power. Bro. James Bell and a carload of saints coming from the prison service in Jefferson City, MO stopped in and anointed me in obedience to the Word. I rested 2 days and nights and am over the flu, but the heart condition still bothers me. Prayer is needed.

Your brother,

—Art Johnston

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OH—Dear Bro. Murphey and saints at the Publishing House: It is with a thankful and grateful heart that I write this morning. I have been praising God for the last 2 days for what He has done for Tommy. I called as early as I could Monday morning for prayer for my grandson who had had a wreck sometime Saturday evening. Our phone was out, so it was Sunday morning before his brother was able to tell me about it. I had to wait until Monday morning to call you.

Well, everything looked black, but, praise God, sometime Monday he made a big change for the better.

Kenny called last night and said Tommy had regained consciousness sometime yesterday and knew everyone. He also started talking. The doctors were amazed.

We humbly give God all the praise, for we know He is the One who helped Tommy. We also want to thank all the saints for their prayers.

God bless each one is our prayer,

—Sis. Mary Vice

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

MO—Dear Bro. Murphey: I want to tell you what God has done for me. About 2 weeks ago I had arthritis all over my body so bad I couldn't walk, turn my head, raise my arms, or bend my back. I was in bad shape. I had some of the saints to pray for me. While we were praying, God touched my body. Now I can walk and use my body for which I am very thankful.

I can't praise God enough for what He does for me. There is nothing too big for God to handle. I am glad I am His child and He is my heavenly Father. He means more to me than all the world.

Your friend and prayer partner,

—Sister Eathel Hill

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

Nigeria—Dearly beloved in the Lord: Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

First, I must express my profound gratitude for the love and sympathy you showed me when you heard of the attack I had by armed robbers. Thank God, He is helping me in mysterious ways. I know the enemy used this to see if he could take away my happiness in the Lord, but it was a failure. Jesus is my joy and not earthly things. Once again I say may almighty God bless you all and your ministry in Jesus' name.

It was because of me that Jesus received insults and assaults from the world. He was spat upon, slapped on His cheeks, humiliated, wrongly accused—all sorts of things were done to Him that I might be saved and given everlasting joy. Then why should I allow robbers of this earth to rob me of this joy by merely carrying away my belongings?

If the Lord tarries in coming, I will have more than those things back. Besides, the place my Lord has for me in heaven is greater. My desire is to live for Him daily that I may obtain what He has for me. . . .

Yours in His vineyard, —Janet Oyadiran

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OH—Dear Bro. Wayne: I wanted to write and tell you about the healing of my son,

Tommy, what I saw, and to praise Jesus openly for His love.

When I got to my sister's house, where Tom was, he was in terrible pain. He started crying the minute he saw me. Tommy is not a cryer. He has had a lot of pain in the past and does not cry easily. I knelt down in front of him and looked at his left leg. It was very deformed-looking from the injury. The kneecap was totally turned around. Tommy was sick at his stomach and very scared. My mother, Sis. Juanita Blankenship, had already anointed and prayed for him. I just prayed silently for the Lord's calm to come. It did.

We could not get the leg straight, and he was unable to stand. When the ambulance came, the paramedics couldn't get the leg straightened or get him on his feet.

The ambulance took Tommy to the hospital; my sister and I went in our own cars. Tommy wanted his coat, so after the ambulance and my sister pulled out, I went back in the house to get the coat. When I stepped in the door, I heard my mother on the telephone asking to speak to you. Upon hearing her, it seemed as if a bell rang. Not a loud bell, but a silent still bell. I know this may not make any sense, but I kept hearing it in my spirit as I drove to where they had taken Tom.

When I got there I did all the paperwork and my sister and I waited to see Tommy. When they called us back, he looked awful. He could not straighten his leg, he was in terrible pain and really beginning to get very sick. His eyes were shadowed and pain-filled. He kept closing them. I rubbed his hair back and I still kept hearing that bell. They came to take him to X-ray and we went out to wait.

