

FAITH AND VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



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70th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

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CHRIST IS BORN!

Wise Men

Still

Seek Him



Oh, where is He, the King of kings
 Who came in human form;
 Who's rich with healing in His wings
 Above life's tempest storm?

Where can we find His dwelling place
 That we His face might see,
 And bow before His throne of grace
 To have His help so free?

For we have seen His shining star
 In lives of lowly men,
 In hearts of people near and far
 Who're washed and free from sin.

We would see Jesus who He is,
 In prophecy foretold;
 The rapture of His holy bliss
 Our spirits long to hold.

Yes, we have come to worship Him,
 Our sins we leave behind;
 The worldly charms have waxen dim;
 The Lord is on our mind.

His precious Word and Law we love;
 We give to Him our all;
 We find Him, crown Him Lord above,
 And heed His ev'ry call.

The wisdom from above we seek,
 His understanding, too;
 We're poor and needy, helpless, weak;
 His pleasure we would do.

We want to worship and bow down,
 In love, true homage bring
 To Him and in our hearts to crown
 While we His praises sing.

He lives on high to intercede,
 To bless, to save, to heal,
 For His great help we humbly plead:
 He's real, He's real, He's real.

—Leslie C. Busbee

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Why is the birth of Jesus Christ most glorious and profound, notably revered and sublime? How could such immortal birth as His stand the test of time? Several hundred years before His birth, Isaiah, the prophet, made this remarkable prophetic announcement: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulders: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." As long as Christianity exists, the birth of Christ stands to be honored and will forever endure. He left His heavenly abode to live with, and to redeem the transgressions of this sinful world.

The Son of God incarnate was born to a virgin mother, for He was conceived by Mary through the Holy Ghost. However, to the perverted, unregenerate human mind and thinking, it is seemingly impossible to happen. But Jeremiah, the prophet, said of God: "I am the Lord of all flesh: is there anything hard for me?" He came to earth in the form of a human being, true God and man.

The Lord and Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, as revealed in the Scriptures, has neither a beginning nor an ending. The Holy Writ further says that he is the alpha and omega, the first and the last, the only beloved begotten Son of the Almighty God. This is marvelously the spiritual side of Christ's life. What about His corporeal side?

The Son of Man, as Jesus called Himself, while here on earth suffered the most excruciating, painful bleeding heart and intolerable, dismal agony of soul. He came to his own creation, but the people did not receive Him. His unspeakable bitter trials and temptations coming as they did from His arch enemy, Satan, were incredibly ignominious and inhuman. He was reviled and mocked, humiliated and blasphemed in the most unprintable curse of men. Yet He remained silent, meek and humble till death, amidst those ominous, contemptible, and unfounded virulent accusations. He was like a lamb brought to the slaughter, but He opened not His mouth. He was thrust into the dark abyss of human hate and malice by His disgraceful, wicked countrymen. However, from His wonderful love and abiding, bountiful mercy toward His enemies, even in His last fleeting breath at Calvary's cross, came these hearten-

ing, gracious, placable words of life: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." What impressive exceptional humility and immortal divine forgiveness coming as it were from the lips of the only loving, eternal Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with whom is our everlasting peace and salvation. Peter, the apostle, said of Him, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth."

—C. J. Alcantara



Teasing

(Excerpts taken from a message of
Bro. Ed Wilson, Loranger, LA. 4-21-91.)

Is there a place in the life of saints for humor? And if so, where and when is the point that it grieves the Lord? The Bible has some instructions on that subject and we want to talk about it, by the Lord's help. Paul said that our leaders are to be grave. A grave person is a serious person and solemn in what he's undertaking to do.

Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones." Another scripture in Proverbs 15:15b says ". . . he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast." Now, I take the position in my understanding of the Scriptures, that those about being grave and sober refer to our ability to make the sound decisions that govern our lives. There's no room in that for unsettled, deviant, unstable behavior. The scripture said "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7.) Having a sound mind will make one sober. We ought to think soberly about our soul, eternity, and spiritual things. If I go elsewhere when I could have gone to meeting, that would not be a grave decision. Solomon compared that kind of behavior to one who's asleep at the top of a mast called the "crow's nest." Let's say that the man is asleep when a storm comes up. He has no concern for his life, no regard that the deck's a hundred feet below and any little roll could send him over the edge. Now that could be compared to me disregarding the things having to do with my soul; that I'd allow any trivial little thing that the world has to offer to distract me from taking time to attend to the matters of my soul. When it comes evening time, if instead of

taking time to have a little worship, I allow the cares of life to distract me from doing that, that's not grave thinking. People can be merry, cheerful, enjoy life, have a smile, laugh a lot and yet make grave, sober and sound decisions in the way they handle themselves. And there are advantages in being able to smile, and to laugh. Nearly everybody would rather be around someone that's cheerful, than around someone who's gloomy all the time. If you have in mind, and I hope we all do, to help people, you'll find you do it better with a cheerful countenance than you do with a sad one. So, this scripture said a merry heart doeth good like a medicine.

Pneumonia is caused by a germ. You can take the pneumonia organism and culture it out on a little cup, put a little drop of penicillin on the edge of it, and watch it filter across and kill all those organisms. Well, penicillin is a medicine. This scripture says "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Have a heart that's full of good cheer, smiling, encouraged and lifted up. Don't be afraid to enter into places where there's trouble, with people cast down, gloomy and feeling bad. Take a merry heart with you, because it does good like a medicine. The world's in trouble, folks, and I'm trying to help them. I want to have something that will reach to where their needs are, by the Lord's help, in a way that's easy for them to accept; but "a broken spirit drieth the bones."

Ephesians 5:1,2 says, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour." I understand that. The next verse says, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints." The catalog of things listed here is pretty awful. It will behoove us to study this scripture well and understand what it means. Fornication,—leave that alone! Uncleanness is involved in thoughts, in conversation and in a spirit that people of the world get under. So often, it prompts them to take pleasure in carnal excesses, having to do with the things that surround the passions of fornication. Paul booked them all in the same category—fornication,

uncleanness and covetousness. "Let it not be once named among you as becometh saints." Not only don't you do these things, but if you know somebody that's doing them, draw a line on them. Don't fellowship that kind of spirit by accepting their testimony, allowing them to fulfill a role in your congregations as somebody that's accepted in confidence and respect. If these things are named among you, it will lower your testimony of being called saints.

