

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

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Church of God Servant



The Cry

"The cry of man's anguish went up to God
 'Lord take away pain:
 The shadow that darkens the world Thou hast made
 The close-coiling chain
 That strangles the heart, the burden that weighs
 On the wings that would soar,
 Lord take away pain from the world Thou hast made,
 That it love Thee the more.'

"Then answered the Lord to the cry of His world,
 'Shall I take away pain,
 And with it the power of the soul to endure,
 Made strong by the strain?
 Shall I take away pity, that knits heart to heart
 And sacrifice high?
 Will ye lose all your heroes that lift from the fire
 White brows to the sky?
 Shall I take away love that redeems with a price
 And smiles at its loss?
 Can ye spare from your lives that would climb unto Me
 The Christ on His cross?'"

—Selected

Have You Heard What One Person Can Do?

By Vesta-Nadine Severs

Many times people lament, "I'm only one person." So they say they can't do or start anything. Moses tried that once with God, and God asked him what he had in his hand. Look where the shepherd's staff took Moses...quite an adventure wasn't it?

I would like to share with you some people's adventures and what they, often alone, but with faith in God, accomplished.

Let us consider a dear friend of mine, the late Sister Annie Bell Allen. From the time she was young in the Lord, Annie Bell had a special spot in her heart for the physically disabled. Her heart was pricked when her brother, Charles, was born with his kneecaps on the back of his legs. His legs were often wet with her tears as she prayed. God performed a miracle and moved his kneecaps to the front. Charles walks without even a limp!

In the 1960's Annie Bell was living in Okmulgee, OK and became acquainted with a number of physically limited people who needed to do something with themselves besides sit alone all day. Within a short period of time, Annie Bell was able to commandeer an unused stone school building for her "school." She went quietly about her business, contacting anyone whom she thought might be able to assist in any way.

Shoe repair equipment was donated by Langston University. She started the women students at piecing quilts and quilting. She acquired much of the new scrap material from clothing factories. Frames came from some-

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"There is always room for more and greater works to be accomplished for God."

where else, and eventually quilting machines. Volunteers, mostly from the local Church of God congregation, assisted in the classes she held.

Her school was named "OK School for Kids." She was interviewed by the local radio and newspapers about her work. All of this was before we heard very much about special schools for the disabled.

When she wanted a new facility, transportation, etc. she was not bashful about "begging" for her special students. All the time, she herself was living on just the bare minimum. She believed in much fasting and prayer. And for everything, she gave God the praise.

She got the transportation and the facility, and then she turned it over to someone else to oversee. There was a new field for her endeavors...establishing a church in Dallas, TX.

Again she started with nothing except her exceptional faith in God. By the time she died, it was a well-established congregation.

Another person of one, with great faith in God, was Bro. Charles Smith. He desired to establish a nursing home for the elderly saints. This work of faith started when he, along with Brother Ostis and Sister Opal Wilson, visited a minister's widow in a commercial nursing home in California. They were appalled at the surroundings.

What was the Church doing for its widows and widowers? Bro. Smith asked that question, not only of the Church, but also of himself. He and his wife, Sis. Betty, applied themselves to prayer. He knew that what he could possibly save wouldn't be sufficient to accomplish such great work.

Within a few short years, and after much prayer, he acquired 40 acres of land outside of Shawnee, OK. While at a meeting, a couple invited Bro. Charles to their trailer. In the course of their conversation they inquired about his intentions of having a home for the elderly saints. Before he left they gave him a folded check. He looked at it the next day. It was for \$1,500, the exact amount of the down payment for the property.

Since then there have been many answers to prayer in the Home's behalf.

The saints in Pacoima had land on which they could and did build their home. It too has had many challenges to face, and God has been faithful in answering prayers for them. The work in both of these Homes has only been sustained by the prayers of God's people.

We have seen a number of congregations start schools. As far as I know one of the first was started by Bro. James and Sis. Charlotte Huskey and Bro. Leslie and Sis. Sylvia Busbee in Guthrie, OK. Sis. Charlotte Huskey, as have other missionaries, homeschooled their children many years in Baja. Sis. Charlotte carries a great burden for the education and training of children which she mentions frequently.

