

FAITH AND VICTORY

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A Fountain Of Love

A gushing fount of love there flows
 Within my inmost part:
 A fire of sweet affection flows
 Deep down within my heart.

For there are those who are so dear
 And precious on life's way
 Whom God has brought them to be near
 To share life's fleeting day.

And there are those who've passed and gone
 Beyond our mortal sight,
 Who once were loved and sweetly known,
 Who shed on us their light.

There is my wife, sweet angel-love
 Who in my youth was given
 To share with me grace from above
 And walk with me to heaven;

And friends and neighbors manifold;
 My mother, sweet and fair,
 My children worth far more than gold:
 For all of these I care.

And, oh, I will not now forget
 My Saviour, Christ, my Friend,
 Who plucked my soul from Satan's net,
 Who keeps me to the end.

Our heav'nly Father, great and wise,
 Whose love is rich and pure;
 Whose presence fills the earth and skies,
 Forever to endure.

All these I love, and all around
 Humanity I see
 Who need a touch of love to sound
 Amid life's vanity.

No time for strife or dark dismay,
 No time for fear or doubt,
 So busy am I on life's way
 The love-tides letting out!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

Zion Foreshadowed

In Isaiah 33:20, we read, "Look upon Zion, the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken." Isaiah is requesting, "Look upon Zion. . . ." Zion is representative of the Church of the living God. Cast your eyes up and behold this beautiful and wondrous Church. "Church of God, the angels marvel at the music of thy song; Church of God, 'beloved city,' Thou art of celestial mold; Lo! from God and out of heaven, Came the city of pure gold." —"Church of God," *Evening Light Songs*. "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. . . ." Rev. 21:2-3.

This tabernacle shall not be taken down, because it is the "tabernacle which the Lord pitched and not man." (Heb. 8:2). ". . . Not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken." "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." Matt. 24:35. I thank the Lord for something sure, steady and unmoveable. With all the confusion in the world, the Word of God is something we can stand on with victory in our soul and rest assured that it will take us through. "When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay."

To enter this tabernacle we have to go through Jesus Christ. It is impossible for man to stretch the stakes further to take someone in, just as it is to try to pull the stakes in to put someone out. Men have tried it, are trying it, and will continue to try to break the cords and

move the stakes to a place of their own choosing. However, in doing so they only sever their own souls from God. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure." (II Tim. 2:19). The cords will not be broken and the stakes will not be removed! Let us never attempt it, we'll lose every time. I love the Word of God as it is and to each "mandate meekly bow."

Verse 22 of Isaiah 33 is what really impressed me. "But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; . . ." There in the midst of the tabernacle, in that most holy place, the Church of God, in the very presence of God almighty, flows the water of life freely. "And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." Rev. 22:1.

These few precious Scriptures, in Isaiah, are under the first covenant, foreshadowing truths of "Zion, the city of our solemnities"—Jerusalem; the true tabernacle which God pitched and not man, which is describing the Church of God.

Now let us notice closely the last half of verse 21. ". . . Wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant ship pass thereby." A galley with oars and a gallant ship shall not go into these streams and broad rivers. Oars are used for propelling and steering a boat. Webster says that "gallant" means a young man of fashion, suitor, showy in dress or bearing, stately, or to manipulate in a modish manner. This text speaks to me of false prophets who have impure motives, a foreign spirit, trying to suit or court the Church of God with their best dress, stately mannerisms, and fair speeches. These kinds are in the kingdom of darkness attracting those who do not hear the voice of our great Shepherd.

I would like to say that I appreciate and love the true ministers of God who, for the love of God, have humbly and obediently fed the flock in which the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers. The true ministers of God have fed the flock which is among them, taking the oversight, "not by constraint, but willingly"; not for filthy lucre, pride, or any other unholy motive; neither are they lords over God's heritage, but are ensamples to the flock. When the Chief Shepherd shall appear, they shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (I Peter 5:2-4). "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Phil. 2:3.

The true ministers of God own no oars or personal ideas and opinions to steer the work of God with. They have wholly cast themselves out in the Word and Spirit. Why do we not need the creeds and doctrines of men? Our answer is found in verse 22, "For the Lord is our judge,

the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us."

Notice a few lines of the song "Love Is Freedom's Law."

"Oh love divine unfathomed! Oh shoreless sea of bliss!

Thy paths of peace I follow, O love, our hearts extol."

"Enshrined within the bosom Of Father's tender love,

We seem in deep mid ocean of heaven's bliss above."

"He is supremely blest, Who, in thy sea o'erwhelmed,

Has found eternal rest."

The Lord wants all ropes, chains, weights, securities and such that bind us to shore severed and launch ourselves out deep into the Word and Spirit of God.

A contented sheep in the fold of God,

—Bro. Bob Wilson

Happy Anna!

The account of Anna is recorded in Luke 2:36-38. At 84, aged Anna served God night and day in the temple and gave thanks to Him when she beheld the child Jesus in the house of God. She proclaimed the Redeemer's advent to the waiting remnant all around.

Anna has an honored place among the old folks of the Scriptures. The Bible list of senior saints is a long one. The Old Testament in particular carries a long list of such names. The New Testament list is much shorter, but the names are very significant. Simeon was among the ancients. He, like Anna, filled an honorable role that self-same day in the temple; he held the Child in his arms. Nicodemus was old—he said so to the Lord. Paul the apostle became Paul the aged. Peter too became old; his Master said he would. And John lived to a ripe old age. So Anna was in good company.

There are, of course, two Annas in the Bible, the Anna (Hannah) of the Old Testament and the Anna of the New. One was young, the other old; one prayed and was given Samuel, the other fasted and prayed and was allowed to see God's unspeakable gift, her Saviour and ours. They both praised and magnified God for His overflowing love. They both found their way to the temple; one for an annual visit, the other for her permanent abode. And when the Lord was brought there, she spoke of Him. Full well she knew that He was the only hope of a frustrated race lying in the lap of sin. Let us do the same—let us speak of Him. There are empty, needy

hearts in the world who are tired of sinful pleasures and weary of sin's bondage, hearts who need the quickening touch of the risen Lord.

The Anna in the New Testament belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was undoubtedly the most outstanding character in the long history of that tribe. The Asherites were an attractive people with an attractive heritage, but they seem to have been inward looking rather than upward looking, mentally passive rather than spiritually active. In Deborah's day, when courage and aggressiveness were called for, Asher merely "stayed on the seashore." (Judg. 5:17). You can not win battles that way. But Anna the Asherite was made of different stuff! She was alert and active.

Asher means "happy." We come across the plural form of the word over 40 times in the Old Testament where it is usually translated "blessed." An example is in Psalm 84:4, "Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. . . ." This was very applicable to Anna. And let us not forget the meaning of Anna's own name. It means, "grace." Yes, grace and happiness go well together. —Bro. John Varghese

The Way To Peace

"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." John 14:27. "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Rom. 14:17.