A doctor came to get us about 20 minutes later. He was acting so strange, almost silly. I thought, what is wrong with this man? When I got back to where Tommy was, I couldn't believe what I was seeing. But I did believe, because I believe in Jesus. Tommy was sitting up on the stretcher. Both legs were straight in front of him and he was rubbing his knee. There was no deformity, no redness, no bruising. I couldn't even speak. Tommy said, "Mommy, my leg doesn't hurt me anymore." I wanted to jump, run and shout. All I did was stand and look. The doctor kept giving all kinds of explanations, but none of them made any sense and he even knew that.

When I got Tommy home he was able to put his weight down on the leg. For about 3 days and nights the enemy attacked again. Tommy had swelling, ran a fever and had soreness, so I let him stay home. After the 3 days the pain

never returned and God has healed him.

I asked Tommy if he knew what happened. He said that down in X-ray they couldn't get his leg straight and it hurt really bad. He said then the leg went straight and the pain was gone. Isn't God wonderful?

Thank you for your prayers.

Sincerely in Jesus, —Janice Craig

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AL—Dear Bro. Wayne: This morning I am acutely aware of the Lord's ability to keep His children and deliver them from all harm. About 3:00 a.m. this morning, a tornado passed within a few yards of our home. We have a storm shelter outside, but there was no time to get to it. We all joined in prayer and the Lord saved us from harm's way. All around us is massive damage and destruction, but the Lord saw that we were untouched. It has been such a humbling experience for me, and in my heart there is a great sense of awe and worship towards our God.

In the midst of the storm the Lord brought to my mind the story of the disciples who were aboard their boat as the storm raged about them. As I pondered the Scriptures I felt the Lord speaking assurance to my heart that indeed He could rebuke even the winds. I had a very present awareness of His closeness, and felt in my heart His Words, "Fear not; for I am with thee." This morning I am deeply drawn into His great love.

I do pray that all is well with you folks in Guthrie. May this letter find you and yours in health, and experiencing the continued joy and blessings of the Lord Jesus. Our thoughts are with you always.

We had a visit from Bro. and Sis. Emmett Gerald, and Bro. and Sis. Marshall Whitson a couple of weeks ago. It had been some time since we had seen them, and it so uplifted our spirits.

The ministry which the Lord has given us is going well. Prison is such a difficult place to minister the Word of the Lord, for there is so much evil there. But, where sin abounds we know the grace of the Lord abounds even more, and He has blessed our labors. We are seeing new men brought to a knowledge of salvation, and therefore it seems that their repentance is deeper and truer. There are so many it seems who go in and preach the "easy" way (eternal security, etc.) to these men, and many have never heard of true repentance. The Lord has blessed this ministry by allowing us to share this message with many of them. We are also seeing more men come to a deeper walk with

God, and this encourages us for we know they will be able to help the new converts grow. We do ask for your prayers concerning this labor. May we do according to God's Word all that He desires of us.

May the Lord be with you in all your labors, and may He grant you all wisdom and understanding into the mystery of His Word. I rejoice in the glory of God, and in the fellowship of the saints.

In His bonds,

—Bro. Jim Baxter

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

OK—Dear saints: We greet you with love in Jesus' name. We desire to testify to you of God's goodness to us.

The Scriptures come to mind: "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:4-5. Our witness to these Scriptures is they are true! They work in our everyday lives. Praise the Lord.

We owe the Lord thanksgiving for bringing us through recent trials of affliction. My husband, Dan, began experiencing pain and discomfort in his chest and arm in March of 1988. This didn't seem too severe until September of 1989 when the pain became acute and Dan was left too weak to be up. He remained in a weakened condition for about 2 weeks, and even then was not back to normal. It was a time of searching and consecration for both of us. Neither of us were impressed to ask God for healing, for we felt it was the hand of the Lord upon us for spiritual reasons. Earlier in the year, the Lord had dealt with me about the consecration in the song, "Jesus I My Cross." Now the test was here and we did not want to draw back from the furnace! God assured us that He was with us (Isa. 43:1-3), that He would make our bed in our affliction (Ps. 41:3), that we were needing patience (Heb. 10:35-39), and that His grace was sufficient. (II Cor. 12:9). How precious are His promises, for the inspired Word of God does not fail.

