

Benevolence

In laboring, economizing, and managing so as to be financially successful, we should have an object that reaches farther than just to provide the comforts of life for ourselves and our homes. Right here is where many people fail to enjoy a happy life; and because they fail they generally settle down on the old saying, "Happier in pursuit than in possession."

Many rich people do not find the enjoyment in life and home that the common people do. The former realize that, though they have wealth, they can consume but one living, can live in but one house, wear but one suit of clothes, eat for only one person, and occupy but one grave after death. They may go to excess and provide for themselves and their families luxuries that others cannot have; they may lay aside all labor and toil in order to enjoy life more; but in doing so they only make themselves more miserable than the poorest, for excess and idleness cannot but make one unhappy. Others may continue to labor and to worry, trying to increase their riches and wealth; but in doing so they only add more care and trouble. Thus, it seems as though it were impossible for man to make riches add to his pleasure and happiness and that it often works ruin to himself and family.

There is a way, however, whereby wealth can be turned into pleasure and happiness. There is something besides our own needs which is worth laboring, managing, and saving for. If this were taken into consideration and heeded by all who are able to accumulate more than a living for themselves and dear ones, much sorrow and misery would be banished from many homes both among the rich and

Giving

See the rivers flowing downward to the sea, Pouring all their treasures bountiful and free; Yet, to help their giving, hidden streams arise, Or, if need be, showers feed them from the skies. Watch the princely flowers their rich fragrance spread;

Load the air with perfume from their beauty shed. Still their lavish spending leaves them not in dearth,

With fresh life replenished from their mother earth.

So the more thou spendest from thy little store, With a double bounty, God will give thee more. —Selected

among the poor, and happiness would enter instead. Comparatively few people, it seems, realize that in making their families happy they make themselves happy. Fewer still realize that by reaching farther than this they will increase their own happiness, or that the more people

they can make happy, the more they themselves will enjoy life. Very few people act as though they had ever heard or read the words, "It is more blessed to give



than to receive." And yet no other lesson needs so much to be learned and practiced by those who have the good qualities of industry and economy; for unless they do learn this lesson and put it into practice, their life will prove a failure notwithstanding their apparent success.

To illustrate this point we will relate a little incident we once read about a certain rich man who failed to enjoy his wealth. It was, in substance, as follows:

He had so much sorrow and trouble that he finally decided to commit suicide. Accordingly, he started to the river, intending to leap from a high bridge into a watery grave. On the way, however, he thought of the money he carried on his person and decided that, before he committed suicide, he would do one good act—would give this money to the poor. He had no difficulty in finding a house, or shed, that looked as though its inmates were poor enough to need the money. He knocked, gained admittance, benevolence. A family will get no more additional happiness out of an additional farm when the one they already possess will more than provide for them, than the millionaire gets out of his increasing millions.

The truth is, we should always be charitable to our fellow beings. Even those who are comparatively poor, or need all they have, can sometimes find others who are more needy than they are. In such cases they surely ought to show their benevolence rather than plead their poverty. Not only is this a human duty that all persons owe to one another, but it makes ourselves and others enjoy life much more than would otherwise be possible.

The best way is to unite all the good qualities that are possible for man to possess and start to practicing them all together. Benevolence should be started along with industry and economy. The following rule, which is attributed to John Wesley, is good for all to follow and will produce

"To make it short, if people would labor and save to make their fellow men enjoy life, they would find it the joy of their life to do so. In no other way can riches be made a blessing to their possessors or to anyone else."

and made known his errand. He was surprised to see the poverty and misery of these human beings, but more surprised when he saw their unbounded joy and happiness caused by his act of benevolence. It warmed up his cold heart and nature and filled his soul with an hitherto unknown joy. At once he thought of how many such homes he could make happy by his wealth and decided that, with such a grand object in view, life was worth living. He gave up the thought of committing suicide and went away rejoicing over his new discovery.

If you desire to enjoy life, "go and do thou likewise." To make it short, if people would labor and save to make their fellow men enjoy life, they would find it the joy of their life to do so. In no other way can riches be made a blessing to their possessors or to anyone else.

We should not put off being benevolent to the poor, the sick, and the needy until we have become wealthy; for not only will this procrastination not increase our own happiness, but also many may die of sorrow and of want while we are gathering a fortune for them. Besides this, it is not very often the case that people who do nothing for humanity until they acquire great wealth ever manifest the good quality of more pleasure and better people than can all the accumulated wealth of all the rich: "Make all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can." It may seem rather hard to take a part of our savings for benevolent purposes before we even have a home of our own, and yet it is about the only way of developing the human kindness that is within our breast. Using all our income for ourselves and family will almost surely make us selfish and unkind to others; and no selfish man or woman can ever be happy in the true sense of the word. A miser is a miserable man a man who loves no one and is beloved by no one. Therefore all should be benevolent from the moment they start for themselves.

Especially should Christian people be "rich in good works." The New Testament makes it very plain, not only that it is a human and a Christian duty, but also that it is more pleasing to God, if done through love, than almost any other Christian duty. It should be considered a part of our service to God, for such it truly is. We cannot render any personal service to God, for He does not personally need our help; but we can serve Him through the needy, the sick, the suffering, etc.

It may be well to notice a few quotations from

the New Testament in order to see how the Author of the Bible looks upon the using of some of our possessions to relieve the sufferings and sorrows of others.

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10.

"Charge them that are rich...that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate." I Tim. 6:17-18.

"But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Heb. 13:16.

"...An odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God." Phil. 4:18.

Not only is it held as our duty, the performance of which is

well pleasing to God, but also special reward and blessing is promised to those who are truly benevolent to the poor and needy. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.... Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God." II Cor. 9:7-8, 11.