The next verse says, "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient..." (Eph. 5:4.) This is an inner filthiness and uncleanness. Jest is translated from a Greek word, "eutrepelia", and that word means ribaldry or double entente. I'll give you an example of what a double entente is. Twenty-five years ago, if you said somebody was a gay

young man, you meant he was a happy young man. You could say that same thing today, but it carries a double meaning. It has a ribald meaning to it. That's what this scripture's referring to;

"To the pure, all things are pure, with no double meaning."

things that carry that connotation of uncleanness and impurity. The world delights in these kind of things. You'll see it driving down the highway on bumper stickers. There's a spirit that goes along with that. That's why this word, jesting, which actually means ribaldry or double entente, is included in a list that involves fornication, filthiness and uncleanness. That's why the Bible is condemning. And it condemns it in very strong language. The scripture goes on down to say, "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God." That's about as serious as a scripture can be. This is talking about people who are not saved. The Lord intended His people to be free from those kind of spirits. To the pure, He said, all things are pure. When you read the Bible, you'll read some pretty coarse language in there, in reference to some pretty coarse things, but they're only made impure when people are impure on the inside. To the pure, all things are pure, with no double meaning. The Bible spells out what they are, and they're clean and holy. The Lord is teaching us to conduct our conver-

(Continued on page 11.)

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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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.

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Editorials

This is the last issue of 1992, which forcibly punctuates the realization of an onward movement of time. During the year many have left this world for an eternal destination, and others have made an appearance upon the scene to make their mark in life. The overall scheme of time finds the earth in rapid movement, with the proliferation of sin bringing it on a close collision course; a grinding halt before the judgment seat of God. In considering these facts, it causes joy to spring up within our hearts that we have God as a stabilizing force in life, as well as concern for the circumstances that surround us.

If there was ever a time when the saints of God need a proper perspective, it is now. An awareness of the problems of our day is healthy, but fear, doubt and worry must give way to the joy of a personal Saviour.

When the message of the birth of Christ was heralded to the shepherds, the chorus the angels sang was, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14. I believe this chorus was presented with enthusiasm.

History records that when Richard the Lion-Hearted, one of the famous British kings of times past, lay in prison in a foreign land, his favorite minstrel traveled all over the country looking for his master. Everywhere he went he sang the king's favorite song, knowing that if the king heard it he would respond. At length the minstrel came to the castle where the king was imprisoned, and began to sing. The king heard the song, and took up the melody, and the minstrel knew that his master was there. The greatest song ever sung was done so by the angels on the first celebration of Christ's birth, and we should respond by taking up the refrain and making it alive in our generation.

It has been several weeks since we have heard from Bro. Josiah Pah, of Monrovia, Liberia. According to news reports, war has broken out afresh between factionist-leader Charles Taylor and the seven-nation West African Peace Keeping Force. According to reports, food is scarce in Monrovia and there has been no piped water since the middle to latter part of October. Thousands of people have been killed. Pray much for the protection and sustenance of the saints there.

We have in stock and ready for sale, colorful 1993 scriptural wall calendars, for the price of \$3.00 each. This includes handling and shipping. By ordering promptly, there will be plenty of time to receive them to give as Christmas gifts. If you prefer, send us the names and addresses of those you wish to receive a calendar, and we will mail them, stating who is having it sent.

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We thank all the saints and those who share a burden for the spread of the gospel, for your support throughout 1992. We are thankful for every piece of literature we have mailed out, and it was only done because you gave to the cause. Our 1991-1992 Corporate Return reflects that substantially over 50% of our operating expense came from donations. We are truly grateful for this past support, and are confident God will keep the presses rolling and the gospel going forth.

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Income tax time is right around the corner. Those who have made a contribution during 1992 to this work and would like a receipt for the sake of deductions, may notify us and we will be glad to send it.

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We are working toward getting this issue in the mail before Thanksgiving so that the workers can have several days off for the holiday. Beginning the first of December, we will be diligently working to have the first quarter of the "Beautiful Way" and "Bible Lessons" in the mail by December 15. The Oklahoma State Assembly Meeting begins here in Guthrie on Christmas Day, December 25. The saints would give a hearty welcome to anyone coming for this time of fellowship. No matter where you are, we trust God will give you a safe and blessed holiday.

—Wayne Murphey

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CORRECTION

The date of death for Sis. Etta Brant, stated in the Editorials of last month, should have read "October 26."

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God is grieved when the conflicts and disagreements that arise between people develop into breaks in fellowship, friendship and harmony. When we allow a difference between us and someone else to bring hard feelings, strife, or discord, we are being dominated by the flesh.

—Leslie Busbee

Prayer Requests

PA—"I have a daughter who has been very sick."
—Helen Ayers

CA—"My husband needs a job."

—Sis. Wilma Parish

MO—"I need your prayers for me and my family. Please request prayer for us."

—Sis. Hallie Pinkerton

IL—"I need special, urgent prayer, regarding my Social Security Income benefits."

—Johnnie Terrell

OR—"I have had serious health problems the past few months. Please pray for my bodily needs."

—Neula Davisson

OK—Bro. Lee McMillian still needs to be upheld by the prayers of the saints.

CA—"I have an unspoken request for my sons and myself."

—Sis. Helen Carson

IN—"I have an urgent request I wish you would pray with me about."

—Bro. Earl Bliss

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Sunset Guest Home Needs Worker

The Sunset Guest Home, a retirement home for the aged, operated by the Church of God, and located in Pacoima, CA, has an opening for a worker. Living quarters are provided with this position. If you are interested, call Sis. Barbara Severs, (818) 899-2022; or write, 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA 91331.

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Meeting Reports and Notices

OKLAHOMA STATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

The 86th annual Oklahoma State Assembly meeting of the Church of God will be held, Lord willing, at Guthrie, OK on December 25-January 3, 1993. A hearty welcome is extended to all to attend this annual gathering of God's people.

For more information, contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Elwell, phone, (405) 282-0743.

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COFFEEVILLE-WATERVALLEY, MS REVIVAL

The Lord willing, the Church of God at Coffeeville and Watervalley, MS, will be having a revival December 13-20. There will be services nightly at 7:30. All are welcome to attend.

For more information contact Bro. Leslie Brown, phone: (601) 675-8137, or Bro. Wesley Pomerlee: (601) 675-2529.

HOLLY HILL, SC MEETING REPORT

Thank God, we had a good meeting this past October. The Spirit was there and worked among the saints. People were very much blessed, and we had one candidate for baptism.