Jesus promised us peace. He tells us the world offers us no such peace as He can give. The peace of this world only lasts for a short time, but the peace of Jesus lasts for eternity. Many are seeking for peace in the world through drugs, alcohol, and selfish intentions. The world through these things offers no real peace. If we really want peace we must find it through Jesus Christ. Jesus came preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." What is this kingdom? It is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Rom. 14:17). How do we enter this kingdom? Through the new birth. (John 3:3). By confessing and forsaking our sins, we can obtain peace at the moment we pray through and accept Jesus. Peace will come and all the guilt of sin will leave.

There is no peace in just a mere profession, but in an old-time experience of salvation, just like the disciples preached.

After we accept Jesus, we need to continue to follow Him. Read His Word (the Bible) and it will tell you of your need to be baptized in water like He was, also your need to have power over sin and self by receiving His Holy Spirit to

enable you to live a holy life. (Eph. 1:13; I Peter 1 14-16). It will also tell you of the need to assemble yourself with believers in Christ. There is no need to join a church, for if you are saved you already belong to the Church of God. (Acts 20:28).

Stay faithful and true to the end dear reader, for He tells us, "He that endureth unto the end, the same shall be saved." (Matt. 24:13).

"I came defiled and guilty to Jesus the mighty to save,
He took my sins and sorrows, And beauty for ashes gave.

"I came to Jesus repenting, Confessing my every sin,
My heart's door swung wide open, And glorious peace flowed in.

"And since that joyful moment of glorious peace to me,
My soul has ceased its pining, My heart has been light and free.

"Roll on, ye changing seasons, Or turbulent seas of sin;
I've found a blessed shelter, And glorious peace within.

"Peace, peace, glorious peace, Like tranquil waters flow,
Streaming down over my heart, Made white as the driven snow."

—"Glorious Peace," *Evening Light Songs*

—Clarence Campbell

An old Indian chief constantly spoke of the Lord Jesus and what He meant to him. "Why do you talk so much about Jesus?" asked a friend. The old chief did not reply, but slowly, deliberately gathered some sticks and bits of grass. He made a circle of them. In the circle he placed a caterpillar. Still silent, he struck a match and lit the sticks and grass. They watched the caterpillar. As the fire caught around the circle, the trapped caterpillar began to crawl around rapidly, seeking a way of escape.

As the fire advanced, the helpless caterpillar raised its head as high as it could. If the creature could have spoken, it would have said, "My help can come only from above."

Then the old chief stooped down. He extended his finger to the caterpillar which crawled up his finger to safety. "That," said the chief glowing, "was what the Lord Jesus did for me! I was lost in sin. My condition was hopeless. I was trapped. Then the Lord Jesus stooped down in love and mercy and He drew me out of the horrible pit of sin and shame. How can I help but love Him and talk of His wondrous love and care?"

—Author Unknown

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).

(Second class postage paid at Guthrie, OK.)

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.

Dated copy for publication must be received by the 18th of the month prior to the month of issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year.....\$1.00
 Package of 4 papers to one address, one year.....\$3.00
 Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

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

P. O. Box 518, 920 W. Mansur, Guthrie, OK 73044
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EDITORIALS

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23). These are Words of invitation by Christ into a richly rewarding daily walk with Him. This verse also instructs us that we will not receive the blessings of being close to Christ without making a sacrifice. Yet there are few things connected to religion that are so misconstrued as the taking up of our Christian cross. It is possible to impose self-denial in a superficial outward way while the inner man continues uninhibited. There are some who do not eat meat on Friday, some who go 40 days depriving themselves of certain social gratifications, and by this feel they have denied themselves in a commendable way.

One thought provoking Aesop fable relates the story of a groom who would steal the grain intended for the horse and, without his master's knowledge, sell it in the village. But much of the time he kept busy grooming and currying the horse within an inch of its life. "If you really are so anxious that I look well," said the horse one day to the groom, "then give me less of your brushings and more of your corn."

True self-denial, like all other traits of Christlikeness, is unconscious of itself. As the inner man digests the precepts of God, the actions of the outer man will shine in Christlikeness. The outer grooming will not be considered a part of self-denial, but as an unconscious and natural extension of Christian character.

The Pharisees practised self-denial and Christ upbraided them for letting their face portray the extent of their sacrifice in order to get the gratification and praise of others. This is a symptom of ill-conceived self-denial. If the intent of the heart were honestly searched, many would find that what they give up is done for the commendation of others and many times they are lacking in the weightier matters. (Matt. 23:23).

Taking up our cross means humbling our hearts and minds before God, living to advance God's work instead of personal interests, and doing so only for the reward of feeling the grace of God in our souls. Always remember, God is not glad when we suffer, but He is gratified when we become more like Him.

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By God's blessing the work here at the Print Shop is going well. Orders for literature are steadily coming in and we are filling them to the best of our resources. Many requests are received from foreign lands and although we cannot fulfill all of their expectations, we try to help each one to some extent.

Last spring we reprinted 3800 copies of the *Evening Light* hymnal and shipped 2000 of them to a bindery to be covered. These books are almost gone, so the first part of May we plan to take the other 1800 to the bindery. This will be quite an expense, but we feel it necessary to have an ample supply in stock for this summer.

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In the first week of April, two of the Print Shop workers, Bro. Bob Saltee and Bro. Bob Wilson, went to Monark Springs to complete the woodwork in the new bookstore. This finishing work is something we desired to have accomplished before the national camp meeting this summer.

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The new computer system we ordered was delivered April 16. We plan to use the computers in setting type for the June *Faith and Victory*. When the new system is completely set up for our particular needs, it will be much more efficient than our present capabilities.

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We recently received a letter from Bro. Mart Samons which reads in part, "We are yet in the fiery furnace. We don't know what the future holds for us, but we are trusting and waiting upon the Lord to come and deliver us. Keep praying for us."

There has been interest expressed in having a day of fasting and prayer for both Bro. and Sis. Samons. If you would be able to set aside May 16 for this purpose, it would be appreciated.

We would encourage you to keep in mind that many of the requests in the "Prayer Requests" column are also of an urgent nature. Those who write and call in would appreciate you sharing their burden in prayer.

—Wayne Murphey

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Partial List of Items Available

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. An instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in the grace of sanctification. 128 pages in paper cover. Price, \$1.50 per copy.

Beyond the Tomb by H. M. Riggle. This excellent book of 288 pages deals with man, his present and future, in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

Christian Baptism, Feet Washing, and the Lord's Supper by H. M. Riggle. This excellent doctrinal book on the three ordinances of the New Testament contains 264 pages in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.00 each.

The Christian Church: Its Rise and Progress by H. M. Riggle. Bound in a cloth cover, 488 pages. Price, \$6.00.

Evening Light Songs, shaped notes, with 536 pages in a cloth binding. The right hymnal for the Church of God. Price, \$6.50 each. A 10% discount is granted on orders of 12 copies or more placed at one time.

Birth of a Reformation—Life and Labors of D. S. Warner by A. L. Byers. A reprint with additional pictures of pioneer ministers. Cloth bound, 496 pages. Price, \$6.00 each.