Let Christian people fully believe and practice these scriptures, thereby proving themselves Christians, not in name only; for without true benevolence no one can be a true Christian. As we read, "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." I John 3:17-18. Even the final reward in the resurrection day will be decided by how we have treated our fellow men, as will be seen in the following passage: "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:34-36, 40.

> Those who believe the Bible will surely see that it pays to be benevolent, and it is to be hoped that they will show their faith by their works.

Christian people are exhorted not only to communicate to the poor and needy, but also to use a part of their earthly possessions for the spread of the Gospel. This is even more benevolent than pecuniary aid; for it is the Bible that brings civilization and elevates humanity. This can readily be seen by comparing the nations which have the Bible and in which Christianity is the prevailing religion with those who are largely without the Bible and its Christ.

To live for a worthy object gives determination, makes character, and brings success. Moreover, it keeps life from being dull and brings true and lasting pleasure and happiness. No better object can be found than to live for the good of our fellow men; and every man and woman should have enough compassion and ambition to make them willing and able to be rich in such good works.

---Taken from, "Home, Health and Success," by Thomas Nelson.

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

Bv

Carol Cole

Jesus was the greatest teacher this world has ever known. He left the splendors of a heavenly home to come to a lost and dying world "...to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Isaiah 61:1. It is recorded in the Bible that Jesus knew even when He was twelve years old that He had been sent to do His "Father's business."

However, it was His Father's will that several more years pass before He would be recognized (Continued on page 15)



FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY

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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.

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Editorials

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:25. This is a golden text that reflects the beauty of the gospel. It stands out as something more wholesome and deeper reaching than any earthly instigated constitution, creed or philosophical self-help. It is a summary of God's given precept and its reward.

The word "law" stands out in this verse, and so the plan of salvation is. In order to serve God there are certain things that are not left up to our discretion, or to be arbitrarily discussed. The Bible is law. It is a supreme and authoritative obligation. It is given by One who has the right to demand obedience to it without questions asked. This seems to be a responsibility beyond the capability of human effort, and so it is, except God has also presented the Holy Spirit to give strength, grace and understanding.

The law of God cannot be changed, but since time began the devil has made subversive attempts to undermine its effectiveness in the hearts and lives of every person born into this world. The sad thing is, many people, from Eve, until now, are buying it. It seems that our society looks with admiring eyes upon any scheme that is perpetrated to be a fairer way. Some have no more enduring resolve than the parrot who was owned by a preacher and taught to sing, "There is glory in my soul." One day a mischievous man, who heard the parrot sing, proceeded to correct it, saying, "You have no soul, just a craw, and you should sing, 'There is glory in my craw.' " So the parrot changed his song according to what the man said. We must have the fortitude expressed in Romans 3:4, "...let God be true, but every man a liar...." It doesn't matter if beguiling words come to us from those closest to our hearts, from the leadership of the church, or the politicians of our nation, if they do not reflect the law of God we must believe Him instead.

The law of God is not just a law; it is the "perfect" law. The law does not stand only upon its authority, but upon its beauty and ability. It is perfect in that it is explainable and understood by all who are honest of heart. It is formulated upon the weaknesses and needs of every human being, and yet is still equitable to all. Many manmade laws are ambiguous, such as the law one town has which says, "When two trains approach each other on the same track, both shall come to a full stop and neither shall proceed until the other has passed." The law of God always gives a clear-cut guideline with how to proceed with our lives no matter what situation we are in.

The Word of God protects the soul without constraining the liberty of enjoyment. It is a perfect law of "liberty." Anytime a coat of religion is put upon you, and you notice the constraint more than the warmth, then the wrong set of laws have been given you. True salvation inducts you into a family where the warmth of love is abounding. The home where you are a member of the family is one in which you feel free to take off your shoes and lean back in the plushest chair. In the family of God there is freedom to rest from your labors. Although the authority of the law demands unquestionable obedience, the love of the lawgiver invites, "Come now, and let us reason together ... " Isa. 1:18. Under the wings of the Almighty there is discussion of the beauties of the life, protection from sin and the room to stretch your soul in praise and admiration.

When the Word of the Lord is revealed to us, let us be sure that none of it slips, so that we will be blessed in our deeds.

We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family of Sis. Edith Flynn, who passed away on Jan. 6. Her parents, Bro. Randall and Sis. June came to Guthrie in 1972, when Edith was just a small baby, and devoted 11 years to the work of the Lord here in the Print Shop. We appreciate this time in which we became acquainted with the family, and pray that the Lord will afford them every comfort needed in their loss. We do rejoice with them in the eternal reward that Edith has received. If you would like to send correspondence to Bro. Randall and Sis. June, their address is: 51527 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446.

Many of our readers desire to know the dates of the Church of God camp meetings scheduled for 1994. In the past we have printed as complete a list as possible in the March issue. To make that issue this year, we kindly request that your information be in this office by February 20. There are several repair and building projects here at the Print Shop that we would like to get done. If any of our readers, perhaps a retiree with carpentry skills, would feel a burden to help us out for several months, we would like to hear from you. Living arrangements would be provided.

During the last part of December we had a computer to malfunction and some data was permanently lost. Included in that which was irretrievable were several Faith & Victory articles being kept on file, and a number of fillers. All of the recent material sent to us was not a part of that file. —Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

MN—"Please remember me in prayer."

—Lee Hilton AR—"My grandmother, Sis. Lou Bray, is in much need of prayer." —Lee Ann Bray

PA—Sis. Ruth Godshall desires prayer for herself, and also her husband who is in a rest home.