One of His promises, found in Isaiah 1:25, "And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin," is also given to His saints. A poet rephrased it thus:

"I'll turn my hands upon thy heart,
And purge away thy dross;
I will refine thee in my fire,
Remake thee at my cross."

After 2 weeks, the Lord blessed Dan to resume a 40-hour workweek. We thank the Lord for this. We also thank the dear saints for their

calls, cards, offerings, prayers, words of comfort, and support. There are no people like God's people, and we do need each other more than we realize.

Dan is still in a battle, and we request your continued prayers. We have not yet been impressed to pray for healing, just for God's will to be done and for His workings to fulfill His perfection in our lives. When the time for healing comes, then, Amen!

Dear saints, let us sell out from all earthly attachments and be wholly upon the altar! Only God knows the depth of crucifixion needed in each life—it is not left to us to judge other people's hearts and root out and purge as we see fit. God can surely do His own perfect work and He knows how to use our living conditions, finances, bodily afflictions, companions, children, and congregation to perfect that which concerns us and temper us to His design. After the work is completed, the stones will fitly join together and not a carnal hammer need echo in the sacred stillness. It is our desire to see the kingdom extended in our own hearts, in the brethren, and in the lost world around us.

Christian love to all,

—Dan and Angela Gellenbeck

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Bendel State . . .

Jan. 3—Dear saints of God: Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus, the Rose of Sharon. Immense thanks unto Him for bringing heaven within our reach. He is in control of everything about us.

We are living the life of His prescription. It has proved to pay the best dividends, for by holiness contact with the white Throne above is of easy access. The Church is marching on irresistably. We are speaking of the glory of His kingdom and talking of His power.

All of the Church within the Kwale area assembled at the chapel on Oct. 1, 1989, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. for prayer and fasting, to call God to arise and let His enemies be scattered and for the wicked plans against His Church, by forces of darkness, to be futile. We thank Him for a swift answer to the prayers of His saints. Twenty-seven brethren followed the Lord in water baptism, Oct. 11, 1989, at Osemele River. The following day, Oct. 12, 1989 featured the celebration of the Lord's Supper which was solemnly observed.

The Lord was wonderfully honored in a thanksgiving service held on Dec. 10, 1989, at Kwale. His chosen vessels from Warri, Umuachi-

Afor, Obetim-Uno and Ubah, respectively, were in attendance to join their brethren of the Kwale congregation in ascribing dominion, majesty and excellency unto the almighty God for being mighty to save, heal and sanctify. It was a day of great jubilation. The crowd was huge which taxed the chapel to capacity. Gifts of money and farm products were brought to God in appreciation of His presence in the midst of His own people all the year round.

We wish all the faithful of Christ's Kingdom a happy and prosperous new year.

Yours in His service, Titus U. E. Enu

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From India . . .

Feb. 2—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: It was a real shock to hear about the departure of our dear Sister Maybelle Pruitt. We lost one more saint who loved the Church of God in India. She had a deep concern for us always. She was a Christian soldier fervent in spirit, and faithful until the end of her life. We, the Church in India, send our heartfelt sympathy and condolences.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Oleta Madden, and Bro. Jonathan Busbee went back home today. We pray God will give them a safe trip. They were a real blessing to us this last month. We had a very blessed convention this year. They also visited all our congregations in different places and encouraged the believers.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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INDIA TRIP REPORT

Dear children of God everywhere: As many of you know, on Jan. 7 of this year, we (Richard and Oleta Madden, and Jonathan Busbee) left from the Tulsa International Airport by plane for New York City, where we embarked on our Air India Flight to Kerala State, India. The trip was a long tiring one, (36 hours from start to finish) but we had felt an assurance that we had the mind of the Lord in leading us to go there. Our intentions were to be in their yearly gospel convention, which is held close to Bro. John Varghese's home in Karikkom.