Egermeier's Favorite Bible Stories. Thirty favorite stories with pictures for small children. Cloth bound, 128 pages. Size: 6 1/4 x 9 1/2. Price, \$8.95.

What the Bible Teaches by F. G. Smith. A reprint of the original 1914 edition, containing 576 pages in cloth binding. This is a book that should be in every home. Price, \$6.00 each.

Holy Spirit Baptism and the Second Cleansing by R. R. Byrum. Consists of 108 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

A Religious Controversy by C. E. Orr. An 80 page, paper bound book presenting truths in an interesting manner. Price, \$1.00 each.

Guided by the Unseen Hand by Murphy Allen. An 84 page book bound in a heavy paper cover relating many experiences and inspiring answers to prayer centering around the 44 years of Bro. Allen's ministry. Price, \$1.00.

The Redemption of Howard Gray by Charles Naylor. True experience of a young man seeking and finding the truth of God's Word. Paper bound. 72 pages. Price, \$1.00

Food for Lambs by C. E. Orr. The English version contains 168 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00. Also available in the German language and contains 127 pages. Price, \$2.00.

Harry the Newsboy and Other Stories by Isabel Byrum. 32 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, 50¢.

Tim and His Lamp re-written by Fern Stubblefield. This excellent booklet of 52 pages for children and young people is bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, 75¢.

Heart Talks by C. W. Naylor. Consists of 59 chapters with a different subject treated in each chapter. It contains 280 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00.

St. Paul and His Gospel by G. P. Tasker who was an early-day minister and missionary of the Church of God Reformation. This inspiring book contains 88 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

The Double Cure, or Redemption Twofold by D.O. Teasley. This book should enlighten the reader on the two works of grace, and correct the thinking of those who deny the cleansing element in sanctification. 160 pages of large print in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.00.

How John Became A Man by Isabel Byrum. Life story of a motherless boy, especially good for children and young people. Paper bound, 64 pages. Price, 75¢.

The Cleansing of the Sanctuary by D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle. Reprinted verbatim in 541 pages, cloth binding. Price, \$6.00 each.

Rays of Hope by D. O. Teasley. Encouragement to those accused by the devil. 95 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00.

The Battle of Armageddon by O. B. Wilson. A clear exposition of this much misunderstood subject. Price, 50¢.

Life's Golden Gleanings by Ruby E. Stover. She records many experiences of her childhood, and how God answered prayer in marvelous ways in her family and through the years in the gospel work. 94 pages in a nice paper cover. Price, \$1.50 each.

Must We Sin? by D. S. Warner. This 24 page booklet records the supposed conversation between Bro. Light and Bro. Foggy on the sin question. Price, 50¢.

Bible Readings for Bible Students and for the Home and Fireside compiled by S. L. Speck and H. M. Riggle. Originally published in 1902, this excellent volume contains 432 pages of Scripture references and comments on many Bible subjects. Nice cloth cover. Price, \$6.00 each.

Personal Experiences of S. O. Susag was written by himself, a Norwegian who had many marvelous experiences and answers to prayer as an early-day minister in the Church of God. 192 pages are bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

Emma Bailey Seeks Truth by Mabel Hale. True experiences in "Pentecostalism". Paper bound, 24 pages. Price, 50¢.

The Hero of Hill House by Mabel Hale. A very interesting and inspiring true story, this book contains 224 pages in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00 each.

Winning a Crown by C. W. Naylor. This book tells how to accept the plan of salvation and then goes into detail on how to keep the victory in everyday Christian living. It contains 368 pages in an extra-heavy cover. Price, \$4.00 each.

Bible Humility by J. W. Byers. An excellent treatise of this subject in 32 pages with a heavy paper cover. The price is 50¢ each.

God's Gracious Dealings by Fred and L. D. Pruitt. This enlarged Seventh Edition is a history of this gospel publishing ministry in the Church of God for the past sixty years, as well as a record of the work of the Church at large. Contains 496 pages, including more than 100 pictures in a nice cloth cover. Price, \$5.50 each.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved was written by Bertha Mackey. This 16 page pamphlet is an inspiring, true story. Price, 25¢.

Remember Now Thy Creator, 16 page booklet of a sermon by Ostis B. Wilson, directed especially to young people. Price, 25¢ each.

Lest We Forget by Sister Margaret Eck. 72 pages of many encouraging experiences with the Lord bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.00 each.

Paula, the Waldensian by Eva Lecomte. A 175 page book relating the touching story of a young girl who went to live with her uncle who was opposed to even the mention of God. Bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$2.50 each.

Little People Sing Unto The Lord. A songbook composed of 115 songs compiled by Patricia Bell. Although the songs are especially for children, they are favorites that any age would enjoy. Bound in a heavy paper cover, the price is \$2.00 each.

Write for a complete list of other excellent books in stock at this office and ready for prompt delivery.

For postage and handling, add 90¢ for the first dollar and 9¢ for each additional dollar of total order.

Mail Orders to—

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
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Prayer Requests

TN—"Jackie Shelton has been diagnosed as having lung cancer and is very sick. She needs to be saved and healed." —Mildred Vaught

MS—Sis Ethel Lowery has had a stroke and requests the prayers of the saints.

NM—"Will you dear ones pray for Jack Wilson? He has cancer and needs a touch from the Lord." —Chesna Walton

OK—Sister Lorene Payne still desires prayer for her body. She also has some very urgent unspoken requests.

Nigeria—"I need your prayers for my health. I am greatly afflicted." —Sis. Busede Adudu

VA—"Please pray for me as I am hard of hearing. I love to hear the Word." —Mary Close

OH—Sis. Ruth Garrett desires prayer for her husband who has been a stroke victim, as well as for herself that she will know how to take care of him.

WV—"I just found out that my brother has glaucoma. He is not saved. Please help me pray for him." —Edna Cashdollar

CA—"Please put me on your prayer list; I am a very sick woman." —Wyona Drummer

MO—"I am ill and I need your prayers." —Lois Metzger

OK—Continue to pray for Sis. Nellie Ott.

OK—Sis. Lucille Peterson has a life threatening affliction.

OH—"Ada Edwards has cancer and suffers much." —Juanita Blankenship

OLD FAITH AND VICTORY PAPERS WANTED

I am searching for any old *Faith and Victory* papers between 1925 and 1960. I am particularly interested in yearbooks between 1950 and 1960.

Please send to: Bro. E. Ivy, 2100 27th St. #1, Sacramento, CA 95818.

Everyone has an influence and everyone can be influenced either for good or bad. What kind of influence are you extending as you walk the paths of life? Does your influence count for God and good, or for the devil and evil?