The Church here at Holly Hill does thank those who have sent offerings for the building project, which is almost completed. Remember all the saints here in prayer. —Bro. Utson Platt

*FROM THE READERS*

IN—Dear readers, workers, brothers and sisters in Christ worldwide: Greetings in Jesus! Our hearts are full of praise to the one who saves, sanctifies, heals and keeps. What a wonderful Savior! "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Ps. 23:4.

Our heavenly Father surely cares for His children. Could we share some of His precious dealings?

Lately a serious pain came into my knee and leg. I tried to work, however I was in serious trouble. Every step shot pain, and the knee would just give away. Having other physical problems, thoughts of perplexity and worry began. My wife and I struggled together for about two weeks. Satan would shout "you're done." Then he'd whisper, "You're on your last leg." It seemed like I was. My sweet wife would answer calmly, "You're going to be well again." During this time the congregation at Brown Rd. asked us to minister for a gospel meeting. We told them that we were their's and the Lord's. We didn't mention the knee, but since it was impossible to hide the limp, people would ask about it. The Lord blessed the effort. One elderly sister was sweetly saved, and others prayed.

We asked for grace and accepted the condition. I resigned to be afflicted, that His strength be made perfect through our weakness. (II Cor. 12:9-10.) We counted our blessings when we saw others, who had no arms or legs, and others who didn't have Christian companions. Yes, we were blessed. Then we noticed some improvement, small at first. (I Kings 18:44.) We kept thanking our Lord for every step because it is wonderful to be able to walk (many can't). After

two weeks of counting blessings, our Lord saw fit to restore the knee. "To God be the glory For all he hath done; For life and salvation, The gift of his Son."

We love all of you, and appreciated being with many of you this past year. We appreciated Bro. P. D. Mathunni and his ministry in our country.

Let us be about our Father's business, showing the true love of Christ to a lost world.

In Christ,

—Paul Sorrell

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne, workers of the Print Shop, saints, and all people: The Lord has blessed me in body and soul, praise His name. When I moved to the Sunset Guest Home, I was required to get a doctor's health report. It was excellent, considering my age. I will be 92 years old November 26, Thanksgiving Day. My work here is to conduct two services a day; 9:30 in the morning and 6:30 in the evening, including Bible lessons.

I have not been committed to a hospital in my whole 92 years, yet I have had serious illnesses such as tumor of the brain, fractured ribs and tumor of the body. By fasting and praying I was instantly healed. You will find this case written up in the *Faith and Victory* book published in Guthrie, Ok.

Now I have cataracts in both eyes. The Church is fasting and praying for me. I fasted three days recently. I can read large print very well now. I am writing this letter myself. The Lord touched my eyes.

I could write on and on of my blessings of healings and other things in my life. I have visited four major penitentiaries preaching and praying for the inmates for the salvation of their souls.

The Lord is still blessing me. Continue to pray for me, soul and body, that I'll work for my Lord until I leave this old world and go to my heavenly home.

—Sis. Hazel Clark

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AR—Dear saints: I am asking all of you to agree with me for the healing of my body; for a miracle to be done. I have a disease in my jaw-bone. I'm trusting the Lord to restore my jaw-bone to normal again.

I have prayed and the Lord has touched and healed my body so many times. I have written you for prayer for a lot of years and the Lord has heard and answered and healed me when I was near death. I ask you all to pray for my eyes and

for my nerves. There is nothing too hard for the Lord to heal and restore. —Sis. Esther Null

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MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the dear workers: I greet all of you in the holy name of Jesus. I am sorry I haven't gotten this offering sent sooner, but I am not feeling too well yet. I had a tooth pulled in October, and then I got a real bad cold. I am still trusting that the dear Lord will heal me soon. I don't feel like doing much. I sure need strength in my body....

I love you all and thank you much for your good prayers. —Sis. Olive Getterson

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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings this nice fall morning. We are still saved and encouraged in the Lord. At the present we are both doing very well in a physical way. We get much joy and encouragement from the songs and preached Word we hear on tape....

We do have much to pray for. Bro. Lynn Carver is still in much need of prayer, also Bro. Bob Forbes. Do remember these dear ones when you pray. We are very concerned about Bro. Lee McMillian also. May the Lord show His strength and power in behalf of these and others also.

We love the Lord and desire an interest in your prayers.

Christian love, —Max and Lula Williamson

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NC—Dear Brother Wayne Murphey, all the good people there and readers as well: I am still in a rest home, and will be until the Lord says it is enough.

Jesus' first preaching was, "Follow Me," and I believe that is the only way to get to heaven and stay out of that awful place called hell. This "new age," that has invaded Christendom and is deceiving masses, is very regrettable. But God nor His Word has changed, so why should we? We are living in critical times, so it is time for all who love the Lord to look up, for our redemption draweth nigh.

May the Lord bless every one of you.

—Leila Lewis

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OH—Dear Sirs: Please renew my subscription to the *Faith and Victory* paper. I enjoy your publication very much, especially the testimonies, the poetry, and some of the expository articles.

Please remember me in your prayers as I have been trying, with God's help, to climb up

out of a dark valley. Also, our congregation covets your prayers. These seem to be difficult and trying times.

Please continue on your course, for many in this day and age who sit in church pews have not been exposed to God's truths, and do not seem to be truly interested in separating themselves and submitting to God's superintendence.

May God bless all of you and guide your steps. In Christ, —Gary Alton

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LA—Dear Brother: Please send me a box of gospel tracts. I want to pass them out on the streets and door to door. If my God ever needs someone to go into the vineyard and to help bring in the harvest, it's now. I don't mind going.

Pray for me. —Lee Ethel Reid

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TX—Dear ones: Greetings from Texas! I trust all is going well with all the staff. The work and sacrifice you make for the encouragement of believers is greatly appreciated.

The Lord has been so good to me. I am so unworthy of His love and mercy. I desire with all my heart to be faithful to Him who has been so faithful to me....

With love, —Tammy Porter

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OK—"Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Ps. 107:8.

I am so thankful for how the Lord blessed and had mercy concerning the birth of our last child. The words of the song, 284, in the "Evening Light" song book say, "Regarding not what I may see, My faith, O Lord, ascends to thee."

Many heard of our needs and went down on their knees in prayer for us. The Lord in His mercy answered in His gracious way and blessed and helped us all.

The Lord allowed Bro. and Sis. Fuller to come to Shawnee only hours before the baby was born. Sis. Janyce Porter told them I needed prayer. They delayed their dinner and anointed and prayed for me. I left them feeling much encouraged and leaning heavily on the Lord.