OR—"My sister has emphysema and some asthma. Remember her in prayer."

-Sis. Grace Jones

MO—"My wife and I need your prayers."

-Wiley Bernett

OK—"Remember me in prayer. I need the Lord to heal me." —Lois Chrisman

TX—"Please pray for Lillian Anderson."

-Betty Anderson

MO—"Pray for me. I certainly need help from the Lord." —Jane Briscoe

MEETING NOTICES AND REPORTS

BAKERSFIELD, CA REVIVAL

Yes, we are planning, praying and fasting for our annual revival. The dates are February 11-20. There will be nightly services at 7:30 Monday through Friday. There will be two services on Saturday, and three on both Sundays.

Please join us in praying and fasting for a special outpouring of God's spirit, so that all souls will be blessed, saints revived, edified and encouraged for a more personal relationship with God, and that sinners will be convicted, delivered and saved.

We are praying that God will heavily anoint

workers of His choosing for this revival. All are welcome to attend. Please come praying for a special visitation from God.

For more information contact Bro. Archie Sherman; (805) 871-1636.

SHREVEPORT, LA SINGING

"Lord willing, the Shreveport congregation will have a singing Saturday night, 7:00 P.M., April 2nd, to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. There will be lunch on the grounds Easter Sunday. Make plans now to come and rejoice with us! For further information, please contact Bro. Jerry Melot, (318) 938-7233.

Chapel Building Project

Greetings dear saints of God: We are very much encouraged to live for God here in the Coffeeville—Water Valley, MS, congregation. We are pressing on and fighting the good fight of faith.

We are starting to build our chapel and would appreciate the saint's prayers and support. It has been requested of us, and of our pastor, Bro. Louis Kimble, by some of the saints, that when we got ready to start to let them know. We have just completed payment on the land, which is 2 1/2 acres, and are ready to start our building. Land clearing will begin in June of this year. The chapel will be 35×50 . There will be a follow-up report sent in to let the saints know how things are progressing. Thanks again for your support and your prayers.

Yours for souls. —Sandra Polk

From: The Readers To: Faith Publishing House P. O. Box 518 Guthrie, OK 73044

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings this beautiful evening. I really enjoyed the Faith and Victory this time. I always do. I don't like to lay it down when I start, but I had to as I ran out of time. I finished it the second time I started. I really enjoy all of it from cover to cover.

I trust all are well in body and happy in the Lord. He is so good to us. We have much to be happy for.

I enjoyed the Guthrie, OK, Assembly Meeting; all that I was there. I missed over half of it, but all I was there was good. I sure thank the Lord for His many blessings.

They put my sister in the hospital Monday. (Jan. 3rd.) She is 93, will be 94 in May, and has cancer of the liver. I pray the Lord won't let her suffer. "The Lord in my shepherd; I shall not want."

Love and prayers, —Sister Emma Dilley

OH—Dear friends at Faith Publishing House: I really enjoyed the December Faith and Victory magazine. I enjoy all of them, but some are better than others. The Faith and Victory takes me back to my childhood when I read it. My grandfather was an old country preacher, and I always went with him to church. I have never forgotten the things he preached about....

In Jesus' love, —Elizabeth Copley

WI—Dear Bro. Murphey: My husband had a stroke on October 15th. The last few months have been a hard time for me. If the Lord wasn't on my side, to give me comfort, I wouldn't know how I could go through all this, but God heard my prayers and all those that were praying for my husband. He is improving and I am so thankful. The Lord is good.

May God bless you all in Jesus' love,

-Bro. and Sis. Rudolph Schmidt

OK—Dear saints: I am able to come to you again with victory in my soul. 1993 was a very trying year for me, but it has definitely drawn me closer to God. Even though there has been great pain with the death of my husband, and the afflictions that are upon my body, God has given me joy in my soul.

I know I wrote to you all a couple of months ago, but I feel the Lord wants me to tell what He has done for me, and expose the devil.

In 1993 I had different afflictions upon my body. The Lord touched my soul and told me He wanted me to trust in Him. As the weeks went by, the devil made me feel as though I was going to die. I became very afraid and the scripture was quoted in II Tim. 1:7. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind," and James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." These scriptures were of great help and comfort. I am learning more and more how to resist and rebuke the devil in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I thank God for His faithfulness to deal with me concerning my shortcomings. He has enabled me to behold what He can do concerning my physical well-being. The Lord has so graciously touched my body, and I can definitely feel the effects of His love and mercy.

The Lord has also been dealing with me about becoming more knowledgeable of His Word. One evening I was praying and asking God to help me know and understand what His will is for me, and He gave these scriptures in Matt. 11:28-29, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." As I read these scriptures, it was as if a light was shining around about me and my burden had been lifted. I give God all the thanks and the praise for His wonderful love and mercy unto me.

Pray for me that I will always be true and faithful. I am also desiring that God will give me wisdom and knowledge to know how to deal with my children.

Your sister in Christ, -Linda Montgomery

KY—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers at the Print Shop: Many thanks for your kindness and your prayers. How wonderful it is to know that there are still somewhere people you can call and request prayer, and know God hears and answers....

God has answered my prayers, and your prayers—what a great God we serve!

Many thanks for working to put out a wonderful little paper, the *Faith and Victory*. It tells the truth.

A sister in Christ, —Wilma Horsley

GA—Dear saints: Holy greetings in the name of our blessed Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am saved, sanctified and living to live again.