—Ulysses Phillips

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****Tulsa, OK — June 8-17****Jefferson, OR — June 8-17****Green Bank, WV — June 15-24****Oakland, CA — June 18-24****General Southern at Loranger, LA —****June 29-July 8****Fresno, CA — July 6-15****National at Neosho (Monark Springs), MO****July 20-29****Bakersfield, CA — August 3-12****Duncannon, PA — August 4-12****Durham, NC — August 12-19****Ensenada, Mexico — August 13-19****Boley, OK — August 19-26****California State at Pacoima, CA —****August 24-September 2**

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56TH OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the Oklahoma State Camp Meeting, held at the Church of God chapel, Sixth and West Warner Streets, Guthrie, OK, will convene May 25, and continue through June 3, 1990.

A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this meeting, and to enjoy the fellowship of God's people as they worship together in spirit and truth. With the dining hall and dormitories located on the campgrounds, provisions will be made for all who come. Expenses will be met by freewill offerings.

We are praying for God to send true Spirit-filled ministers of His choosing to minister the Word of God under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We are living in the last days and need you to come praying with a burden for God to save souls, sanctify believers and heal the sick.

Any contributions for the meeting may be sent directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, Rt. 6, Box 797, Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information, contact Bro. Carl Shaffer. Please make note of his new address and phone number which is as follows: 5322 S. Sooner Road, Guthrie, OK 73044. Phone (405) 282-1954. The chapel phone is (405) 282-5499.

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JEFFERSON, OR CAMP MEETING

The date of the Jefferson, OR Camp Meeting is June 8-17. All persons in the northwest region who are interested in the truth are urged to attend this meeting. Accommodations will be

arranged for you. It will help if you notify us in advance. Meals will be served in the dining hall on the grounds. The entire meeting expense, including meals, is financed by freewill offerings, as always.

If you drive, go to the "Texaco (Pride of Oregon)" service station in Jefferson. Go east from there on Marion Road approximately one mile to Skelton Road. Go north from there one-half mile, and you will see the chapel on the right.

The phone number at the chapel is (503) 327-9916, or you may call Bro. Clifford Wilson at (503) 362-4384, or write Bro. Wilson, 2514 Ridgeway Dr., S. E., Turner, OR 97392 for more particulars.

If you come by bus or train, come to either Albany or Salem, and you will be met. If you fly, come to either Portland or Eugene and you will be met. You should phone beforehand so that someone can be there to get you.

We will be looking forward to seeing you in Jefferson, OR, June 9-18.

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CAMP MEETING NOTICE, TULSA, OK

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker." Ps. 95:6.

"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." Ps. 34:3.

Our camp meeting, Lord willing, will be June 8-17. Let us come with minds clear and our hearts open to hear God out of His Word. We are praying that God will heavily anoint the meeting.

There will be morning services at 11:00 a.m. and evening services at 7:30 p.m.

On Sunday, June 10, there will be three services, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The last Sunday will close with the afternoon service. Please pray with us that God will get glory out of the meeting and souls will be helped.

For more information contact Sis. Eva Hardman, 2232 Norfolk, Tulsa, OK 74106. Phone (918) 583-2929. The chapel phone is (918) 584-8438.

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GREEN BANK, WV CAMP MEETING

Lord willing, the Greenbank, WV Camp Meeting will be June 15-24. The first service will be on Friday night. There will be two services daily; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Special services will be at other times.

Meals will be served and all who come will be cared for. Bring a coat as the nights are cool. Green Bank is located 57 miles north of White Sulphur Springs, WV and 50 miles south of Elkins, WV on Route 92. Interstate 64 is open to White Sulphur.

The Lord has blessed here with some wonderful meetings in the past. We are expecting more this year. Everyone is welcome. We urge you to come and be with us.

For more information write or call Bro. and Sis. Mart Samons, P. O. Box 127, Green Bank, WV 24944. Phone (304) 456-4469. The chapel phone is (304) 456-4069.

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FORT SMITH, AR TENT MEETING

All the saints are welcome to a tent meeting in the Fort Smith, AR area scheduled for June 27-July 1, 1990. Bro. Curtis Williams plans to be with us in this meeting. Bros. T. V. McMillian and Bob Huskey have also expressed a burden to support the meeting.

We plan to borrow tents from the Monark Campground to make sure everyone has a place to stay. To reserve a tent or to receive directions, please call Bro. Doug Wall, (501) 452-1355. Tent reservations should be made by June 15.

We feel a burden for the people in this area and will deeply appreciate your prayers for the success of this meeting. —Bro. Doug Wall

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AKRON, OH REVIVAL

The Akron, OH congregation, Lord willing, will have a revival June 27-July 1. For more information contact Bro. Keith Fuller, 244 Storer Ave., Akron, OH 44302. Phone (216) 864-1128.

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LORANGER, LA CAMP MEETING

Once again an invitation is extended to all to come to a meeting here of the saints. We trust you will have opportunity to attend.

We are in the time of "the longsuffering of our Lord" of which II Peter 3:15 speaks. Now is God's time to extend full salvation to all.

The meeting is planned to begin on Friday night, June 29, continuing daily through Sunday, July 8.

There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Highway 40. For those traveling I-55 the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 which runs into Hwy. 40). The chapel phone is (504) 878-2788. Bro. Ed Wilson's phone is (504) 878-4559. For more information write Nelson Doolittle, Rt. 1, Box 192, Loranger, LA 70446.

If we will purpose it so, we can take to heart the meetings this summer. This will not be just another camp meeting season! For too many it

will be their last chance. For many others it may be their one chance to hear the truth.

May everyone that "nameth the name of the Lord," begin by first giving themselves to Him. We can travail and have a vision if we will it so. Our importuning may make the difference for an additional soul. Let us this year lay up treasures in heaven. Let us help each one we can, and help one another to make it in. We can pray for those who go forth the gospel to tell.

The need urges that we must seek first the benefit of the Lord's Kingdom in 1990. Supplication with a burden can redeem the time for souls.

—Bro. Nelson Doolittle

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FRESNO, CA MEETING DATE CHANGED

The Fresno, CA congregation May meeting date has been changed to the fall. The new meeting date is Oct. 26-Nov. 4. The camp meeting date remains the same, July 6-15. For further information call the pastor, Bro. Charles E. Taylor (209) 348-1016, or Bro. Charles R. Parrish (209) 485-3465.

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DAYTON, OH MEETING CHANGED

We plan to have all-day services the second Sunday of every other month beginning in June. For more information contact Bro. Donald Sharp, 822 Weinland, Ave., New Carlisle, OH 45344, phone (513) 849-0239, or Bro. John Gutwein, 4008 Gardenview, Dr., Dayton, OH 45431, phone (513) 426-8159.

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From The Mailbox . . .

OK—Dear ones at the Print Shop: I enjoy the *Faith and Victory* so much, but was sorry to read of the one that has leg trouble. I can relate to that. My eyes are not good either. I am trusting the Lord to undertake for them. I know He is more than able.

Please pray for me. I need Him more than ever. I want to stay faithful as I am sure every child of God does.