We received a very hearty welcome from Bro. John Varghese, his wife Sarama, his son Beju, niece Ainu and Bro. Phillip and his son Bobby, who had traveled in a van about 50 miles to pick us up at the Trivandrum Airport. It was a great blessing to arrive there, but it was very hot and we were dressed in winter clothes.

All of the people we met, and there was a great number, greeted us with joy and apprecia-

tion. That gave us a feeling of warmth and gladness that we were there.

The five-day convention or camp meeting, began the day after our arrival. Many people came, especially to the night services. They came and sat down on the ground under a "pandel," a covering made of coconut mats. Many more sat around outside of that when it was filled. Bro. John estimated 900 or more people.

Although we couldn't understand all of the preaching we could see the enthusiasm and earnestness of what was being said, and it was a blessing to us. Richard preached with Bro. John interpreting for him. Their special songs and congregational singing were very joyful, and we enjoyed it with them. There were many ministers there, some coming from hundreds of miles away by bus or train.

The traveling there is difficult, because of crowding on the buses and trains. The highways are very congested with cars, buses, trucks, bicycles, motorcycles, ox carts, people walking, and cattle.

After the convention and a few days of rest, we went 200 miles by van to Trichur for a visit. We stayed in Bro. P. D. Mathunny's home. His wife Shirly, and daughters Jamie and Jeena, and son Jino were very gracious and kind to us. They prepared food that was plentiful and good. We were sorry we didn't get to stay and visit more of the people in that area, but time was against us. We did visit and had dinner in the home of Bro. Jos and his family. We were so glad to become acquainted with them. The language was always a barrier to us, but many could speak enough English that we could converse with them some.

Going back to Bro. John's area we went to many of the churches that were 5 to 10 miles away from his home. In some of them we only visited with the pastor and congregation, but in most of the places we did have services. The people seemed so receptive to the preaching. Bro. Jonathan Busbee gave his testimony on several occasions which the people appreciated. We were happy that he was with us.

We are very grateful that there is a Church of God in India and that it is thriving, but prayer is needed for the leaders and the people. They are very poor people who hardly have enough to feed their families, let alone provide for other needs. They do all they can to provide for themselves, but jobs are very scarce.

We pray that the Church here will realize that part of "the family of God" is in want, and more can be brought in to the Church there by our support here. We don't want to come to the

judgment bar of God and hear Him say, "I was hungry and you gave me no meat." The people in India want to be fed and they will listen to the gospel. Let us share some of what we have with those who are in great need. God will reward us with the souls of the lost. When we are steady and faithful in our giving, God sees, and blesses us.

We deeply appreciate all of the people who helped finance our trip to India. We had a sincere wish that all of you could have been there with us. Our prayer is that God will bless you abundantly.

Yours in Christ,

—Bro. and Sis. Richard Madden, Sr.

In Memoriam

Dora Lela Sorrell Beisly was born Jan. 19, 1927 at Myrtle, MO to Alsia and Bessie Sorrell. She grew up at Myrtle, MO, attending Couch School and graduating with the class of 1945.

In her early teenage years she gave her heart to Jesus Christ, taking Him as her Saviour and the Lord of her life. She held her faith in Him and served Him with all of her heart for the rest of her life.

She responded to the call of the Lord for service and went to work at the Faith Publishing House in Guthrie, OK. She worked there from December 1945 to December 1950.

She was united in marriage to Gene Beisly on Dec. 3, 1950 at Guthrie, OK. They made their home in Coffeyville, KS. To this union two daughters were born: Marcia Colleen and Sharon Elizabeth.

In September of 1967 she moved with her family to Guthrie, OK to again work in the Faith Publishing House. She and Bro. Gene worked there in the Lord's Print Shop until June, 1974.

Although she spent the last few years of her life in a trial of bodily affliction, she held fast to her Saviour and her faith developed into a stronghold of courage and the bloom of spiritual grace and beauty. She passed from this life victorious in a living faith in her home at Guthrie, OK on Jan. 23, 1990, at the age of 63 years and 4 days.