Bro. Keith Fuller started a church school in Ohio. Many will remember Bro. Keith preaching at the Monark Springs National Camp Meeting about the need for this type of school. Having been a teacher and school administrator, he provided sound reasons for the establishment of church schools. Today, many parents, whether isolated or not, have committed themselves to homeschooling.

Then there is the *Faith Publishing House*, started by dedicated workers, but the burden was carried mostly by Bro. Fred Pruitt. One can learn of the hardships which he faced in his autobiography, *God's Gracious Dealings*.

With new technology, the present workers are able to publish religious books, tracts and this paper, thereby reaching more people than ever before. The printed Word can go farther, and many times outlasts the lives of the writers. Publishing will be greatly expanded as soon as the equipment from their old building is moved into their new building. I feel this is a pressing need.

There is always room for more and greater works to be accomplished for God. At the School Assembly held in Myrtle, MO last year, I was amazed at the ideas the young people had for furthering God's work—homes, schools and nurseries for single parents as both a home mission and an outreach of the Church. One young brother told the story of a young, single

mother who went elsewhere for both spiritual and temporal needs because of there not being this type of assistance in their local congregation. Let us rise to meet the challenge because **one person with God can be an army.**

All of these works were started by one or two people who had a burden for God's work. We know it is, and was, God's work because a number of these projects are in their second or even third generation of workers. Always these

projects require dedicated and consecrated people to assist and carry them forward. If there are other projects that are in existence which I have not mentioned, it is because I am personally not familiar with them.

May these few examples inspire others to accomplish great things for God. These programs are the Church of God's home missions. Let us support them financially and daily with our prayers.



The Besieged City

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

It was a little city with a few people living within the walls. The inhabitants of the city were poor in worldly wealth but they loved one another and helped each other in whatever way they could.

Situated on a hill, this city could be seen for miles around. Often, envious kings from neighboring cities warred against this city's bulwarks to tear them down and take away the high ground that the city possessed. Enemies wanted to make the inhabitants their slaves, but the handful of watchmen on the wall would quickly alert the citizens to equip themselves with the whole armor of God and that would drive away the enemy.

One day there came a great king against the little city. His army was powerful and the clamor of its artillery sounded as a roaring lion to the city of prayer on the hilltop. The city's inhabitants equipped themselves for the battle and united together in humility as the enemy advanced.

An attack seemed certain. But inside the

city no one knew exactly how the battle would go. Day and night the citizens wrestled against doubt, fear and sleepiness. Then a poor wise man's voice was heard shouting a song of praise. "BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, WE ARE SAVED FROM SIN AND HEALED OF AFFLICTION. PRAISE BE TO THE SHED BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST."

Soon the song of praise was sung from every corner of the city. Louder and higher arose the praise until it reached the Throne of Grace. The harmony in the song touched the heart of Jesus and, in loving mercy, He delivered His trusting city from the oppressor.

A great victory was won in that fight but history books have not recorded the battle nor honored a hero's name. All glory and honor goes to the Lamb of God who has recorded in His Book of Life every citizen who gains the victory.

(Ecclesiastes 9:13-15; Isaiah 26:1-2; Matthew 5:14-16; Isaiah 53:5; Revelation 14:1-5; Ephesians 6:13-18; I Peter 5:8.)

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Editorials

Recently I was reading in a book my grandfather, Fred Pruitt, had obtained while living on a homestead near St. Vrain, New Mexico. The years spent there, 1906 - 1917, were formative for him, for it was then that God dealt forcefully with him about his sins. It was also during this time that God revealed to him an understanding of sanctification, and called him to the ministry. On this homestead, he made a full consecration to sell all the goods he had amassed through the cultivation of 400 acres of land, and enter fulltime into the work of the Lord.

This book, which he undoubtedly read while on the homestead, was a compilation of sermons by different ministers, one of which included a history of the Church. Here are some excerpts from that particular writing.

"It was certainly a glorious day when the human race reached that stage in its development where man was able to reduce his thoughts to writing. An account of all past events could then be kept, and these accounts could be handed down from generation to generation.