May God richly bless everyone everywhere is my prayer. —Minnie (Pernicka) Crabtree

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Can.—Dear Bro. Wayne and others: We appreciate the work that you are doing. We thank God for the literature that is supplied by the Faith Publishing House. Other than the Holy Bible, the literature is our only teacher and guide into the true doctrines of God's Church. We know of only one couple in this area that have the same belief as ourselves. We ask that

you pray for us that we may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

With love, —Isaac and Kathy Driedger

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

GA—Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour: I am still thanking and praising the Lord for saving and keeping power. I mean to stay with the Lord as long as He lendeth me breath. I have found in Him all I need.

I am declining with years and not able to do as much as I used to, but thank the Lord, though my eyes are failing, I am still able to read God's Word and the *Faith and Victory* paper. I enjoy it so much.

Still remember us in your prayers because we are isolated from the rest of the saints.

I am still praying for you at the Print Shop and the saints all over.

In Christian love, —Sis. Mary Johnson

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OR—Dear co-worker: I am sending a money order for the *Faith and Victory* paper for three years. I enjoy the paper very much. It has helped my life, also friends of mine. Thanks so much.

Yours in Christ, —Anita Comfort

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and co-workers: Once again this side of eternity we send warm greetings of love in Jesus' name to every one of you. At this blessed Easter season we are so very thankful that our dear Saviour arose from the grave and is alive forevermore. Praise God! We are happy in our soul today and encouraged in the Lord.

We are so thankful for the *Faith and Victory*, and look forward to its arrival each month. We don't get to be in meeting much but have Sunday school in our home. . . .

Please remember Bro. Goldsberry and me in prayer. Neither of us are well in body. We desire to press on for the Lord and to meet Him in peace.

In Christian love, —Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

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IL—Dear saints: Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We always enjoy reading the *Faith and Victory*. We are praying for the work there.

Pray for my husband and me that the Lord will continue to bless us in soul and body.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Lillian Beed

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CA—Dear Brother Wayne: We trust heaven's richest blessings are over and about you and yours this evening and the great work there in

the Print Shop, along with all the dear workers.

I miss writing to Sister Marie and now Sister Maybelle. God surely knows what He is doing and His plan is right, but I am sure Sister Maybelle is keenly missed there every day.

Last weekend husband and I went down below Mexicali to visit and be among the people. We told them of the services we are hoping to have down there the 7th of April when Bro. Escobar and family plan to be with us also. One lady especially seemed so happy and pleased with the thought of services. We hadn't seen her for over a year. I felt like the Lord blessed us on this trip. We trust that God can get glory through these visitations and services there.

We don't go to Mexico every weekend, but we prayerfully seek the Lord for guidance, and endeavor to be faithful to His bidding as to when and where. . . .

Your sister in Christ, —Edith Cole Lara

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

LA—Dear ones: I hope all are well and still encouraged. We are still encouraged to live for the Lord. He has surely been so good and faithful to us. We want to stay with the truth and hold on to the faith that was once delivered to the saints. We are so thankful for the saints. We pray for the work there. . . .

Christian love,

—Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lois Abbott

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NC—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey and the fine folks there at the Print Shop: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus. I received my *Faith and Victory*, and was deeply grieved at learning of the passing of Sister Maybelle. I never met her face to face, but her patience and concern for my small orders, and other communication I had with her, brought about a great sisterly love for her.

God has done great things for me. I was in a rest home and afflicted, but He raised me up and brought me home. I am getting along alright. . . .

I just pray God's richest blessings on you and everyone there at the Print Shop.

—Leila Lewis

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KS—Dear saints: It is with love for the truth and righteousness that we greet you today. We are so thankful for what God has done and is still doing for those who love Him.

We read in the Word about Bro. Paul saying, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." I Cor. 2:2. There are great depths to that Scripture. We desire to see the self-life dead

through the precious blood of Jesus.

We are happy about Bro. Vada McMillian feeling a burden for the tent work. Let us hold him up in prayer and pray much for the efforts put forth. There is a lot said about physical exercise, which is good for the body, but let us all exercise more spiritually in having a burden for lost souls, lest we become spiritual weaklings. I am sure there are those who the Lord could use to help. There is time and labor involved. It will be worth it all to see souls brought to Christ.

Pray for us as we endeavor to keep in the order of God.

Yours for lost souls,

—Bro. Ralph and Sis. Inez Beisly

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OR—Greetings of Christian love to the saints scattered abroad: I wish to send in what the Lord has impressed on me. Sunday I went to a nursing home near our area to see what I could do to help those poor suffering souls. I was shocked when I heard the loud wailings of some of the patients. Some sat out in the hallway in wheelchairs. Some were mentally ill and reached out their hands crying, "Help me, help me." I sadly took their hands and replied, "I wish I could." Some were cursing and taking the Lord's name in vain. For a moment it seemed as if the door of hell was opened for some were wailing, "Let me out of here." I prayed for some and sang a few songs to those who would accept it. I gave some tracts to a few who could read. Some were unable to speak and almost without understanding, but when I would sing the song "Jesus Loves Me," a smile would come over their faces.

Here in Jefferson we are hoping and praying that some ministers from back East will feel impressed to come to our camp meeting in June. We send the Macedonian call, "Come and help us."

—Sister Grace Jones

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Nigeria—Beloved in the Lord: "May God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace." (Philem. 3). Thanks and adoration be unto the almighty God for the sweet fellowship and blessed assurance He gives.

It is my great pleasure to have this privilege for the first time to enquire about the welfare and progress of the Faith Publishing House. He who called us is undoubtedly keeping you, and surely you will succeed. I commend your great efforts with regards to the world outreach for lost souls and also the edification of believers through your publication since the inception of the ministry. I thank the Lord for your generosity.

By God's special grace, I would like to be part of the ministry and be acknowledged as a foreign associate. If my contemporaries of the world would apply and gain distributorship of tobacco, liquor and perhaps hard drugs, I see no reason why I should not make myself available for God's work. Having been committed to some of the evangelization activities of the local church, such as follow-up, counselling and hospital visitation, it has become necessary for me to seek for your assistance as the Lord will enable you to provide.

This request is made for 500 to 1000 pieces of assorted gospel tracts. Backing it with prayer it would enable us to boost the effectiveness and extension of the activities which are not for a season, but rather continually. Furthermore, we have aimed to intensify the evangelistic programs within our locality and even beyond. Here in Nigeria we have targeted for 5,000,000 souls to be saved within ten years. I do not want to relent my efforts in any role I am filling. More so, I wish to be an extension of your ministry here in Nigeria.

I thank you very much for your favor, for I strongly believe that this my request will be granted. May the Lord continually bless you and all abundantly in His love and grace.

—Thomas K. Boateng

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

CA—Dear saints: I thank the Lord for saving and keeping me saved for the last nine years. My heart goes out to new converts as I recall how the Lord helped me keep saved through my early days. It seems as if many young people take that difficult first step, to ask the Lord to forgive them and save them, but they fall by the wayside and eventually lose out. What must we do to encourage them and help them get strength to stand on their own?

Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Lovest thou me more than these?" When Peter answered, "Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee," Jesus said unto him, "Feed my lambs." (John 21:15). Who are the lambs? Aren't they the new babes in Christ, the newly saved? Jesus made a distinction between lambs and sheep, because in the next verse He told Peter to feed His sheep.