I do enjoy reading the Faith and Victory. It reminds me of the Gospel Trumpet I read long years ago. I enjoy the testimonies of God's saving, keeping and healing power. I am a witness to it. He is just the same today. I thank Him for His goodness unto men everywhere. I thank the Lord for everyone there at the Print Shop for being so dedicated to the good work. A sister in Christ, —Mollie P. Amerson

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I want to thank the Lord for helping me. It is over a year ago that I was real sick, but the Lord had mercy on me and I feel well again. Some thought I would not get well.

When I was sick I either had a dream or a vision when I was half asleep. In it I was looking down below me out of a large window. I saw two men walking on a path that didn't have much vegetation, but I could see two flower beds beside this path. The men were looking around in them and poking a stick into them. On down the path I could see a beautiful building. It had a lot of domes on the roof which were shiny and beautiful.

While I was looking out of this window, I saw right ahead of me a gate, somewhat in the shape of a football goal post. The beam across the top had printed on it "Eternity begins here." I could see myself walking around by this gate, but I never did go through.

Gail and Nina (my daughter) came to see me. I told them about this and Nina said maybe my time was not yet. I started to get better from then on.

I want to thank the Lord for all the prayers offered in my behalf.

AL—Dear Bro. Wayne: I trust this finds you and all the others out there well and happy. We are better, praise the good Lord. It is raining today and bad, but it is a day the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice therein.

We need to pray much for the world. So many wicked things are happening; also for the Church, that everyone will draw close to God ⁻⁻ and be ready for His coming.

Do remember us in prayer. We are praying for you all daily. —Emmett and Pearlene Gerald

AR—To the saints: Greetings of love to all. I still love the truth and all of God's people. I want to send out thanks to one and all who were so kind to send us cards and letters on our 67th wedding anniversary.

May God bless each one....

Remember us and our children in your prayers. —Sister Nellie West MO—Dear saints: I am glad I can say that I am very happy in my soul, and I enjoy the way of the Lord.

The Lord has been so good to me and has blessed me with an early retirement from my job. If someone had told me this a year ago, it would have been hard for me to see this.

Through all the years of work the Lord never failed me. If I could only tell everything, and the times the Lord worked things out; touched my body, turned the situation around in my favor, and gave me a larger raise in salary than the expected, this testimony would be quite large.

There were times when the workload was very heavy for me, and was bothering me physically. The Lord would always take care of this for me, and I missed very few days of work.

I was thankful that I had Bro. and Sis. Roy Harmon near at these times. Prayer would be offered and the Lord would touch and take away the problems.

In the early 1980's, during one of these times, the Lord so sweetly spoke to me and said, "I am working for your early retirement." I submitted and told the Lord He would have to take care of me. The Lord gave me that promise and I'm still thanking Him. Many saints kept me on their prayer list during those years. Thanks dear ones for your prayers and love.

I desire to use my time for the Lord, and above all, I want to be faithful. I still need your prayers.

Christian love, —Wanda L. Atnip

CA—Dear saints everywhere: We send our love and prayers to all. We are entering a new year ahead, only God knows what it will bring; it could be Jesus to take His children home.

We sure do miss being around the saints. I appreciate being in touch with some of them. They are such encouraging folks.

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 31st. Our children and grandchildren sponsored it all. It was sure nice. Yes, the Lord was good to us. I will praise Him all the rest of my life. Pray for our children. They need to be saved.

Love and prayers always,

-Bro. and Sis. Harold Underwood

CA—Greetings of love to all my brothers and sisters in Christ scattered abroad: I am thankful for your many prayers. I want to thank you for your prayers when the battle was the hottest. The Lord heard and saved me out of all my troubles.

I want God's will done in my life. Please continue to remember me in your prayers.

Wishing all a very prosperous new year in the Lord.

Love,

-Verlene Williams

MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings of Christian love. I hope all is going well with you and the work there at the Print Shop. We are grateful for the good that is being accomplished by the printed page. I trust the Lord to bless you and all the workers there as this new year of 1994 begins.

It seems to me that the Lord may be preparing things for His coming. There are so many things happening; like floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes and many other tragedies, to help people awake and think of their souls. Surely the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all will come to repentance. I believe also that He is stirring the righteous that they be ready and able to stand and to love His appearing. Certainly that will be a great day.

We are very grateful how the Lord is helping wife to recover from a fall she received about four weeks ago. I think she fractured a bone in her thigh. She couldn't get up or down by herself for about two weeks. Now she can get up by herself. First she used a walker when she got up, but now she just uses a cane. She is still limited as to how much she can be on her feet, but we are thankful that she can walk. We thank the Lord for His mercies and also thank the saints for their prayers.

If the Lord spares our lives until the 6th of February, we will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We are certainly glad and thankful for the many blessings He has given us down through the years.

Your brother in Christ, —T. V. McMillian

WV—Dear brothers and sisters: Greetings of love in Jesus' dear name. I trust everyone is well at the Print Shop.

It has taken over three years now to get over the stroke I had. God has been so good to me, I cannot thank Him and praise Him enough. The ends of my fingers are still numb. I can hardly hold a needle with them.

My husband will soon be gone two years. I miss him so much. One cannot forget 63 years very soon.

I would love to see a work started here for the Lord. —Sister Queen Luzader

CA—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: I am finally getting around to writing as I have been intending to do for some time now. I hope this finds all there at the Print Shop well and encouraged to press on.

I don't know if any of the saints, or their properties were harmed in the earthquake in Los Angeles. It makes me realize that we truly need to be searching to make sure we are doing our heavenly Father's will. By the grace of God I hope to make heaven my home.

I need your earnest prayers for several unspoken requests; also for my unsaved family, and myself. I have been having problems with some things and want the Lord's will to be done, not mine.