"What would it mean to us if we had no records of the past? If, for example, we had no record of the truths others have discovered in the science of mathematics, how far should we be able to proceed in this particular study during a lifetime? One might grope about for years before discovering even the simple principle of multiplication. As it is, all we have to do is to make use of what others have discovered and handed down to us. Then, if we can add a little to what has already been discovered, we have become wiser than our predecessors.

"John lived in a time when he could look back into the shadowy past and see how heathenism had given place to Judaism and how Christ had completed the plan of redemption. He could joyfully say, '...the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.' I John 2:8.

"Was it bigotry for him to make such a statement? The full light of the gospel was shining in all its splendor and beauty; the Sun of righteousness had arisen with healing in His wings. In Him was light and no darkness at all. Little by little God had been revealing Himself through angels, through miracles, through the Jewish law, judges and prophets. Finally, Jesus Christ came to earth in human form, thus revealing the nature and attributes of God so far as it was possible for finite minds to under-

stand. Even then the disciples were able to grasp only a part of Christ's teaching. On the day of Pentecost we find the apostle Peter explaining clearly the fulfillment of prophecy; and from that time, from the time the Holy Spirit took up his abode in the hearts of men, the light became clearer and clearer. Never before, in all the centuries that had passed, had the light of truth shown so brightly. Do you wonder, then, that the apostle said, '...the darkness is past...?'

"But soon clouds began to gather and mists obscured the sun. The storms of persecution raged until millions of God's people suffered martyrdom. False doctrines took the place of the true, mere formality took the place of spiritual worship, and human government was substituted for the divine.

"Finally the Christian religion became more popular and in A. D. 313, the Roman Emperor Constantine accepted the faith, in name at least, and put an end to heathen persecution. Thus Christianity became the state religion. From this time, the plans of the papacy were more clearly marked. The light of the gospel continued to decrease until, generally speaking, the darkness and superstition was almost as great as before the coming of Christ. Only in a few isolated places were the fires of truth permitted to burn. Nominal Christianity was a mixture of Christianity and heathen superstition. This blighting, persecuting power now laid claim to the spiritual and the political sovereignty of the whole earth. Wickedness of every kind ran riot without rebuke. This period, known in history as the Dark Ages, is indeed one of the darkest in the history of the world, considering that the full light of the gospel had previously shone forth in the world.

"The darkness became so gross, the gospel was so covered up by human rubbish and tradition, that it has taken centuries for the clear light to dispel the gloom, and for the gospel to be brought to unobstructed view.

"To some it may seem strange that the full, blazing light did not flash forth immediately, even as in the morning of the Christian era.

"Luther did not leave the Catholic church immediately. At first he had no thought of coming out of Romanism or of founding another sect. The little truth he had received was just like a little ray of light penetrating the darkness. But when he began to teach the doctrine of justification by faith, he soon learned that if he would follow the teachings discovered by him he

would have to leave the Church of Rome. He was called before councils, was persecuted, was denounced as a heretic; but in spite of it all he boldly declared, 'The just shall live by faith.' He left the Catholic Church only when he was compelled to do so. He was forced out because there was no room within the Roman Catholic Church for the teaching of that part of God's Word which says, 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God....' Romans 5:1.

"Luther soon gathered about him many who were glad to accept the truth he brought to them. The people had become so accustomed to councils, decretals, etc., that they believed that since they were forced by their acceptance of certain portions of Scripture to leave the Church of Rome, the only course left for them to pursue was to organize in a way as to exclude from their organization all who did not believe as they did.

"Zwingli not only believed in justification by faith but also maintained that in partaking of the bread and wine in what we commonly call the Lord's supper, the actual body of Christ is not eaten and the actual blood is not drunk. Luther declared Zwingli's doctrine to be of the devil, thus excluding Zwingli for no other reason than that he believed a Bible doctrine which Luther did not believe. In this Luther held the same attitude of intolerance that Rome had held toward him. Zwingli himself and many other reformers were in their turn just as intolerant toward others. Under such circumstances, sect-making was inevitable.