Before morning the new baby had come. The problem we had been warned of seemed to be developing, but the Lord heard and answered prayer. Sis. Katherine Williams had called around asking for an agreement of prayer. The Lord came to our rescue. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men."

To those who prayed for us, or came by to sing or visit, bring food or a token of love; thank you very much. Your kindness was humbling. May God in His gracious mercy reward you all.

—Myra Moaning

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of love, peace and joy to you. It is a beautiful day here in California; the morning after the election. Change is inevitable, and someone must rule. Our loving and gracious Father has made provisions for everything. He has given us righteous principles to live by in His Word. "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." Prov. 14:34. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." Ps. 9:17. Let us rejoice and be glad with thanksgiving, that the government is indeed on His shoulder, (Is. 9:6.) and that our Father rules in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. (Dan. 4:25.) Now that the election process is over, let us continue to earnestly and fervently pray for those in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (I Tim. 2:1.)

Your sister in Zion, —Melia Viser

OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. We pray that this finds all at the Print Shop well and happy in the Lord. Doris still has occasional muscle spasms, and Herman has spells of shortness of breath, a little more often as time passes. But we are thankful that we are as well as we are. As long as we commit all of our needs into His care, we can be assured that whatever He permits to come into our lives is needful and best....

We will continue to bring the needs of all there to God in prayer, asking Him to supply all needs and bless your work in a special way.

With Christian love, —Bill and Doris Busch

CA—Greetings in the precious name of Jesus: I am so happy tonight for the deliverance God gave me. He brought me up and out of a horrible pit. I had a terrible fear of death. I would get ready to go to a meeting, and the devil would torment me before I left home and on the way. This went on and on. I did not know how to resist him.

Last year, 1991, in the Monark, MO meeting, a minister was explaining to a young lady about the impositions of the devil, and that she needed to be delivered from his power.

God spoke to me, "That is what you need." Oh glory to His precious name. I took it by faith, and have been able to resist his cunning lies ever since. God has given me sweeping victory.... I can sing the song, "I don't want nothing here to hinder me." God is so good to show us His will for us, and to show us our spiritual needs....

Pray for me. —Naomi Jennings

CA—Dear folks at the Print Shop: May God bless you each one as you put out the gospel literature. I trust all are much encouraged and in good health. We are very thankful for the Lord's blessings on us, and desire to live closer to Him day by day.

I have some special unspoken requests before the Lord, and would be grateful for an interest in your prayers....

With Christian love, —Eunice Cole

MD—Dear ones in Christ: It was 1989 when I wrote to you last. It was about a parking lot the bar was putting on state property, right at our fence. They put it there and no one as yet has put a drain for the water to run off.... We just pray God will keep our well water pure. I believe He has. We sure do want a drain, but God knows best.

I have been reading my old *Faith and Victory* papers. They give me so much encouragement and joy, and now I am passing them on to others.

Remember us all in prayer. My husband, Roy, found out he has diabetes.

The country is getting more wicked every day. We just pray God will do something about the crime. It is getting closer to our little community every day. Pray God will drive these drug pushers, etc., out from our towns. They came here from D. C. We know they all need God, and we praise Him for taking care of us....

I am 76 years old and have been a child of God since August 1949, when I was awakened and born into His great Kingdom. It has been wonderful having Jesus as a brother, and God as a Father.

You all have my love and prayers.

—Sis. Clements

AL—Dear Bro. Wayne: I greet you in Jesus' dear name. I trust everyone is well and happy out your way.

The dear Lord healed my ear and head. All

praise be to the dear Lord. I love Him more every day.

We sure do have much to pray for, we do need to pray that God's Church will draw close to Him and be ready for His coming. Also we need to pray hard for the lost, that they will wake up and run to the Lord and be saved before it is too late.

This world is getting so wicked. We need to pray for the world, and also our leaders need much prayer....

Much love and prayers,

—Bro. Emmitt and Sis. Pearlene Gerald

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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints scattered abroad: Once again I greet you in the precious name of Jesus. I am thankful I can report victory in my soul tonight. Praise the Lord! I am burdened about the ones among us who are suffering serious afflictions.... Today I read the following: "God knows that you can stand that trial; He would not give it to you if you could not. It is His trust in you that explains the trials of life, however bitter they may be. God knows our strength, and he measures it to the last inch; and a trial was never given to any man that was greater than that man's strength, through God, to bear it."

I ask the Lord daily for more strength, courage and grace to see me through to the end....

In Christ's service, —Sis. Sybil Goldsberry

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Mission Report From Honduras

November 13—Dear saints: Greetings from West Virginia. We arrived home safely from Honduras, Central America last week, after a two month stay there. We thank all of you for your prayers and support while there. We had a very profitable trip. Despite the changes and adaptations in the cultures, the Lord was faithful to supply needed grace in every situation and we came back feeling more of a burden, knowing the many needs there. Surely, we have a need for more laborers.

We departed here September 4 and flew to La Ceiba, on the mainland of Honduras. We had a weekend meeting with the new saints we have met there. We were all welcomed and made comfortable by the several households of faith in that city. The Lord blessed, and folks sought help for both soul and body. We were glad to become better acquainted with the James family, and the two Burkes families. We also visited

there enroute to the States in November.

We arrived in the Island of Roatan on Monday and spent the first three weeks trying to organize building plans for the proposed chapel, and also completing the little dwelling there for us to live in. I became very ill the first week, but thank the Lord, He raised me up. My wife, Jeanie, suffered from a gall bladder attack, also, but the Lord brought her through. We are so thankful the Lord kept our children well for two months.

The Church of God van arrived in the third week. This was much appreciated, as it had been so hard to get building materials delivered. The van also contained our household goods, as well as the toys sent. We felt more settled after the arrival of all these things. The building progressed much faster, also.

Bro. Jim and Sis. Anecia Wall accompanied our family to Honduras. They resided with Bro. and Sis. Sanders while there. Bro. Jim proved to be God-sent in the building project. We are grateful for his expertise in all that needed to be done on the building. Sis. Anecia painted the new chapel signs when the project was near completion.

The women spent a good bit of time visiting and getting to know the people. My wife, Jeanie, and my daughters, Shana and Lenée, conducted children's meetings and sewing classes along with Bible studies. Recipes were also shared and in this way they became better acquainted and enjoyed the people there.