Love and prayers, —Sis. Doris Pihaylic

MI—Dear Bro. Wayne and all in the Lord's work: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. I pray you are all well, and that the new year will bring all of you rich blessings from the Lord.

The Lord blessed me with a very nice Christmas. God touched me. I felt so much better. The Lord brought me through 1993 to see another year, which I didn't think would happen, but He still wants me here to do more praying for lost souls.

Our God is a wonderful God. I never would want to be without my God.

Thank you for the good Faith and Victory paper, and the Beautiful Way. It's so nice to read them and receive rich blessings.

My love and prayers in Jesus,

-Sis. Olive Getterson

MISSIONARY LETTERS

From India...

December 23, 1993—Dear Bro. Murphey: New Year's greetings to each dear saint in America.

We are now almost prepared for our 29th General convention at Bethel grounds in Karikkom. Please pray for its blessings. The meeting starts on January 12th and continues 5 days. All of our congregations in the north and south are doing fine. We are still waiting for the funds to buy the land at Trichur for the congregation there. Please pray for this need. I visited the northern congregations last week. We held young people's meetings, fasting and prayer meetings, women's meetings, monthly all-day meetings, voluntary house visitings, crusades, Bible studies, etc.

We remember the Church in America in our prayers.

Yours in Him, —John Varghese

From the Philippines...

January 7, 1994—Dear Brother and Sister Murphey: New Year's greetings to you, your family, the precious saints in the Print Shop, and all the dear brothers and sisters abroad. Time is running fast, and another year has come to an end. We are so thankful for God's loving care and protection to every one of us the past year. We hope and pray for His unfailing presence and guidance to us again throughout the new year of 1994. We do not expect that there will be no hardships or thorns on our way, but we desire His presence with us. May our heavenly Father give us new strength for this new year.

We had a two-day fellowship meeting and thanksgiving service on December 29 and 30, 1993. We had a nice group who came from different places. We felt the presence of the Holy Spirit with power in our midst. Spirit-filled messages were wonderfully delivered by our brothers and sisters. Personal testimonies of the power and love of God gave spiritual strength and encouragement to everyone. Prayers and songs of praise were raised up to the Almighty. "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Psalms 133:1.

Our young people were very happy to meet each other in fellowship also.

In the afternoon of December 30th we had a Bible study and our lesson was based on the last three verses of Matthew, chapter 28. We had a very nice discussion and participation, and everyone was encouraged to give more of their time and effort for the great commission to bring more disciples to Christ in 1994. We observed the ordinances, and when we sang the parting song we could see tears of joy in everyone's eyes. Most of the saints are very poor in material things, but everyone seems very rich because of Christ. Our rice crops were destroyed because of two strong typhoons that hit the province of Nueva Ecija in the month of November, 1993. There were 33 typhoons recorded by the weather bureau that passed through the islands in 1993. Second to this was in 1961 which recorded 30 typhoons. There are many calamities that have happened to us in the past few years. We covet your urgent prayers for us and for our government.

May we thank you again for all your love to us. May god bless you richly in 1994.

Your brother in Christ,

--- Matias S. Tangunan



Tilmon Mason, Jr. (known as Tillie) was born December 29, 1922 in Bristow, OK, and departed this life September 19, 1993 in Wichita, KS, at the age of 70. He was one of 10 children born to Tilmon and Lula G. Mason. He grew up in Bristow and attended Morning Star and Lincoln Heights schools. He later moved to Wichita, KS, where he lived most of his life.

He met and married Willia Mae Thomas. He had a daughter, Saundra, who preceded him in death. He and Willia Mae were blessed with two children, and their son, Mike, preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his mother and father; three sisters, Pearl, Helen and Sharon, and one brother, Lonell.

Over two years ago, Tillie gave his heart to God and became a member of the Church of God. He was faithful and kept good courage during his extended illness. He was a special brother and well loved by all of his family. He was a devoted husband and father and a kind and gentle man. He will be greatly missed.

He leaves to cherish his memory, his dear wife, Willia Mae; one daughter, Karen, of Wichita, KS; three grandchildren, Aramis, Sandte and Durrell; one brother, Clifford of Bristow, OK; four sisters, Henrietta Johnson, of Tulsa, OK, Bernice Jackson, of Bristow, OK, Viola Williams and Earnestine Snell, both of Wichita, KS; one aunt, Nettie Carey, many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and saints.

Funeral services were conducted by Bros. Paul Phillips, Jr. and Emmanuel Gracey; assisted by others.

Edith Kay Flynn, born March 30, 1972, the fourth daughter of Randall and June Flynn, was

called to her eternal home to be with Jesus, on January 6, 1994, at the age of 21 years, 9 months and 7 days. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandfather, O. D. Flynn and maternal grandfather, Harley Vice; and is survived by her parents, Bro. Randall and Sis. June Flynn, of the Oak Grove Church of God at Loranger, LA; her paternal grandmother, Mrs. Alta Flynn of Loranger, LA, and her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mary Vice of Eaton, OH; one brother, Dean Flynn of Loranger, LA; five sisters, Mrs. Anita Baudier, Mrs. Charlene Bryant, and Miss Delores Flynn of Hammond, LA: Mrs. Brenda Short, of Bachelor, LA, and Miss Reba Flynn of Loranger, LA; one nephew, Randy Baudier, and other relatives.

Edith was living at home with her parents, and attended worship services at the Oak Grove Church of God congregation at Loranger, LA. As a child, and in her adolescent years she loved the Lord and endeavored to live for Him. Struggling with life, as many young people do, emotional stress and other problems, she got away from the Lord: but God in His faithfulness and love followed after Edith and was able to draw her back to Him. In July of 1993, at the Monark Springs National Camp Meeting, she made a commitment of her life to Jesus Christ. During the Loranger Assembly Meeting in November 1993, she sought and obtained an experience of sanctification, and before her death, had given testimonies at worship services with the ring of victory in Jesus. Her passing was peaceful and sweet.