She is survived by her loving husband, Bro. Gene Beisly, of the home; two daughters, Marcia Colleen, of Jena, LA, and Sharon Elizabeth, of Springfield, MO; one sister, Lillian Eck; four brothers, Lehman Sorrell, Clifford Sorrell, Fred

Sorrell, and Thurman Sorrell; two sons-in-law, Gerald Mitchell and Paul Simpson; four grandsons, Stephen Mitchell, Fred, Adam, and Phillip Simpson, and a host of other relatives, saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted in the saints' chapel at Guthrie, OK by Bros. Carl Shaffer and Leslie Busbee. Burial was in Memory Gardens Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.

NOTE OF THANKS

Job 23:16 reads, "For God maketh my heart soft. . . ." I understand what Job was saying here, but this next verse is what makes me think so seriously. "For He performeth the thing that is appointed for me." (Job 23:14). Was this really so? This loss, one of the greatest I have ever experienced, was it really God's appointment for me and my daughters? I had felt so strongly impressed with Job 23 that it seemed like God was talking to me as I read this verse. I suppose only time will tell the whole story, but for now I do know it makes my heart soft. "God's way is best, I will not murmur. . . ."

Truly, words fail to adequately express our innermost feelings, but please accept this as our thanks for the phone calls, prayers, cards, food, the tender care for wife in her last few days, your attendance at the funeral, and other expressions of love. You are beautiful people. Thank you so much. —Gene Beisly, Marcia and Sharon

God Never Fails

(Continued from page 3)

to adopt her out to another family and close the case. Finances were an issue, but God never failed. He supplied us with a lawyer who charged us a fee of only \$100 to take on the whole case. It looked very dark many times, because the one presenting the case against us felt they had an edge on us. It looked as though we had lost the case until one day my lawyer telephoned and advised us to get the family ready for a court date. He went on to say that the judge wanted to meet the family, talk to the girls, and then make his decision. He further wanted to converse with me to get a sense of my loyalty and love to this child. Well, we appeared in court. As the judge questioned each of my daughters, I saw a beautiful smile come over his face. He then looked at the defense counsel and followed with a question. "Why have you wasted the tax payers money by bringing this case to court? This is a Christian family with a sister of the mother who wants to raise this child. This child has been granted to the Ligons family. Case closed. He made it clear that the next time I

would be in court regarding this child would be to finalize the adoption.

Satan is against the family. He sets out to destroy the home, which has been proven to be the foundation of America today. As men and women walk away and desert their families, something takes place. In most cases it has a negative effect. Fortunately, during such a tragic event if one has the Lord, God will see them through. What the family experiences during these crises are a test of the times. Truly, it will make you or break you. I am blessed to be able to fall back on the times in which my own mother proved to me that she was, in fact, a "true woman of God" in every sense of the word. Her faith did not fail. Her trust in the Lord was never ending. The prayers that rang out in the wee hours of the morning are still with me today. Even as her home had broken up, she strove to keep the children together and living in the fear of the Lord. The courage demonstrated, which came from the Lord, will never be forgotten. The impact of such a life was great, in that one day I found myself going down the same pathway. I continue to "walk hand in hand with the Lord" daily. Should I have chosen to let the Lord go, my job as a woman for God and my family would be null. The responsibility of adopting Wakema would be meaningless.

Wakema is a challenge to me. She causes me to reaffirm the love that I have held for children for many years. No longer is it just spoken of, for now it has to be demonstrated in the way of not only reaching out to a young soul and providing a home, but by being courageous enough to be the vessel God expects me to be. I say to myself, "I don't want to fail, because God never fails."