I spent my time divided—much time was needed in meeting the needs of the people, and also labor was required for the chapel. Most evenings were spent in services or visitations. We are so thankful to report great interest in the Truth there. A congregation is being established and they certainly need guidance at this critical time. We were so impressed by the dedication of several young married men and their families who have taken a stand with the Truth. Some of these young men desire to visit the States to become acquainted with the Saints here.

Bro. and Sis. Sanders are the native missionaries on the Island, and they labor so faithfully in the work there. Everywhere, their name is spoken with appreciation. They have done and are doing much to establish the work there. It was so good to have them to help plan for us and also to have interpreters for the Spanish language. Our endeavors there would certainly not have been as effective without them.

Weston Probst and Jennifer Cole visited the Island in October for two weeks. We did appreciate their good behavior and interest. Weston and Chad, our son, were much help in the construction work. Jennifer helped in the children's services and she, along with our children, and Weston, were diligent in acquainting themselves with the young people and visiting them regularly.

Another work that is worthy of mention, is the work in Tela, on the mainland. Sis. Elsa has a children's ministry there. She has had a little chapel built and holds regular Sunday School and children's meetings. She is a mother to many of the community children. She and her family were very hospitable to us while in Tela.

There is definite Spanish work there, also. Two Spanish families took steps in clearing their lives, and I baptized them on the Sunday before I left.

We departed there in tears which were mingled with the tears of our new friends and brothers in the Lord. We feel the same bond with them as we do with our brethren here.

I do have a burden for Honduras and plan to continue visiting there regularly. My family will not always be able to go, but we hope to use this missionary effort to interest others in working for the Lord.

Do continue to pray for direction in the work there.
—Bro. Toney Samons



IN MEMORIAM

Mary Etta (Johnson) was born January 19, 1904 in Eufaula, Ok, the eldest daughter of Robert Johnson and Sarah (Pearce) Johnson. Etta spent a happy childhood with her brothers, Dee and Robert, and her sisters, Margaret and Hattie. Another sister, Minnie, died as an infant.

At an early age, she learned the importance of following the Lord. She accepted Christ as her Savior in her youth, and served Him faithfully for the remainder of her life.

Etta married Marion Audney Davis on February 10, 1924 in Wheeler, TX. For the first two years of their marriage, they lived in a half-dugout near Shamrock, TX. In 1926, Audney drove a team of horses and wagon from Shamrock, TX, leading a dairy cow, to a farm now

known as the "Alonzo Ford Farm" west of Guthrie. That farm adjoins the present Davis dairy farm on the west.

Etta and Audney lived on several different farms west of Guthrie from 1926 until 1968. They had two sons: Harold Lee Davis, born November 16, 1925 and Ernest Ray Davis, born October 7, 1933. Etta's first husband, Marion Audney Davis, died October 14, 1968.

From 1968 until her death, Etta lived west of Guthrie, and was known and loved by hundreds of young people as "Mimi."

She married Clarence Brant on December 8, 1977. Mimi's family will always be thankful for the fourteen happy years she and Clarence shared.

Mary Etta Davis Brant went to be with her Lord and Savior on October 26, 1992. She is survived by her husband, Clarence Brant; one son, Ernest Davis and his wife, Shirley, of Guthrie and a daughter-in-law, Lois Davis of Guthrie. She is also survived by four grandsons Steve, Rick and Kenny Davis, of Guthrie, OK, and their wives, Gail, Pam and Gina; Troy Keith Davis of CA; five great-grandchildren; and her sisters and brothers-in-law, Hattie and Max Dean, of Guthrie, OK, and Margaret and Albert Eck of Bluejacket, OK. She is also survived by her step-sons, Ken and Gordon Brant, and step-daughters, Carol Small and Constance Ethridge, and their families, all of MI. In addition, Mimi will be loved and remembered by many nieces and nephews, and by her brothers and sisters in Christ.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, Marion Audney Davis, her son, Harold Lee Davis, her brothers Dee Johnson and Robert Johnson, and her sister Minnie.

Funeral services were conducted in the Church of God chapel, Guthrie, OK, by Bro. Charles Elwell. Burial was in the Summit View Cemetery, Guthrie, OK.



Myrtle Lorene Souder was born April 18, 1919, in Pottawatomie County, OK, and passed from this life on November 2, 1992, at the age of 73 years, 6 months and 14 days.

On March 16, 1935, she was wed to Archie H. Souder, in Shawnee, OK. She served in the capacity of pastor's wife for many years, and has left memories in the lives of many that will be cherished.

She is survived by her husband, Archie Souder; one son and daughter-in-law, David

and Linda Souder, Keller, TX; two daughters and a son-in-law, Barbara and Leland Busbee, South Lake, TX, and Katherine M. Souder, Tucson, AZ; two sisters, Mabel Yondell, CA, and Eunice Smith, Shawnee, OK; one brother, Eugene Clemence, Midwest City, OK; nine grandchildren, one great-grandson and many saints and friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Roach Funeral Chapel, Shawnee, OK, November 5, by Bro. Richard Madden, assisted by others. Burial was in the Resthaven Memorial Park, Shawnee, OK.

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Golden L. Arbogast was born March 27, 1921, in Dunmore, WV, the son of William H. and Doshie B. (Ernix) Arbogast. He passed away at his home, on October 22, 1992 at the age of 71 years and 7 months.

Bro. Golden was married on March 28, 1945, to Darie K. Arbogast. To this union two daughters were born.

Bro. Golden gave his heart to God in February 1974, and was a very dedicated, faithful servant. The Lord richly blessed him in the writing of many songs, which have been an encouragement to many.

He is survived by his wife; two daughters, Madonna, of the home, and Karen Lambert of Dunmore, WV; two brothers, Artennis, of Dunmore, WV, and Pershing, Green Bank, WV; two sisters, O'Nita Puffenbarger, Davenport, FL and Eloise Puffenbarger, Cool Ridge, WV; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Mart Samons and Bro. Mancil Doolittle. Burial was in the Arbovale Cemetery at Arbovale, WV.

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NOTE OF THANKS

We, the family of Bro. James Curtis Pierro II, do appreciate so very much all the love, prayers, love-offerings and many acts of kindness and support shown to us during Bro. James' illnesses, and during his last test of faith and victorious submission to the will of God. God chose to take Bro. James home to glory on July 1, 1992. Bro. James gave his heart to God in 1963 and loved serving Him all the way to the end. He trusted God for soul and body. His life and conversation depicted his deep-rooted conviction of fully trusting God. He often quoted the scripture, "Behold the goodness and severity of God." (Rom. 11:22.) Bro. James suffered many

afflictions and also enjoyed many healings, during his saved life. He loved to talk about how God healed him of gangrene, broken bones and many other afflictions. God performed a miracle earlier this year when Bro. James had a very severe infection. God proved His healing ability and also His will by choosing to take Bro. James during his last illness.