Funeral services were held on January 8, 1994 at the Oak Grove Church of God chapel, with interment in the Oak Grove Cemetery. The services were conducted by Bros. Ed Wilson and Bob Forbes with Bros. Larry Abbott and Mike Williamson assisting at the graveside.

Note of Thanks

We feel so inadequate to express our gratitude and love to the saints for the love shown to us during the short illness and passing of our daughter, Edith. All of the phone calls, prayers, cards, flowers and contributions meant so much to us. We are so thankful for God's great love to us, and for the comfort we have in knowing that Edith was prepared to meet the Lord. May the Lord richly bless each of you is our prayer.

-Randall and June Flynn and family

The following poem was a source of inspiration to Edith.

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Don't Quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will, When the road you're trudging seems all uphill, When the funds are low, and the debts are high, And you want to smile, but you have to sigh, When care is pressing you down a bit, Rest if you must, but don't you quit.

Life is strange with its twists and turns, As everyone of us sometimes learns, And many a failure turns about, When he might have won had he stuck it out; Don't give up though the pace seems slow, You may succeed with another blow.

Success is failure turned inside out, The silver tint of the clouds of doubt, And you can never tell how close you are, It may be near when it seems so far; So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit, It's when things seem worst That you must not quit.

Roberta K. Reese was born January 9, 1910 in Mahaska, KS, and departed this life December 22, 1993, at Douglas, WY.

Roberta loved the Lord for many years, and did all she could to see that the Gospel was spread. She will be missed.

Funeral services were held at the Converse Funeral Chapel, with burial in the Douglas Park Cemetery, Douglas, WY.

Sunset

I viewed the distant sunset

At the close of the departed day Splashed with gold and silver

It was a gorgeous display.

The beauty of the evening With the fluffy clouds piled high Was only for a moment

Then it vanished from the sky.

My days are like a shadow And flee they fast away

Swifter than the swift ships

And the eagles that haste to the prey.

We all do fade as a leaf And like the wind are blown away May we live in newness of life

In the dawn of that new day.

-Written by Roberta Reese



Home Influences

Where parents do their duty as teachers of God's "words" and exemplifiers of godliness, by bringing up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," and where the children "obey their parents in the Lord," there grows around, about, and within such people that indescribable something we may call a *Christian home*.

And what is a true home? That blessed reality which this word expresses is easily understood when realized, but it is incapable of a strict and limited definition.

One person asks, "What is home, and where, but with the loving?" We may well believe that where the "loving" are not there can be no such thing as a true home. And this suggests one of the most blessed facts of human experience: it is in the power of true love to overcome all external disadvantages, and to create happy homes in the midst of poverty and hardship. We will find them all over the world—under the arctic skies as well as in the land of flowers—in stately palaces and lowly cabins—in crowded cities and on the border of deserts. But all homes are not alike. Some are better than

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others. Some contain more of the elements that are necessary to constitute a perfect home.

Fine-spun theories would be out of place in our argument and tedious description would be unprofitable. We may speak very briefly of a few general facts and principles which, however simple and easy of comprehension, are yet too often overlooked and undervalued.

If we are to have perfect homes, it is well that each family have a proprietary right in its place and in the long run will, as they should, prove themselves self-destructive. There are, we may be sure, other and better measures of a nation's greatness than the splendor and populousness of its cities, or the extent of its commerce; there are better tests of good government than the power of its navies, or the number and valor of its soldiers. It does seem too plain to need evidence or argument, that the nation which has the largest number of happy Christian

of residence. This sentiment has nothing in common with that agrarian wickedness which has so often proposed to rob the industrious and fru-



the most prosperous-as determined by every measure of true prosperity-and that the government which

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gal to bolster up the idle and wasteful, and that has sometimes blotted out, in fire and blood, the homes of the good because it could not bear the sight of their happiness. Of communism-a fanaticism whose zeal for equality is born of selfishness, whose methods are lunatic, whose inspiration is devilish, and whose experiments have been only and utterly disastrous-the Christian home is at once the antagonist, the preventive, and the cure.

If we cannot have a home in our own right, our misfortune cannot justify envy of the more favored, or excuse impatience or repining at our lot in life. But whosoever has, or expects to have, a family, should cherish, earnestly and religiously, the desire and the purpose to have a hearthstone of his own. It is a very great blessing if a man's home be in his own house, and especially if it be his as the reward of honest toil. The man who has won a home for himself and his family as the fruit of many labors has achieved a great and true success.

As it seems to us, much depends on the people's having homes-far more than most persons seem to suppose. That government is wisest and best that multiplies, fosters, and preserves the home of its people. After all, if the object of government should be to secure "the greatest good of the greatest number," should not the homes of the people be the chief concern of government? Laws and administrations that hinder the people from creating homes are bad,

most effectually-by the wisdom of its laws and the righteousness of their administration-by the conscientiousness with which it confines itself to its legitimate sphere and keeps itself from arbitrary interference in the sphere of individual and family life-secures happy, Christian homes to the people, is the best government. For the real powers that form nationsshaping their history and determining their destiny-are social; for as communities make nations, families make communities.