"Thus sects continued to multiply, but in the meantime each reformer added some new light upon the Scriptures. Truly we can say with the apostle, '...the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.' Not that we now have more light than the apostle John had when he penned these words; no, the blazing light of the gospel was shining in all its splendor at that time. But again the sun has reached the zenith, and as we return to primitive truth, to all the truth, we can say that the darkness is past—not only the darkness of heathenism and Judaism, but also the darkness of Romanism and Protestantism."

This dawning of God's truth, referred to by the writer so many years ago, didn't mark the end of problems in the Church, however. In the years since my grandfather read the sermon recorded above, and fully embraced those precepts on that New Mexico frontier, —from then, even until now, the Church has continued to face decisions. To think we can set the Church

on cruise control is to immerse our thinking more in Utopia than in reality. As long as there is a devil to contend with, the spirit of the Church must be constantly refined and the doctrines weighed by the Word of God.

Think of the recovery time, and the number of distressed souls just one tainted doctrine has caused in the history of the Church. Think of how many generations it can take to sieve out the error of an ardent, but misguided Christian!

We are standing at a unique ecclesiastical crossroads. The world is changing rapidly. Just as the prophet Daniel foretold, "...Even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Daniel 12:4. People in general are more perceptive in their thinking, and this is a time when our effectiveness in reaching out to them will be directly related to how well we can present the basic truths of God's Word, untainted with human error.

Our hearts were saddened on Sept. 23 at the passing of Bro. Derrill Smith. Having had the pleasure in the past of ministering in the Shawnee congregation, I found Bro. Derrill to be a rare Christian. His humility and devotion to God was outstanding. For a number of years he held a good secular job, but after the death of his father, Bro. Charles Smith, he consecrated to invest his time and efforts in serving as administrator of the *Golden Rule Home*. In frail health and knowing full well the demands of this task, he literally gave his life to help others. The Church will certainly miss him and the blessing of his service, but at this time he is taking a tour that we all hope to join him in someday.

If you want to extend your condolences to his wife, Sis. Ruby Smith, and their family, you may address your correspondence to: 45495 Garretts Lake Road, Shawnee, OK 74801.

The reprinting of our regular stock of books is continuing. Through diligent effort, two more titles have recently been printed and are currently being processed in the bindery department.

We have also printed *Whiter than Snow and Little Dot*, a book that contains two inspiring children's stories. It should be finished during the month of October. Look for a further notice in next month's *Faith and Victory*.

On the press is a book by Bro. Clifford Wilson, titled *Moral Law*. Every serious Bible

student will want to obtain this book. It is a theological book which intellectually unfolds the plan of salvation. The book will be bound in a hard cover and contain 320 pages. We will announce when it is ready for sale.

Praise to God is still in the hearts of the saints who are aware of the great work He has done for Sis. Karen Sallee. It is a great blessing to see her up and going. "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Heb. 13:15.

Naturally, her body has not completely built back up to where it was before the illness, so along with your praise for the miracles God has worked in the past, continue to ask Him for a full restoration of her health.



Sis. Karen Sallee—September, 1997

In last month's Faith and Victory, Bro. Bob Sallee reported on the need the people in Malawi had for food, due to the failure of their maize crop this year. There have been inquiries by the saints on how they can help, so we have established a Malawi fund here at the Print Shop. If you would like to contribute to this

humanitarian need, be sure to designate that your offering is for Malawi.

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At this time the new building project awaits financing. We view what God has already accomplished with great appreciation, and are content to work within His time frame. It was only a year ago last August that the floor was poured and the metal structure begun. Much has been accomplished since then.

Donations have continued to come in, but not enough to begin another phase of the work. At this time the projected finishing cost is \$87,600.00.

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We are still working on plans to hold a *Faith Publishing House* workers reunion sometime next year, which will be the Print Shop's 75th year of operation. We would like to host the gathering in the new building, but in order to have the structure adequate to accommodate this, we are looking at a cost of \$19,950.00 to provide water, septic, bathrooms and kitchen.