With many thanks,

—Sis. Leona Pierro and family

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Teasing

(Continued from page 3.)

sation with people in just that very same way.

Now I want to turn to the twenty-sixth chapter of Proverbs and read a scripture there. This is another interesting and powerful scripture. Solomon said, "As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, so is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?" We use "mad" in our language sometimes, when more properly, we should say "angry." The madness referred to here is not anger, but a mental incapacity of someone who has lost their faculty to understand and to weigh things rightly.

People will say things in the guise of teasing one another that they'd never say to your face, seriously, and that can cut to the very quick. They're like a mad man throwing firebrands, arrows, and death, and then saying, "Isn't it a game? Why are you so upset? Aren't I just playing with you?" Teasing can be one of the cruelest forms of communication there is; laughing at somebody to hurt. It's not wrong to laugh with people, but it's so painful to laugh at somebody. And there's a world of difference. It'll destroy close friendships, do damage to the hearts of those we love and will separate between chief friends. One of the reasons it cuts so deep is because there's a grain of truth in it. The truth is that you really feel. You wouldn't tell me "Your nose is too big for your face," but you might tease about it. You might say, "Aw, here comes ole' funny nose again," and everybody laughs about it. It's supposed to be a joke, but it cuts. The Bible is against that, folks. It's like a mad man throwing firebrands and arrows and death. The Lord would have us, with our merry hearts, to be gentle in everything that we do. "Kind and loving," the song writer said, "to each other, Gentle words to all we meet—Thus we follow Christ our Savior, Proving all his service

sweet." That's the way the Lord would have us to live our lives while we walk along through this world, showing gentleness, patience and kindness to one another, guarding our words. Laugh with people when you have the chance,—but be careful about laughing at people.



Spirits

**Transcribed and edited from a message
preached by Bro. James Bell at the
Monark Springs, MO Campmeeting,
on July 24, 1992**

(Continued from last month.)

I think about how Jesus dealt with different kinds of spirits in His day. He used authority in dealing with those things, didn't He? He had authority and power over the spirits of the devil. We can have that. It is nothing uncommon to the people of God. There is something that He gives us as a monitor to detect when things are wrong. He wants us to be able to do that.

Jesus said that in the last days it would be as in the days of Noah, there would be people marrying and giving in marriage. Call it an adulterous generation. We are in an adulterous generation. People have adulterous spirits. They are rampant in the land. Guard yourself. Be very careful. Adulterous spirits are lurking around, and come right among us many times. What are we going to do? If I told you to just set back and relax, I would be failing your soul. I am telling you to beware. They take no respect for anyone, or anybody. Listen, God has designed our souls to be full. He has designed our spirits to be satisfied in Him. When we are not and our spirit dwindles and withers, pretty soon there is a vacuum. When that vacuum is created, don't think for one minute that Satan is not aware of it. I am saying, if you give an adulterous, or lustful spirit, any room in your life, that thing will get ahold of you.

There are several things that I would like to mention; to put a tag on the devil. If we could clothe him tonight and you could see him better, I believe you would know better how to fight him. Young people, I want to warn you. You be careful what you get your hands on and what you see with your eyes. Many homes are wrecked by people, by young boys, getting ahold of the wrong material. It will filter right in through our campground gates. It will get right in among us, in our congregations. It will get right in your

home. Be careful. Oh, be careful! You don't know what that will do to you. There are many people tonight who are struggling. I know some who are far away from God because they started going to the movies when they were little and started looking at things they shouldn't have seen. Somebody passed something to them and they saw it and it influenced them. I want to tell you, that spirit is a damaging, damnable thing. God help your soul to shun everything that looks like wrong which you may even see lying on the street. It is everywhere. I was appalled when I went to Russia and saw stands set up where they were openly selling pornography, with English words on it. There are wicked people in this world exploiting women and young children, and they will go to every length, every description of evil. Be careful that your mind doesn't get polluted with that. It will cause you trouble. May God help us to keep our eyes on the Lord; to not let our eyes be wandering, to not let our mind be wandering and allow an old lustful spirit to get hold of us. I can't overestimate the power of a lustful spirit. If you have things in your home; if you have something tucked away under the bed and you are hiding something, you are going to have trouble getting victory with God. You get rid of that thing. Get it out of your life, out of your house, wherever it's at.

The spirit of pride is out of line. When Paul was commending Timothy, he said, "There was something in your grandmother and there was something in your mother and it's in you also." Isn't that wonderful? But you know that the opposite can take place and very often does. "That was in your grandmother or your grandfather. That was in your dad or your mom and that's the reason it's in you."

I have such a burden on my heart that the Lord would help us to realize where a lot of our problems are coming from and to deal with those things. We can come to an altar and be delivered, and the Lord will do a work in our heart if we can identify a proud spirit. They are around; don't think they're not. They can get in preachers too. We have something to fight against. Our young people have something to fight against. If they don't see such things conquered in us, they are going to have a big struggle down the line. Proud spirits—we can feed that thing. If you feed it, you are going to have something on your hands; a huge monster that you are not going to know how to handle.

I want to tell you something that I believe

with all my heart. There are pipelines which feed spirits. There are things that feed spirits. What are we doing to nurture and feed a proud spirit, a lustful spirit, and an adulterous spirit? Didn't Jesus deal with this thing? He said, "If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and if thy hand offend thee, cut it off." It wouldn't do me any good to pull out my knife and to cut my eyeball out and lay it out here on the table, if I had an old lustful and adulterous spirit. It wouldn't do me a bit of good. Nor would it do me any good to roll up my sleeve, get a saw, and just go to sawing on my hand and say, "Shame on that old thing; it got me into all this trouble." There is something that feeds a bad spirit, and it is your job and mine to cut the thing off. Wherever the food source is coming from, stop it. Cut it off.

There is a spiritual surgery that God can do to help you and me to cut off the avenues and the inlets that are letting those things come into our lives. The Lord wants us to help Him do this. If your hand is the means of communication, or the traveler or the vehicle, you stop that thing. Get yourself in control to the point that you don't go by those things, and you don't look at them, and you don't do those things anymore. You must stop the line to it. What happens when you cut off the food source to something? It dies.