The State, as well as the Church, has its foundation in the family. If the State forgets this, we have anarchy; when the Church forgets it, it is apostasy. Having homes-and homes that are in their own houses-helps to make people orderly and law-abiding, industrious and virtuous, conservative and patriotic, and so builds up the State; having homes helps also to make them religious, and so, handing down the truth of God from generation to generation, according to the chosen plan of heaven, preserves, extends, and perpetuates the Church.

The importance of this whole subject, as related to the individual, the family, the community, the Church and the State, will appear if we consider the strength of our home instincts and affections, the controlling power of their influence upon children, and therefore, their determining power in molding the society of the future. No affections are so universal, so intense, so enduring, as those which cluster about our homes. Their existence and influence do not depend upon circumstances of age, or character, or position. These may modify them, as to their intensity and character, but they survive them all.

Who forgets his home? Not the wanderer. There is Jacob fleeing from the face of wrathful Esau, and during long years of wasting toil with Laban, the Syrian, clinging but to this fond hope: "So that I come again to my father's house in peace." The old, whose feet may even now be pressing the borderland between two worlds, do not forget. When David was returning to Jerusalem after the defeat of rebellious Absalom, Barzillai, an aged Gileadite, who had showed the king and his band of faithful followers much kindness the day they fled before the face of the traitor, joined him on his return, and accompanied him with an escort of honor part of the way to his capital. Grateful David begged the old man to go on with him to Jerusalem and promised to reward him like a king. Barzillai's reply speaks a language that all hearts will understand: "Let thy servant, I pray thee, turn back again, that I may die in mine own city, and be buried by the grave of my father and of my mother."

Nor does the prodigal, who has "wasted his substance with riotous living," forget. The remembrance of his "father's house" brought tears to eyes unused to weeping, and the light of life to a spirit that had long wandered in darkness. "And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father,..." Luke 15:17,18. are to form or to restore society? Shall we regulate and utilize them according to the dictates of sound reason and of divine inspiration, or leave them to accident, or surrender them to caprice? Who does not know that the future destiny of the Church and of the State is now being woven in the noiseless but unresting looms of the family and the home? The family not the fates, determine destiny. The destiny a people is not settled by the defeat of one great political party or the triumph of another—by presidents or Congress—but by the powers that sway their scepter about the fireside—by those influences that shape and fix the character of little children.

We count it a benefaction to the race when some gifted and patient man shows us how to control and employ more perfectly the great powers of nature. We build monuments to Franklin and Morse for telling us what lightning is and for making it the obedient servant of our wants. We call him a benefactor who develops a new industry; we offer rewards and hold expositions to encourage inventions. If one can show us how to be rich and great and prosperous, we call him wise, bless him as a friend, and crown him with honors. But is there not something more important to us than any or all of these things? For what are the influences that make us all what we are; that make, or mar, our mortal and immortal fortunes? What are the influences that form and determine the character and, therefore, the destiny of our children? The silent but potent energies that originate in the family relation-intertwisted with all the ties that bind us together-that begin their work

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Affections like these—so universal, so intense, so indestructible—must be divinely implanted. They are intended to exercise a controlling influence in molding human character. In shaping the destiny of the individuals and of society they are all but omnipotent. Everything that relates to them, that can regulate or pervert them, is of the last importance to us all. And shall powers like these be overlooked, or undervalued, or misunderstood, in our estimate of the creative, regulative, and regenerative forces that with the first motherly caress that soothes a baby's cry, that work on through all changes of condition and that leave us not till we have left this world—if indeed they do not continue with us forever—these have made us what we are; these will determine what our children shall be.

We do well to honor the great and unselfish patriots, like the prince of Orange, for whom "little children cried in the streets," when he died. And we do well to honor the great reformers—like Luther, and Knox, and Wesley, and others of kindred spirit—"of whom the world was not worthy"—whose courage and faith delivered the Church in the days of darkness and danger, or led the way to new triumphs of the truth. How much the world owes them, eternity alone will reveal.

But if it shall be the will of heaven to give us a man or woman who will read aright the purpose of God in instituting the family; who will fully understand why in a world exposed to temptation, under the curse of sin, and that must be redeemed to be saved, it pleased God not to populate it as He did heaven, with angels by direct creations-so that there is no marriage, nor fatherhood, nor motherhood, nor childhood, nor kinship among them all, but rather, by the births of generation after generation, making children dependent on their parents during many helpless years, segregating the population of the earth into families and yet binding them all together, by ten thousand ties that make the race but one; who will, by the earnest study of God's Word, and by the illumination of the Holy Spirit, understand all these things and then teach us the full measure of our responsibilities; who will not only teach us, but arouse our conscience to a full sense of our obligation to train our children for the kingdom of Christ Jesus; who will also show us how we may most perfectly discharge our sacred family duties-that man, or that woman, will we hail as chief among prophets and apostles who have blessed the world. And if such a teacher and guide could induce all fathers and mothers to employ the great powers of the family and the home, as God wills them to be used, he would reform the world.

> —Taken from, Our Children, By Atticus Haygood

Obedience By Bill Busch

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." Gal. 6:7-8. Obedience and submission to God's will is always rewarded, and disobedience will always bring consequences that are seldom foreseen and always unpleasant. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth** the will of my Father which is in heaven." Matt. 7:21. There is surely no greater incentive for being obedient than the promise of entering into the kingdom of heaven! What a reward!

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. Didn't the first act of disobedience, when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, give to all men the knowledge of 'good and evil'? There can be no excuse for sinning.

"For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people that were men of war, which came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they obeyed not the voice of the Lord:..." Josh. 5:6a. Only those who obey (do the will of our Father in heaven) will enter into the promised land (the kingdom of heaven).

Jesus said: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48. There will be no more days after the "last" day, so this means that last judgment when time shall be no more. Then there will be no more opportunities to "receive" the words of Jesus, the first of which were, "...Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matt. 4:17.