How do we feed the Lord's lambs? It is true that they get fed by the minister when they come to church on Sundays, but too often they do not make it through the week to get back to church. How often do these lambs need to eat? In the biological world, a baby needs to eat frequently (every two hours for a newborn) and certainly more often than an adult eats. New spiritual lambs need to be fed more than once a week too.

Just because the newly saved have taken a stand to repent and serve God does not mean that Satan will leave them alone. They still must function in the world. Whether most of their time is spent at school, work, or home, the world does not exert a godly influence on them. Will they survive long enough to get back to church to be fed?

How can we obey Christ's command to feed His lambs? First we must do all things prayerfully. That is, we should prayerfully ask the Lord what He would have us to do. Thus, He may give you a different command from the following suggestions, or He may have you do nothing for the time being.

We need to stay in touch with the new spiritual lambs. Do not let them go away from the altar of prayer to struggle through the week alone and possibly falter. The Lord may impress you to telephone, write or visit them. Certainly pray for them and keep them on your prayer list.

When I first got saved I received an almost daily call from one of the saints who encouraged me to press on. That call was especially helpful when I had reached a slump and was bored with going to church. I complained about what seemed like a routine in our tiny (at that time) congregation. The caller let me know that I was not supposed to expect to come to church to be entertained or warmed by other saint's (spiritual) fires, but I should come with my own fire too. I tearfully sought the Lord to help me with my attitude and my own spiritual condition after that conversation.

Saints, it is not enough to leave the feeding of the lambs to the minister on Sunday. And many lambs do not feel impressed to make it to prayer meeting or Bible study during the week. Brothers need to stay in touch with new brothers, and sisters in touch with new sisters. The Lord may impress you to encourage them to get to church at every opportunity (every time the doors open) or to invite them to spend time with you.

While the Church of God does not have a set program to feed new converts, we must remember why we do not have one. It is because we look to the Holy Spirit for our guidance. Therefore, we must remember to prayerfully seek the Lord for guidance on how to feed our lambs to keep them encouraged and to get established.

Yours in Christ,

—Norma Francisco

"Sin is stronger than the strongest sinner; this is why the sinner by his own efforts, can not stop sinning. But salvation gives you power over both sin and the devil." —Selected

Testimonies And Answers To Prayer

OK—To all the dear saints: Well, hello! We trust the Lord is blessing you each one and hope you are keeping encouraged to live for Him! Truly we have so much to live for and so little to go back to.

We are grateful for all the Lord has done for us. Sometimes it is easy to just take the little everyday mercies for granted, but I trust we will be more careful and more thankful.

First off, I want to tell what healing power our Lord has! For over four years I had been having a problem in my lower back and hip area. There was a time at the beginning that I could only walk with the help of crutches, and even then it was excruciating pain. The Lord would come to my rescue and touch me, then it would return sometime later.

Well, it has been exactly four months since my last battle with this. The Lord impressed upon me to put in for my healing. I obeyed and what wonderful blessings!

The following Monday and Tuesday, after I was anointed on Sunday, were very dark. I was in bed both days. But you know, the Lord was there beside me! So many wonderful Scriptures would come to me: "When thou passest through the waters, they shall not overflow thee." (Isa. 43:2); "O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee?" (Dan. 6:20); "This thing is from me." (1 Kings 12:24).

On Wednesday morning I was hesitant to move to get out of bed, but I did and there was no pain! God has strengthened me and I have done so much more than I used to be able to do! For instance, I can carry the buckets of milk to the calves without it hurting. I can clean out my flower gardens without pain. I can even take care of the little girl I babysit without any problems. Truly it's the Lord!

We are very encouraged to serve Him all our days and we trust this will be an encouragement to you. We love you and want to see you pressing on.

Love and prayers,—Orin and Retha Cole

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OH—Dear ones at the Print Shop: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. It is with a grateful heart we write these few lines this evening. We don't know who called you for prayer for Jeff on Wednesday evening, April 4, but we surely appreciate the prayers of the saints. Things were looking pretty dark for a little while, but the Lord so wonderfully came to his rescue. We want to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers in his behalf. The saints are so dear to us. Some have called us

since then, asking how he is doing. He is doing pretty good. We are still looking to the Lord for complete healing in his behalf. We would be so grateful for this and Jeff would too.

We also thank the Lord for the wonderful all-day meeting He gave us, and for the coming of Bro. Vada McMillian and the few night's meeting he had for us. It was so refreshing.

Christian love and prayers,

—Bro. John and Sis. Della Gutwein

o—o—o—o—o—o—o—o

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: It is so good to greet one another in the Lord, realizing we are His and He is ours. Praise the Lord!

Jesus surely proved His love and concern for me a few days ago when I was suffering with the flu. He was moved with compassion and touched my body and healed me. I surely thank the Lord and appreciate the prayers of the saints.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Sis. Katherine Williams

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OK—Dear saints: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus. We are saved and encouraged in the Lord. I wish to thank every one of you for your prayers for me. As some of you know, I had a severe heart attack in 1988. I was gone from all evidence, but God in His mercy raised me up. I shall never forget the place I entered into and the beautiful golden light. I seemed to have been a part of the light.

Pray that I will be as faithful Abraham when God calls on me for service in His work.

—Sis. Mary Ellen Warren

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OK—To those concerned: I have been sick, but the Lord has healed me. I am happy but weak. Please put this testimony in the *Faith and Victory* paper. I am 75 years old and this is the first time I have sent in my testimony.

—Glenn Brewer

FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From India . . .

March 20—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greetings to you and the dear saints abroad. Our convention in Andhra State starts tomorrow, and the Koottervila Convention starts next week. The convention at Nadukkunnu will be conducted by the first week of April. We expect the salvation of many souls through these conventions. A youth camp meeting will be held at Koottervila next week for the spiritual growth of young people.

We thank God because He sent us a rain here yesterday after four months. Please continue to pray for us and the Church of God in India.

Yours in Him,

—John Varghese

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From Nigeria . . .

March 20—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and saints of God: Greetings in the glorious name of the Lord Jesus, whose mediation at the right hand of God extends to us infinite mercy. Praise God.

I am glad to tell of a steady adhesion to the Lord's work here. Hands are on the plough courageously, pressing on with great determination. It has been proven true that a determinate purpose in life and a steady adhesion to it through all disadvantages are indispensable conditions of success. In Jehovah's might, victory is envisaged. Saints are faithfully occupying, being happily aware of the awaiting great diadem and are unmindful of passing through great tribulation for its acquirement. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." I Cor. 16:13. This is a Bible verse worthy of firm embracing by a clear thinker and a man of conviction.

We are daily on duty for search of means for the work, believing that no kernel of nourishing corn can ever come to anyone but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till. Saints everywhere are summoned to enlist to us their sympathy by praying for growth of the Lord's work in this great continent of Africa. The Lord is aware of all you wish us; we are thankful in all.