Many times we wonder, "Oh Lord, why can't I get victory over this old thing? It just keeps bothering me and hounding me." It's because you are feeding it. You say, "You're wrong. I don't have one of those type of spirits." Well, maybe you have an envious spirit. Maybe you have a jealous spirit. Those things are spirits too. Don't think they're not; they will cause you trouble.

When I was a boy growing up, we had some neighbors who lived across the street from us. We bought an air conditioner for our house, and then they bought an air conditioner. Well, I'm not sure just who purchased a car first, but soon the other one bought a car; a little better one. Then one bought an air conditioner cover. It wasn't enough just to have an air conditioner; "Let's get a cover for it." This thing was going back and forth. We boys would look and say; "Look what they got. Look at that car." We would compare back and forth and wonder what would happen next. You see what happens when you let an old jealous spirit get in? Jealous spirits will work havoc.

You can look at a preacher and say, "Oh, I wish I could preach like him." You can get a

jealous spirit. May God help us. We can get jealous of one another and say, "Oh, if I just had it like them." I want to tell you, if you did, you probably couldn't stand it. You don't know all the things they have to bear. Jealousy is as cruel as the grave. You are going to have problems in your life if you feed an old jealous spirit. Listen, that thing will sap every bit of spiritual life out of you. We can't harbor those things in our lives and expect to have the blessings of the Lord flood our souls.

I would like to talk just a little bit about a stubborn spirit. There is an old stubborn spirit that comes around. If we feed that stubborn spirit and buck up against truth; if somebody tries to tell us something and we have resistance there, let me tell you, that old stubborn spirit will take his hold.

Have you ever read much about a badger? They are vicious creatures. I wouldn't want to get hold of one of them for anything. If you get an old badger down in a hole and stick your hand in to get him, and he latches on to you, my friend, you are in deep trouble. You may not get out of there alive. Those things will clamp onto your hand and wedge their feet against the sides of the wall. I was reading not long ago about badgers, and it said that unless there is another man who can help get you out, that thing will stay there until you die. It is dangerous. It is dangerous to be stubborn, too. When the Spirit of the Lord can't come into your life and mine and show us things, we've got problems. And those problems are breeding other problems. We must willingly fall down and lay everything we have at the feet of Jesus, and submit our ideas and our thinking and everything about us to Him.

The thing about this spirit world is that it wants to reproduce. It will reproduce in your children. It will reproduce in them an old stubborn spirit. They will walk out and slam the door during meeting. They want to let you know they walked out. They want to let you know that they don't want anything to do with what you're saying. With an old stubborn spirit; it's hard to get anything across.

I want to make heaven my home, and you do too. We can't do it by having an old stubborn spirit. We can't think we are going to make it and have victory with God and not get along with our brother, and not be willing to submit some of our ideas and some of our thinking. I'm not talking about compromise. I'm just talking about

ideas. We get to thinking those are doctrine. May the Lord help us.

I met up with a man in Russia who said, "I don't find that in the Bible." If we can't find it in the Bible, we better be very careful. Be willing to submit your ideas. A stubborn spirit won't go; it won't fly. It will never get off the ground. Your experience and mine will never work with an old stubborn spirit. Be willing to cut the pipeline off that's feeding it. Be willing to cut off its food source, and you will find yourself being able to submit to God and humble yourself.

A self-righteous spirit is a tough one to deal with. Jesus dealt with self-righteous people in His time, didn't He? He dealt with folks who thought they had it all. They were the very ones who killed Him. A self-righteous spirit has no place in the body of Christ. It is out of line; it is out of balance and it is causing you trouble. It is causing you to have a defeated life. That's because self-righteousness can cause us to think we are something. "I have the monopoly on this thing. I'm just a little bit more spiritual than you are. Don't touch me; I'm holier than thou." Self-righteous spirits will cause much trouble. Among ministers, it will work havoc. It is a terrible spirit to deal with. "They've been telling me this all these years, and well, I'm not going to change. I've thought this all along. I see it this way. I think I'm just a little bit better than you are." They won't tell you that, but in so many words that is what they are saying. Beware of self-righteousness. Cut the pipeline off that feeds it. Submit yourself to God. Be willing to give the thing up.

What do we read in I John? "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God." A self-righteous spirit seeks to exalt itself. You will notice every time that it is just about a notch above everybody else. It has more light, more understanding, more wisdom, more of everything. The Lord can take a needle and let that out of the thing.

There are also several other spirits in the world. I Timothy 4:1, "Now the spirit speaketh expressly..." (That means very clearly, very distinctly), "that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." There are many spirits out there. There are seducing spirits; there are unclean spirits. I was reading in the book of Mark of how many different unclean spirits Jesus cast out of people. Let me tell you, there are still unclean spirits in the world;

seducing spirits. There are all manner of things.

If you have been around Missouri you have probably seen a billboard that advertises Coors, and has a nearly naked lady on it. One day I drove by and I saw that, and it was just like behind it, there was a devil with a spear. I saw something further than the lustful thing that was there on the billboard. It was the devil, and everyone falling into his clutches is going to be caught. He is saying to you, "Look at this, lust after it and I'll get a hold on you. I'll gig you with my fork. I'll get a spirit in you which you won't be able to handle."

How do spirits convey? Where are they? They are in people and they are also in the air. There are many things, many spirits, in the unseen world. God help us to stay clear, to keep our spirits in line.

Let me read in I Peter four. He says in the eighteenth verse, "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Did you ever think about who the ungodly are? I learned something while I was in Russia. The ungodly are those, they call it, who are loosed from God; people who once knew God, once were associated closely with God, but now are loose from God. "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" The ungodly can be those, I believe, who once had an experience with the Lord.

We have to be careful that we stay in tune with the Maker; that we can detect when something is out of line. A religious spirit can come in all kinds of clothing. The devil doesn't take preference who he works through either. He can work through any vehicle that gives him room.

A friend of mine, who worked with me, had been over in Vietnam. They were having trouble losing a soldier, on guard, every night. They thought that the guards were going to sleep, catching a little nap. Finally, the next fellow that was on guard duty looked out and saw an old pig rooting around in the dirt. He noticed there was something not quite right about it. As he watched the old thing rooting around, it got up closer and closer to him. Underneath that garb was the enemy. It wasn't a pig at all. A lot of things can deceive you and me if we are not careful. It may look ever so good. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits."