"And the king of Assyria did carry away Israel unto Assyria, and put them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes: Because they obeyed not the voice of the. Lord their God, but transgressed his covenant, and all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded, and would not hear them nor do them." II Kings 18:11-12. The consequences of disobedience were very unwelcome and unpleasant. Through His prophets God had foretold what would happen, but even as the people of that time wouldn't heed God's words, neither do they heed the Gospel message today.

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." Rev. 21:5-7. What a wonderful reward for obedience!

I Saw Jesus Today. .

I saw Jesus today. I was in church. I saw Him in a tender touch of kindness that passed from a strong man to a small, sleepy, little boy. The child was slumped against his parent's shoulder, so weary and longing for repose. The man behind him reached forward and gently ran his fingers over that tired little face and head. Soon he took the little boy in his arms and nestled him against his own shoulder until sleep came.



What influence there can be in a simple display of kindness! That man does not know that the love of Jesus in his tender touch also touched my heart. It made me want to be kind also. Such is the effect when Jesus is seen and when His touch is felt. —Mary Murphey

[Editors note: If you have had an experience in which you can say, "I saw Jesus," we would be glad for you to write it down and submit it for publication.]

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray"

(Continued from page 3.)

as "the Lamb of God." After Jesus had come to John to be baptized, the Spirit of God descended upon Jesus like a dove, "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt. 3:17. Then the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. God permitted the devil to use his wiley ways to entice and try to thwart Jesus' real purpose in coming to save a dying world. How our hearts should sing grateful praises that Jesus never yielded to any temptation. God saw that it was now time for His Son to teach and preach the kingdom of heaven and to heal the sick and afflicted. Great multitudes began following Jesus. He went about teaching and preaching and doing wonderful works. The 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of Matthew record His sermon on the mount. (Jesus' sermon should be carefully studied as there are many profound teachings that only the Holy Spirit can reveal to us.)

The Lord taught His disciples how to pray in Matt. 6:9-13. "...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." Jesus had come from heaven and knew the greatness of His Father. He also knew if we understood His Father's power and the magnitude of His love toward us, we could better comprehend how to pray. Therefore, we should come before God with reverence by mingling our faith and love for Him along with our worship.

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." It is God's will for us to have love, peace and joy reigning in our hearts. However, we have to **strongly** resist the devil's tempting powers of strife, turmoil and fears.

"Give us this day our daily bread." We surely need help from God daily, not only for our spiritual bread, but for all of our temporal needs. God wants us to ask His help even for trivial needs.

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Jesus has made it possible for our sins to be forgiven if we truly repent. Then the devil can no longer have dominion or power to cause us to keep sinning if we continue to claim the atoning blood of Christ. To be redeemed by Christ Jesus will also help us to forgive someone else who has done us wrong.

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." The devil will try to lead us into temptation. Eve was the first one led into temptation and to yield. God did not tempt her. He told her **not** to eat "of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Nevertheless, God's love was so great for us that He used His only Son as a means for our deliverance from evil and death. Jesus conquered death, hell and the grave when He arose trium-

phantly three days after His crucifixion. Being redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God means escaping death and gaining eternal life. It is surely God's will for us to proclaim the Kingdom of God and His power and glory while we live here, and then to shout His praises forever in eternity! Let us pray as Jesus taught His disciples. We need to hallow the greatness of God in our hearts in our first approach to God. If we are not taught how to pray, it would be very easy for us to be praying only for ourselves and our family. The secret of knowing how to pray is to abide in the Lord. John 15:7 says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." To abide in the Lord is to lose our own identity. We are putting God first in our lives and His Kingdom rather than our earthbound wishes and desires.

One song writer was able to write these very inspiring words after undergoing a serious and lingering affliction.

"I have learned the wondrous secret

Of abiding in the Lord;

I have found the strength and sweetness Of confiding in his word;...

All my strength I draw from Jesus,

By his breath I live and move;

E'en his very mind he gives me,

And his faith, and life, and love."

Thus the secret of abiding in the Lord is to reach out to God and read His Word rather than praying only for what we want or think we need. After we have prayed the way Jesus taught His disciples to pray, we will then know how to pray for ourselves.

"All my cares I cast upon him, And he bears them all away; All my fears and griefs I tell him, All my needs from day to day."

The apostle Paul knew how to pray. By coming before the Lord very humbly and with thanksgiving, he acknowledged the goodness and greatness of God and hallowed His name. "Be careful for nothing; (do not be over anxious about anything) but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:6-7.

We have truly learned how to pray when we experience peace "which passeth all understanding."



Excerpts Taken From Feb., 1969 Faith and Victory

The prime target of the Communist conspiracy is the children and young people of our nation. The flood of obscene, filthy and pornographic material at the corner bookstore is designed to break down even more the moral standard of our youth in regard to sexual behavior. We might be amazed to learn how few parents are aware that these "filth books" have been promoted to be made respectable by being called "education" for our children. Compulsory education in sex for our children from kindergarten through high school is in the scheme. Concerned parents should find out what is being taught in their schools, and take right steps to stop or counteract this demoralizing influence -Lawrence Pruitt on their children.

It isn't fair! It can't be right! I now protest with all my might— I raise my voice both loud and strong. It's wrong, my friend! It's wrong! It's wrong!

It's wrong, I say dead wrong, indeed! That's why I weep and beg and plead. It is a black and wicked sin To keep the light from dying men! I plead the cause of men afar. Unsaved, unloved, untold they are. Why have we been so late and slow? Why have there been so few to go?

-Fred Jarvis