Wakema is a very intelligent little girl. She came home one day and said, "Mommy, Jason is adopted. His grandmother adopted him." She was 6 years old then. I had not felt up until then that it was wise to let her know. The decision derived from her actions as well as my close observation of her emotions. When she spoke about Jason, I asked her to define the word "adoption" for me. She, very carefully and intelligently, defined the word. The Lord let me know it was the time. I had to pray because I didn't know the correct approach. I prayed for one day. I remember trembling inside. I came home from work and I called Wakema to come and sit with me. The Lord led me to begin the story with, "Once upon a time there were 2 sisters who loved each other very much. One's name was Marsha (Von) and the other Debby." It ended up with the sister, Debby, having a beautiful baby girl. It seemed like hours were

passing by as I told the story. In fact, only 60 minutes had passed. As I explained the special baby that was born, I felt her hands tighten. She asked, "Was I that baby, Mommy?" She grabbed me as I held her. We were both crying, yet I reassured her of the love I had for her. That moment in time was very special. Tears were streaming down my face as I thought about my sister and how I was willing to sacrifice the things in life that I desired in order to love and raise this child. Finally I wept as I also thought how one day the Lord would heal my sister and this child would be the blessing to her that she would so genuinely need.

When I speak of the trying times in the adopting of Wakema, I speak with utmost sincerity when I say a single parent in today's society can only survive by living for the Lord. The raising of other lives is too much if one cannot honestly say that "Prayer is the key on the bending knee." Without the Lord, the needs of the children, both being without a father and materially could be overwhelming. The times are trying. The woman is mother and father. The children expect her to be the problem solver, among other things. When one comes home from a hard day at work, her day at home has just begun. The Lord gives her strength to reach out to the needs of each individual, be it by prayers, helping with homework, etc. The hugs given to each child are genuine. When "I love you" comes out, it is with heartfelt meaning. When I can pick up the child that I am adopting and still say from the bottom of my heart, "I love you and I wouldn't trade you in for anything," one knows God's love is real.

It has taken 7 years to finally sign the adoption papers for Wakema. It came through many trials. Recently, I signed the first part of the papers. I was elated. I wept. I hugged Wakema and then I opened my Bible to a passage I had never given thought to: "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us: Then they had swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth." Ps. 124:2-8.

—Marsha Yvonne Ligons

"Be ever on the lookout for lives God places in your path to inspire, encourage, befriend, and help."

—Selected

Exalted Spirits

Feeling the time ripe to write on the subject of one of the most dangerous things the work of God has ever met, with the divine help of God I shall deal with the workings of an exalted spirit in the light of Bible truth. We are told, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted," Luke 18:14; also, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Prov. 16:18. The whole of scriptural teaching, from Genesis to Revelation, warns us not to get exalted, and many cases in old Bible times show forth the dangers of getting exalted. So we desire to show the workings of an exalted spirit, in the love and meekness of Jesus.

An exalted spirit makes a high profession and thereby deceives many, and it is the deceptive spirit that needs to be exposed. A soul under this kind of a spirit is hard to be delivered, as we shall show as the Lord helps us. This spirit, when admonished and rebuked, carries a certain amount of influence, so the rebound carries some weight and always puts up a fight for its life. An exalted spirit is never submissive and will try to defend its position even to the making of division, since they are the only ones that are right, as they think. An exalted spirit becomes unmerciful, and when fully developed, becomes full of hatred in the defense of its self. It continually feeds on what will cause its gain, seeking evidence to overthrow its opposers.

The very foundation of this glorious reformation was based on humility—a feeling that all the ministers were more able, and a preference for the other ministers was always given. This way God had a chance of leading by His Spirit, and the result was power and unity among them. Many times in meeting where there were a number of ministers present (able ones, too) a stillness was felt as each minister waited on each other and God. This way there was no fast racing to the pulpit, but the Spirit of God had a chance to move on the right person. Whereas an exalted spirit would take advantage and run to the pulpit, crowding out the one with the real message. We are told by Paul that one of the characteristics of a humble spirit is "easy to be entreated." Too much of a high estimate of self ruins one's labor for God and hinders those who could be used of God.

An exalted spirit sows discord among brethren and is continually putting wood on the fire with a feeling of straightening up the brethren who, in their judgment, are out of line—feeling

they are the only ones who can do it. How easy for an exalted spirit to magnify the words of others and misconstrue them to the point of dishonesty. I say this with the fear of God, and charity for all, but I must tell the truth. They sit as my people, but are looking for a point of vantage whereby they can make a man an offender for a word. In old Bible times we read of men whom God blessed when they were little in their own sight, but when they became lifted up (exalted) God could no longer use them. Being exalted is truly dangerous in every sense of the word.