Also, as a part of the observance of the 75th celebration, we hope to print a special commemorative booklet. We would like as many former workers as possible to record memories of their days here, and of things that made an impression or helped mold their Christian lives, and send them to us. Pictures would also be appreciated. Please put your name on the back of any photos you send, so they can be returned to you.

—Wayne Murphey

PRAYER REQUESTS. . .

LA—"Hershel Greenway is in urgent need of prayer. He has been on life support for four years due to Lou Gehrig's disease, and needs a blessing from God.

"Also pray for Satoka Jones who has a terminal illness." —Kathy Bhramayana

OR—"My health has been pretty poor lately. I need your prayers." —Sis. Grace Jones

TN—"Keep me in your special prayers. I am weak and sick in body." —Virginia Hill

FL—"I have been very sick and unable to get out. Please have the saints pray for me."

—Judith Klokner

FL—A request has been called in for Sis. Helen Underdown who is having severe stomach pain.

OK—"Remember a man in New York City.

His name is Michael. He has a brain tumor."
 —Ben Harrison

PA—Sis. Ruth Godshall is isolated and carrying some heavy burdens.



Meeting Reports and Notices

HARRISONVILLE, MO MEETING

A weekend meeting is planned for October 25-26 at Harrisonville, MO. There will be services Saturday morning, Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

For additional information, call Bro. Glen Inman (816) 779-5526 or Sis. Gertrude Lounds (913) 722-3488.

SHREVEPORT, LA

ANNUAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S MEETING

The Shreveport, LA, congregation is hosting its annual Young People's Meeting October 25-26. Activities will begin at 10:30 Saturday morning, at the church. All guests will be received with joy. Call Brandon Martens at (318) 797-3109 or Jerry Melot (318) 938-7233 for further information.

HOLLY HILL, SC REVIVAL

Lord willing, the Holly Hill, SC Fall Revival will be held October 12-19. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SINALOA, MEXICO REVIVAL

Bro. Adelfo Gonzales in Culiacan, Sinaloa, Mexico is trusting the Lord to supply for a cement floor for the church house before their coming revival—October 23-26. The saints there are desirous that ministers of God's choosing will come to preach. Culiacan is about 800 miles south of the U. S. border.

For more information, contact Bro. James and Sis. Charlotte Huskey. To reach them by phone in Mexico, dial 011-52-61-77-5228.

FRESNO, CA FALL REVIVAL

The Fresno, CA, Fall Revival will be held October 26 through November 2, 1997. Services will be held nightly at 7:30 p.m. On both Sundays there will be Sunday school at 9:30 a.m., worship service at 10:30 a.m., and an afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. On Saturday, November 1,

there will be a morning service at 10:30 a.m. For further information, please contact the pastor, Bro. Charles Taylor, 3014 Helm Ave, Clovis, CA 93612. Phone: (209) 348-9029.

23RD ST. OKLAHOMA CITY, OK REVIVAL

Lord willing, a revival will be held Monday, October 27 through Sunday, November 2, at the 23rd St. Church of God chapel, Oklahoma City, OK.

Services will be nightly at 7:30 p.m., with morning and afternoon services on Sunday and dinner at the chapel.

Bro. Keith Fuller is scheduled to give out the Word of life.

For more information, call Bro. Loren Busbee. Home: (405) 341-7291. Chapel: (405) 427-1223.

SAPULPA, OK REVIVAL

The congregation at Sapulpa Road, Sapulpa, OK, will be in revival, Lord willing, November 3-9. We are trusting the Holy Spirit to send ministers to preach the Word.

There will be dinner served on Sunday, the 9th, with an afternoon service following.

Everyone is invited to come. Call Bro. James Bell for more information, (918) 247-4579.

ASSEMBLY MEETING LORANGER, LA

The annual Assembly Meeting at Loranger, LA, will begin Wednesday night, 7:30 p.m., November 26. There will be services daily through Sunday, November 30th.

Come for a blessing. If you are unable to be here please back the meeting earnestly in your prayers. Above all, let us every one prepare, hold fast and watch for the Bridegroom's soon coming!