Religious spirits, dear ones, can work havoc among us. In the book of John, the eighth

chapter, and the thirty-third verse, it says, "And they answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Now isn't that wonderful? Look here what He said to the righteous people, the professors of those times. "I know that you are Abraham's seed. I know that you are of that lineage. I know that you have this in you. But ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you." These folks had a high profession. They were supposed to be religious leaders of the world in those times, and they were.

What does our profession mean? Think about it for a minute. Would you be willing to give up your profession if it was something that was contrary to the Word of God and it was wrong? This was what Jesus faced in His day. They were carrying on a name but had nothing inside. These are some of the things we are facing.

The Lord wants to help us to be true with ourselves. If we are out of line with the Spirit of God, the Lord wants to line us up. He wants to help keep us in line, and if we are willing, He will do just that.

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Question and Answer by **Ostis B. Wilson**

This is article number fourteen in this ongoing series of articles of full salvation; justification and sanctification.

QUESTION: It is taught and believed that the two compartments or rooms, the holy place and the most holy place, are typical of two parts of our salvation. If that be the case, and the holy place would be typical of the first part of our salvation, or justification, and the holiest of all, or most holy place, would be typical of the second part of our salvation, or sanctification, and if one still possessed the depraved nature in his justified state, would that mean there was corruption in the holy place? If not, why not, since the justified person was in that place and still had his depraved or corrupt nature?

ANSWER: This is a valid question and I shall endeavor to give it a valid answer to the best of my ability and understanding.

The thought (that the two compartments in the tabernacle are typical of two parts of our salvation, or two degrees of grace,) has already been dealt with in a previous article in this series. The first compartment is typical of the first experience of divine grace, which in the Scriptures is called justification, conversion, the new birth and regeneration. That is what we are dealing with now, and all the conditions for it; repentance, confession and restitution. This all has reference to the way we have been living and the things we have actually done. (The sins we have committed.) It does not deal with the inward condition of inherent depravity with which we were born. Therefore, that depravity of nature is not dealt with in this experience.

However, as we have seen, a person is made a partaker of the Christ-life in this experience, and that life is holy. He is saved from all sin and receives deliverance from the power of sinful habits, thus enabling him to live a life free from sin. When we lay the pattern down on his experience and understand that that holy place covers his actual life, and not his inward, there is not corruption there. That life must be kept free from sin with no corruption in it for one to retain his justified relationship with God and be free from condemnation. If corruption and sin get into that life, it cancels his relationship with God and puts him clear outside the tabernacle.

Perhaps right in this area is one of the most common stumbling blocks to understanding the two parts of man's salvation. Some do not discern the difference between a holy life and holiness, or purity of heart. But it is clearly taught in the Holy Scriptures. In II Cor. 7:1, "holy life" refers to the manner of life; "perfect holiness" to the state or condition of the heart. The term, perfecting holiness, is a superlative describing an advanced degree of holiness. We all were born with a depravity of nature, for which we are not accountable, and therefore we could not repent of. When we came to be saved, (justified) we came repenting and seeking forgiveness for the sins we had committed, and for which condemnation was bearing heavy on our conscience. We wanted liberation from that condemnation and wanted peace with God. But this depravity of nature we could not repent of because we did not commit it. We were con-

scious of it's existence only through teaching. This depraved nature is a very deceptive thing. It is only in our efforts to maintain a holy life according to New Testament standards that we become conscious of a power deep within us rising up and asserting itself, and contesting our efforts to live a holy life and maintain victory in our experience. Unless a person has been well instructed in this truth, when this begins to happen in his life he may be thrown into confusion and wonderment, and will become victim of accusation and be found returning to the altar time after time seeking the cause of this conflict. But he needs to understand that it is "the foe in the temple not subject to God," (the carnal nature) and begin to seek God to purge his heart from that native depravity by the blood of Jesus, and to fill him with a perfect love of God.

This is that most holy place, or that second compartment of the tabernacle which we enter and abide therein after we have "presented our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." We have consecrated and dedicated our lives to Him without any reservation for ourselves, on the golden altar before the second veil, and He fills us with His Holy Spirit and admits us into that most holy place to abide in His presence continually. There the purging process starts which purges us from the imperfections which God sees in us, but we had not yet seen. In this advanced state of grace we do not only do good things, but we are good from the heart out. We do not only commit holy acts but we are holy from the heart out.

I was thinking recently of how God gave His Son as a sacrifice for our sins, of His humiliations, insults, shames and reproaches, and His unspeakable sufferings and agonies at Calvary, until He actually felt forsaken even of His father. My thought was this. God did not permit all this because He did not love His Son, but because He did love us and realized it would take such a sacrifice as that to break our hard hearts and bring us to repentance. Then I thought just this afternoon of some of the injustices, reproaches and persecutions that I have seen some of God's holy and innocent saints suffer. Why did He allow it to happen? It was not because He did not love the one who was suffering, but He did love his adversary, and saw that for him to see the clear image of Christ being manifest in the suffering child of God was the only way He could reach him. This is a right God reserves to Himself, in dealing with us when He admits us into that sacred sanctified relationship with Him. But, alas, some are not able to sing the song, "In the heated furnace, Father, let me stay; Precious gold refining, purge the dross away: 'Till thy glorious image is reflected there; 'Till the costly jewels of thy grace I wear." So they mar in the making and have to come out being less than what God by His grace is able to make them. The good news I bring to all of you today is that you do not have to settle that way. God has already generated sufficient grace to enable every one of us to come to the fulness of the measure of the fulness of Christ in every area and phase of our lives, if we will only consecrate and dedicate our lives to Him to that depth.

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST

Just before going to press with this issue, the following letter was received from Bro. Josiah Pah of Monrovia, Liberia.

November 13—Dear Bro. Wayne and saints: I am writing to you all this day from my place of refuge. My family and I, including some of the saints, have been displaced for four (4) weeks now.

War has again started in this country, and the fighting is very tough as compared to the first war. Several thousands are dying day and night from the fighting.

The city of Monrovia is completely out of food and drinking water. Rice, our staple food, is now costing \$500 per bag. We are completely out of food here. Hunger is defeating us.

My older son, Josiah K. Pah, Jr. is dead due to the lack of food and strong hunger.

Bro. Wayne, we are at present stopping at an old hospital building, and at the same time, sleeping on the bare floor. Our international telephones and telexes are all down, and so I can't call you. Our condition is very sorrowful here.

My wife, Joetta, (Bro. Josiah's young daughter) and other saints are ill here. We will not return to our homes for a month. All foreign missionaries are out of Monrovia....

Yours in Christ,

—Josiah K. Pah, Sr.