An exalted spirit has many different things with which it works. It will cooperate with any spirit to gain its points. They may have been entirely out of joint previously, but will work with almost any kind for defense. Any kind of a false spirit, in reality, is kindred to all the rest, hence they have a fellowship with all these wrong spirits because of being evil. The Holy Spirit does not have fellowship with any, only its own. Its natural workings for good, such as divine unity, love, and the edifying of itself, makes peace wherever it works. One who has an exalted spirit sows discord wherever they work and is one of the most dangerous enemies to the truth, because, like lightning, they may strike anywhere. Let us beware lest we be lifted up in our own estimation and lose the prize which awaits only the humble. Webster says the word "exalt" means "to elevate in rank." So one under an exalted spirit would rank himself very highly, basing his rank on his years and what he thinks he knows. After so long a time, if one resists the Spirit of God and the advice of faithful brethren, they will think they are really honest, though a backward glance would reveal the fact that there was a time when being admonished they were fearful, but now, becoming seared, neither God nor man can get any help to them because they are so spiritually calloused.

The greatest danger lies in the exposure of an exalted spirit because of the tenacity it holds on those under it. They become blind through the false reasoning of this spirit and may accept it whole-heartedly or get disgusted and leave the people of God altogether.

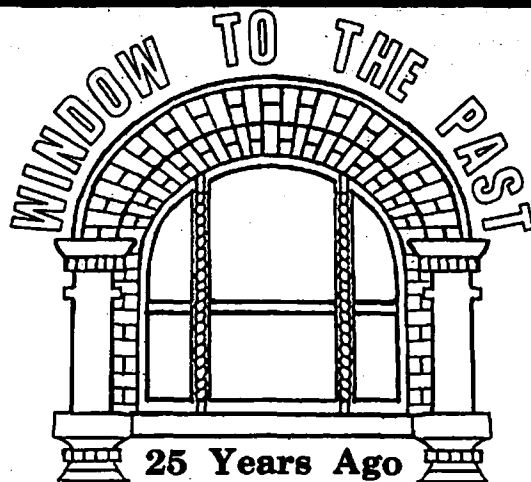
Let us keep humble. An exalted spirit cannot see the beautiful Church of God except in the letter, and that in a feigned manner. It can only be seen clearly by the truly humble.

—E. M. Zinn

(Reprinted from 1942 *Faith and Victory*)

"The perfect victory is to 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' and thus to triumph over self."

—Selected



Excerpts Taken From

March, 1965 *Faith and Victory*

"I want to testify to the glory of God, how He heard and answered my prayer on the 9th day of January when I was in a car wreck. The car which I was riding in skidded on some ice on the long bridge just south of Enid [OK] on Highway 81. When the accident happened the car skidded from side to side, hitting one side of the bridge and then the other. When it hit the west side of the bridge the second time, it acted like it was going over. That was when I cried out, 'Oh God, my heavenly Father, will you save us!' The ones standing, looking on said that the car tilted and then set back down on its wheels. When the car came to a stop, it was headed back south. I do know that the good Lord heard and answered my prayer." —Sarah F. Brown

"God needs more laborers in His vineyard. The harvest is ripe. God is calling those who are standing idle. Some might say that they do not know what to do. Have you looked around your doorstep? Speak a word here, lift a burden there, give a tract here, write a letter to one miles away, visit a lonely aged person, visit the rest homes and jails, give to the work of the Lord, help an overworked mother, help the sick, teach the children, and give a smile wherever you go." —Marie Miles

"Tonight as we read our *Faith and Victory* paper, our hearts just bubbled over again and again. It seemed as though we were sitting in the midst of a prayer meeting, listening to all the testimonies. As we read, our hearts, would just fill to the brim and we would stop to praise the Lord. . ."

—Bro. and Sis. David Pierro