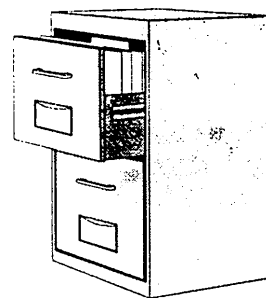
There is a dormitory for the sisters and one for the brothers. Power and water hookups are provided for those with campers. Meals will be served and expenses met by freewill offerings.

From Loranger, go two miles south and about three and one-half miles east on Hwy. 40.

For those traveling I-55, the grounds are about 10 miles east of the Tickfaw exit (take Hwy. 442 east which runs into Hwy. 40).

For more information write Nelson Doolittle, 51367 Narretto Rd., Loranger, LA 70446. Phone: (504) 878-6111. The chapel phone is: (504) 878-2788.

From
Our
Letter
Files



KS—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am blessed and encouraged.

The Youth Round-Up went well, and the Lord did not let it rain. It was well-attended and we thank the Lord for all the young people who came.

Our revival meeting is going well also. We are thankful that Bro. Louis Kimble was here to deliver a message. Bro. Mart Samons and Bro. Toney Samons also delivered two messages each before leaving. Bro. Gordon Humphrey is here and Sis. Mary Lawson arrived today. There are only three days left, and may the Lord bless the strength of each one.

It sure is good to be retired. When our meetings are held I can attend each service and help with duties, and still get long nights of rest. So my three years of retirement have been a blessing to me.

Well, love to all the Publishing House workers,
—Sis. Shirley Knight

MI—Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ: We send you greetings of love and peace in His name. May God bless you in the work He has given you. Thank you for faithfully sending the *Faith and Victory* paper to us. There are many timely articles and testimonies that are encouraging to us. Our prayers are with you every day, that the Word would go forth in truth.

We are encouraged to press on for Jesus, who is our only hope of eternal life. We will never be able to thank and praise Him enough for His love toward us, as well as towards all mankind.

We need your prayers, that we will stay faithful to Him who bought us with His blood....

—Bro. Milford and Sis. Dorothy Parsons

MO—Dear friends: Hello from Missouri! We are very thankful to the Lord for His wonderful mercies to us. Surely they are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.

We are so thankful for the little girl God gave us! She is a real blessing in our home. We want to thank the Lord for helping her with the colic

when she was first born. We were sure she had it, and were dreading going through that for three months. So we earnestly started praying that God would heal her, and she was over it in about two to three weeks. It sounds like a little thing, but to new parents, that is a big thing, and it sure was a blessing to us.

God has also answered some other very special prayer requests we have had before Him. How great it is to have a wonderful Guide like the Lord. Keep encouraged! Let's fight the good fight of faith.

Love and prayers,

—Matt and Stephanie Sorrell

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LA—Dear ones in Christ: Greetings in the precious name of Jesus, the One who gave His life on Calvary's cross that we might have salvation and eternal life. We have so much today for which to thank the Lord. He has proven His love for us many times as we have journeyed this life. We want to draw nearer to Him and be the example He would have us to be.

My husband, Max, has been blind for thirteen years or so. For many years he was able to get around and do things for himself, but for the past six years he has become immobile and unable to do anything for himself. With God's help, the help of our children and Home Health Services, we have been able to care for him at home and do very well.

Max has prayed for God to restore his eyesight many times a day for oh, so long. He would sit in his chair, or wheelchair, with his head bowed and his eyes shut. I wondered at times if he could hold his head up. He has always wanted me right by him, and if not me, just someone, all the time. I suppose it makes him feel secure.

Several weeks ago, we began noticing that he must be seeing slightly out of his left eye. He would notice when someone passed by him, and he would comment about who they were or what they had on. He began to reach out to touch things. One day he commented on our daughter having on a blue dress. I asked him about mine and he said it was striped, which it was.

One day, while we were on the porch, our three year old granddaughter came running up. I told him it was little Kate. He asked what she had in her hand. She had a small stuffed animal which she let him hold, and when he gave it back he said, "You are a pretty little girl." We were all just thrilled. From then on his vision in

the left eye expanded. Of course, it has been so long since he looked on our faces that we didn't look natural to him. He couldn't understand, because he doesn't realize how long it's been since he lost his sight.