Yours in His army, —Titus U. E Enu

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From the Philippines . . .

March 26—Dear Brother Murphey: Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord Jesus. I hope this finds you all happy and healthy in the arms of our heavenly Father. It is so nice to think that we have brothers and sisters in the U.S.A. who care and think of us in the mission field.

We thank God for the radio broadcast we are doing. I am now receiving letters from our listeners asking religious questions and expressing thanks for their enlightenment about true salvation.

We are having seminars for young people to teach Vacation Bible School. The public schools have closed their classes and will open again in the month of June, so the children are free to study the Bible.

May God continue to bind us with love to

work for the gospel as the end is approaching very near.

With my love, —Matias S. Tanguan

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From Liberia . . .

April 10—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints everywhere: I bring you greetings from Liberia, West Africa, a country in West Africa that is badly in need of the true gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

There are many denominations here in this land that are misleading the people by their big temples, schools and provisions of food and clothing. Many sincere Liberians are found bound in these false teachings. Yes, in the midst of all of these, we are on fire here spreading the truth from house to house. Our "Every Home Crusade" is moving forward. People are getting saved, baptized and healed.

I baptized five precious saints recently as a result of this great home ministry. Also pray for a great crusade to be started here the last week in April. Though we do not have the means to prepare for this crusade, we are looking to the Lord to provide the means. (Ps. 121:1-2).

I trust all the camp meetings in the U.S.A. will gain good results. God bless you.

In His service, —Bro. Josiah K. Pah, Sr.

In Memoriam

Dan Waite passed away on March 27, 1990, in New Sarpy, LA. He was 17, a native of Hammond, LA and a resident of New Sarpy, LA. He attended school at Destrehan High School.

Dan is survived by his parents, Satoshi "Danny" and Carmelina Waite, New Sarpy, LA; one sister, Mia Waite of the home; maternal grandparents, Salvatore and Wanita DiDio, New Sarpy, LA; and paternal grandparent, Mrs. Satoka Jones, New Orleans, LA; as well as other relatives and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted on March 29 by Bros. Bob Forbes and Ed Wilson. Burial was in the Oak Grove Church of God Cemetery, Loranger, LA.

Dan attended services at the Oak Grove Church of God and loved to sing about Christ. He will be greatly missed.

"Our anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength."

—Selected

Question and Answer Column

by
Ostis B. Wilson

Question: Please discuss the "new birth" and what the term "water" refers to in John 3:5. Is this water baptism?

Answer: John 3:5 says ". . . Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

The whole topic of Christ's conversation with Nicodemus recorded in the first several verses of the third chapter of St. John's Gospel is the new birth, or being born again. His speech is concerning the heavenly birth. Now, if we can find out from the Word of God just how this experience is reached and the agents that are cooperative in its being reached, we will know what is meant by the water and Spirit, for they are the two agents spoken of by which we are born again. By referring to the marginal reading in John 3:3 and 7, we note that this second birth is "from above." In John 1:13 the writer speaks of those receiving Jesus as being "born of God." In John 3:6 Jesus draws the distinction between two kinds of births. One was of the flesh or a natural birth. The other was of the Spirit or a spiritual birth. Since the birth is "from above" then the agents that bring it about must necessarily be from above. Since the birth is of God the agents must necessarily be of God and emanate from God. Since the birth is spiritual the agents and elements involved in it must necessarily be spiritual. Hence, the term water in the text could not possibly refer to literal water for the elements and agents involved in the new birth must meet all three requirements. They must be from above, of God and spiritual. While it is true that literal water is given us by God for "He sendeth rain on the just and unjust" (Matt. 5:45), yet it could not be said to emanate from God for God is a Spirit and that which emanates from a spirit is not literal but spiritual. This, at least, answers one part of the question that water in the text under consideration could not refer to literal water and could have no reference to water baptism being a part of our spiritual birth. It has its place alright but not here.

Again, it is not the outer man, or the flesh, that is born again. This was the big question with Nicodemus, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" (John 3:4). Jesus' response to this question was, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." John 3:6. But it is the inner man or soul that is effected

by this birth. David said, "He restoreth my soul." (Ps. 23:3). It was the soul that was dead because of trespasses and sins. Ezekiel 18:4 and 20 says, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Therefore it was the soul that needed to be restored to life or born again. Now it must be evident unto all that "Spiritual things must be compared with spiritual and natural things with natural." (I Cor. 2:13-14). They do not intermingle and one does not effect the other. Literal things do not effect or react on the spiritual neither the spiritual on the literal. Therefore literal water could not react upon the spiritual part of man; hence could not be employed as an agent in the heavenly, spiritual birth of a person's soul.

When we look into the Word of God, which is the only place we can find the plan and operations of salvation and the new or heavenly birth clearly set forth, and begin to search for agents that will meet all three requirements for employment in this operation of being born again (from above, of God and spiritual) we find only two that qualify—the Word of God and the Spirit of God. But let us see if we are born of the Word. Let us look first at I Peter 1:23. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed [now it must be evident unto all that literal water is corruptible and we have seen some of it that was so corrupted that it could hardly be used for anything] but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which liveth and abideth for ever." James 1:18 says, "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth." I Corinthians 4:15 says "For in Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the gospel." We see clearly in these three texts that the Word of God is one of the agents in the spiritual begetting and new birth of the soul. To be born implies a coming into a state of life. But life naturally can be produced only where there is the seed of life. This is also true in a spiritual sense. Spiritual life can only be produced from a spiritual seed of life. In the text above from I Peter 1:23 we discover that the incorruptible seed is the Word of God and that it liveth. Jesus said in John 6:63, "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. Hence, the Word of God is the seed of spiritual life. A seed planted in the earth, under the proper conditions of moisture, heat, light, etc., will germinate and spring into life. So the spiritual seed, the Word of God, when planted in the heart and acted upon by the germinating power and influence of the Holy Spirit will spring up and produce life in the soul. In the eighth chapter of Luke, Jesus gave the parable of the sower who went forth to sow and mentioned a number of places and conditions into which the seed fell. Then in reiterating the parable to His disciples

He said in Luke 8:11, "The seed is the word of God." Then He continued in verse 15 by saying, "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit. . . ." Again Jesus says in John 5:25, "The hour is coming and now is, when the dead [spiritually dead] shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear [receive the Word of God, the seed of spiritual life] shall live." This is how a man is born again, by the operation of the Word and Spirit of God in his heart.