He just has vision in his left eye. That eye has cleared up, and it's so good to see him sitting with his head up and looking around. We are just amazed and rejoicing because he can see. Oh, thank the Lord for His love to us.

Max's mind is still very confused at times, and there are many things that trouble him that he can't understand. Now, his mind may never be normal in that respect, but we do know that he can see and are sure he is much happier. He enjoys sitting outside looking at the plants and flowers.

We are grateful to the Lord for His goodness to us and to God's people for the many prayers offered in our behalf.

So many of the saints have called and sent cards of encouragement. We appreciate all. I will acknowledge them as I can.

With Christian love,

—Sis. Lula and Bro. Max Williamson

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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name. I am still saved and encouraged to follow the Lord all the way. God has really blessed me and my family, for which I am very thankful.

I am not sure whether this qualifies as a testimony or something else, but I just felt that God would have me make the following statement for the benefit of many who have been wondering exactly where I stand.

I continue to stand with the Church of God. I still believe in holding to the standard of God's Word. I believe in and teach divine healing. I believe in trusting God for everything.

I am not interested in pushing anything that is not of God, and I am sorry for any confusion caused by my writings. I am running for my life, so pray for me.

Yours in His service, —Philip A. Matthews

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OK—Dear saints: I am looking forward to receiving the next *Faith and Victory*. However, someone will have to read it to me. Until one is my age, they don't understand what it is like to lose most of the friends they have had for many years and to be unable to see or hear very well. It gets rather lonely at times.

It is enjoyable living here at the Golden Rule Apartments. As someone remarked, it is like

Monark meeting, as you never know who will be here to visit or live.

During the night hours the Lord has been giving me songs that encourage me to press on in my journey. "I have gone too far to turn back now."

May God bless everyone, —Sis. Edith Wall
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AR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all of your faithful workers: I want to let you know how much I appreciate the paper. I enjoy it very much; the testimonies and each portion of it.

The dear Lord does help me daily, and I am very thankful for it. He blesses me in many ways....

Do remember Sis. Nellie West in prayer,
—Sis. Dorothy Critcher
— — — — —

OK—Dear saints: I just want to thank and praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy to me. Sometimes I know I don't speak up enough for Him.

In June the Lord healed me of a problem, which I believe was an infection, in both sides of my neck. I had trouble with it for quite a long time, but when I came to the place where I could put it all in His hands He healed me. Thank the Lord! Even when the enemy tried to make me think it was still there, the Lord gave me the strength to resist those thoughts and claim my healing.

He is such a wonderful Lord and Savior. I cannot thank Him enough for His love and tender mercies to me. I love the Lord and mean to go with Him all the way. Psalm 150:6 says, "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." I do not want to fail to praise Him.
—Sis. Janie Woodruff
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OK—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We are so thankful we can trust Him for all of our needs.

Most of you know, I (Sis. Lois Sharp) had a stroke on June 11. The Lord has been so near to me. My left side was affected, and still is, but I am expecting the Lord to help me through it all. We truly praise Him for all the improvements I have made.

We have enjoyed hearing from the saints, and want all to know that we appreciate your letters, prayers and concern for us. We may not get each one answered personally.

We are enjoying our apartment here in Shawnee, OK. I stay at the Golden Rule Home at

night, and I very much appreciate the care I get.

We have enjoyed having our children visit us this summer, also my brother and his wife from Texas. We have also enjoyed the saints who have come by.

Keep us on your prayer list, and may the Lord bless all is our prayer.

Christian love,

—Bro. Donald and Sis. Lois Sharp
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CA—Dear Bro. Wayne: Only a note to say we love and appreciate all the workers there, for all the faithful labors of love for God.

We also want to thank you and all the saints for your faithful gifts to help us go to Mexico. I feel guilty that we are not able to go more, but sometimes these bodies are not physically able. I hope this Saturday to go again.

We love the Lord and want to live in a way that He can use us in His service. Again we humbly say, "Thank You" and ask for your prayers. You are always in our prayers.