Now it is surely evident unto all that the term "born again" describes the same experience and operation that is described elsewhere in the Word of God by "salvation" and "being saved." But let us see how the Word is connected with salvation or being saved. I Corinthians 1:21 says, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." But preach what? "Preach the Word." (II Tim. 4:2). "Preach the gospel." (Mark 16:15). "Teach all things I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:20). "They went everywhere preaching the Word." (Acts 8:4). And God said He was pleased to save men by the preaching of His Word. "Receive with meekness the engrafted Word which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21). "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God unto salvation." (Rom. 1:16). "The Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation." (Eph. 1:13). It is an indisputable fact from this collection of Holy Scriptures that the Word of God is one of the agents employed in our being born again, obtaining salvation or being saved. Now just a text or two to prove by the Word of God itself that the Word is represented by water in some instances in the Bible and the proof will be as complete as the Word of God can make it that the term "water" in John 3:5 means the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:26 says, "That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." Here the sanctification of the Church is spoken of as being accomplished with washing of water by the Word. But Jesus says in John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." So we see here that the Word and water are used interchangeably and are put to the same use to accomplish the same result. Again, it speaks in this same place of being cleansed with the washing of water. But Jesus said in John 15:3, "Now ye are clean through the word," and Peter tells us in I Peter 1:22, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth." Jesus said "Thy Word is truth." There are perhaps other similar texts, but Jesus said every word was established by two or three witnesses so this is deemed sufficient at this

point.

Now if literal water could possibly fill the three requirements for this spiritual birth—that is, if it could be spiritual, of God or emanating from God and from above, then there might be some room for argument about this text, but it is impossible and therefore that consideration is out. However, the term “water” is not only used interchangeably with the Word in certain instances in the spiritual sense, but it is also used in certain instances as interchangeable with the Holy Spirit. But since the text is so worded “water” and (conjunction—implying another separate person or thing) “Spirit,” and the Spirit is introduced in the text under His own name and since the Word and Spirit are the only two agents which can meet the necessary requirements for employment in the operation of the spiritual birth, then the matter just narrows down to one unalterable conclusion—“water” in the text means the “Word of God.” The Holy Spirit works in connection with the Word in affecting the new birth by convincing people of its truth and of their need of its benefits, by inspiring faith in the heart causing it to act in harmony with the precepts and furnishing the germinating power and influence which causes it to spring up and produce life in the soul.

Mother's Day

May 13

It has often been said that “The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.” Now let us take a look at this thought found in Proverbs 31:10-12. “Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.”

I especially would like to call your attention to verse 30. “Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.” Here we have a perfect description of a good wife and wonderful mother, and surely God knows we need them in this present world!

Now God has ordained that one husband should have one wife, and that the two of them joined together in holy matrimony should then be one! (Matt. 19:5). Then the natural fruit of marriage is God-given, heaven-sent, pure and innocent children. With this comes responsibility, and especially is this true of mothers. They have a great task of teaching baby lips to pray, baby minds to memorize God's Word and

baby hearts to obey—continuing with line upon line and precept upon precept, instilling habits of noble living in junior boys and girls—followed up by ever keeping before our youths and maidens standards of truth, honor and virtue!

Who of us can properly estimate the value of a child? Our heritage of children with loving hearts and minds to develop, with possibilities beyond all measurement with souls destined to live throughout endless ages. Who is able to tell of values here?

Now in comparison with the millions in diamonds and pearls on the one hand and the child on the other, you would quickly choose the child, but do you sense the responsibility? Do you tremble over it? Do you realize the value of that soul? Is it possible, in our day, that our sense of responsibility of motherhood is being lost or exchanged for a few dollars earned on a job while our children are left without due care and teaching?

Now if our work was upon clay or marble, the vessel marred in the making could be discarded and another made. If a boy were just a capacity to be filled or machine to grind out dollars, our course of action would be clear. If a girl were just a beautiful figure upon which to display dainty garments, the path would be easy, but a life is for eternity.

The mother of Moses heard the words: “Take this child and nurse him for me and I will give thee thy wages.” She did a greater thing than train Moses for Pharaoh's daughter. She trained him for God.

The mother of John Newton, the hymn writer, prayed for him, and it must have been before he was seven years of age, for he lost her by death at that early period of life. But he himself tells that he never forgot those prayers. He grew up to be a wicked man; a blasphemer and a “man stealer”—a kidnapper of slaves from Africa. In a terrible storm at sea, when every man was required to work the ship, he was missed from deck. A sailor was sent below to find him, and he found him on his knees, and heard him say, “O thou God of my dead mother, have mercy on my soul!” And God did show mercy.

Says Mr. Spurgeon, “I cannot tell how much I owe to the solemn words and prayers of my good mother. It was the custom on Sunday evenings while we were children for her to stay at home with us. We sat around the table and read verse by verse, while she explained the Scripture to us. After that was done then came the time of pleading with God. And some of the words of our mother's prayers we shall never forget, even when our heads are gray. I remem-

ber her once praying thus: 'Now Lord, if my children go on in sin, it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear a swift witness against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold of Jesus Christ.'"

Before It Is Too Late

"If you've a gray-haired mother
In the old home far away,
Sit down and write the letter
You've put off day by day;
Don't wait until her tired steps
Reach heaven's pearly gate,
But show her that you think of her
Before it is too late.

"The tender words unspoken,
The letters never sent,
The long-forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent—
For those some hearts are breaking,
For those some loved ones wait;
So show them that you care for them
Before it is too late."

—Taken from *The Mission Trail Broadcast*,
1965, by Willie Murphey

Family Beatitudes

BLESSED is the family that
honoreth the Lord:
That loves to worship side by side
with hearts of one accord.
BLESSED are the parents who will
ever lead the Way,
And bring their children to His House
upon the Sabbath day.

BLESSED is the family that
taketh great delight,
In making of their home more than
a shelter for the night. . .

BLESSED is the family whose
circle is complete;
That find in one another
a companionship so sweet.

BLESSED is the family that
bears a common load;
Rejoice and prays together as
they travel on life's road.
BLESSED is the family where
peace and joy abound;
And where distrust and greediness
are never found.

BLESSED is the family that
maketh God their choice;
In whatever plans they draw will
listen for His voice;
So that finally, when they God's will
on earth have done;
They, with God and angels,
in Heaven will have a Home.

—Selected



Excerpts Taken From
May, 1965 Faith and Victory

"Mother's gone, but not forgotten,
From our family circle now.
Every tender word she's spoken
Lingers round us all somehow.

"Oh, those prayers she prayed to heaven
For us children, one and all,
Seem to float back to my memory
And her words we all recall.

"And, dear mother, may we follow
In the path that you have trod,
Till our family all is gathered
Round the golden throne of God."

—Hazel (Blackwell) Davis

"The Church, the spiritual body of
Christ, has never been involved and
concerned with politics as such, but where the
scriptural principles of truth and right are
concerned the Church must not and cannot
remain silent, passive, or 'neutral.' To do
so is to invite or give comfort to the
paganistic spirits which are eating at the
vitals of Christian civilization today."

—L. D. Pruitt

"Brother Pruitt, I have talked to Bro.
D. S. Warner time and time again. He was
a man of God. I will be 85 on May 14,
1965."

—N. H. Payne

"We are so thankful to the Lord for
sending Bro. and Sis. Eck and DeLoris
here [Grubbs, AR]. They have helped us
and been an encouragement and blessing
to us. I feel DeLoris has proved to be a real
blessing to the young people. We hate to
see them leave, but we are thankful the
Lord has burdened Sister Ruth Murphey to
come here."

—Opal Bradley