Christian love, —Sis. Edith Lara
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SC—Dear ones working in the Faith Publishing House: Thank you for carrying on the work of the Lord. May the Lord bless and help each one of you and the work of sending out His Word in literature.

Please remember the congregation here in Holly Hill, South Carolina. Our pastor, Bro. Utson Platt, passed away on August 13, 1997. Please keep us in your prayers, that the Lord would bless us by sending us a pastor or raising one up in the congregation. May the Lord's will be done. God's way is best.

Please remember me in your prayers also. Lately I have had much pain and haven't been able to rest at night. I know Jesus is the Great Physician.

Also, please keep Bro. Utson Platt's wife and family in your prayers during their time of grief and sorrow.

With Christian love,

—Sis. Marie Weatherford
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TX—Dear ones: I didn't want time to slip away before mentioning how the Lord has blessed and answered prayer. Last school year I met with several problems. Christopher had several warts on both hands and on his arms. Also, they did a blood count on him at school and found he was anemic. During this time we were praying for God to heal him.

After two or three weeks they examined him again. His blood count was better and some of the warts were smaller. Towards the end of the school year the warts were still there and I was dreading the time they were to check him again, but still praying. The Lord worked it out that the subject wasn't brought up again. In July, we noticed more of his warts growing smaller and disappearing. Thank God! The warts are all gone now! He is so good to us, even in the seemingly small matters. We are having some other problems with school matters this year, but we are trusting God to bless in these things, too. We know He can do all things and do them well!

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank those who were responsible for preparing and compiling the many coloring pages, puzzles and all the Biblical material that was handed out at the Monark Springs, MO children's meetings this past summer. They were and still are a blessing. My children enjoyed it all and I truly appreciate all of the love, time, talents and kind consideration that went into this huge project!

Please continue to remember us all here in prayer, for we desire to please the Lord in every way. We are praying for the work of the Lord there, in the mission fields and everywhere.

We look forward to more opportunities to be in meeting and share the blessings of sweet fellowship, love and unity of the dear saints.

Lovingly in Christ, —Sis. Jan Wood



FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From the Philippines...

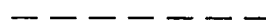
Dear Brother Murphey: Christian greetings to you and your family, and to all the saints at the Print Shop. I hope you are all in good health and happily laboring in God's kingdom. Please give my thanks to all the saints abroad who are supporting the mission work here. Thank our Lord for giving us the opportunity to preach the gospel for the salvation of precious souls. At present we have many activities in strengthen-

ing the Church and opening new congregations. We are very much encouraged to see people repenting of their sins and coming to the Lord, accepting His love and sacrifice to save them from their sins.

In our evangelistic service in Palistina last Wednesday evening, the chapel was filled with visitors. In our open forum there were many religious questions, and after maybe an hour of questionings and answering from the Bible, four women came forward and one was the leader of a church society. She came forward with tears, confessing her mistakes and errors, and she said she thanked the Lord for the enlightenment to see the truth....

Your brother in Christ,

—Matias S. Tangunan



From Nigeria...

Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and co-workers: Greetings to you all in the ever victorious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. His eternal kingdom into which we have been translated through genuine salvation isn't of earthly origin at all, but heavenly. Thus we have become dear children of the heavenly King!

We also thank God so much for all that He has enabled you to accomplish on the new Print Shop project. May He keep providing all that is required to complete it, is our humble prayer.

Although we, the brethren here, are more or less in the same state, moneywise, with the poor, the maimed, the lame and the blind, we always appreciate your relentless generosity with our fervent prayers. Nevertheless, please keep encouraged, as none of your labours will go without being adequately rewarded, both now and at the resurrection of the just. (Luke 14:13-14.)

The Rivers State government has posted mobile policemen in Tombia to keep the peace. Consequently, the repeated acts of violence that have caused this community an unspeakable ruin and contempt haven't occurred again since this year began. And for this development we give God the glory with all of our being. Moreover, we do fervently supplicate for God's pardon for the entire community, and are praying ceaselessly for God to restore a lasting peace and unity in our hostility-torn community of Tombia. Please, we do solicit your prayers in this connection to continue more often than before, including the Nigerian society.

It is with a heavy heart that I have written

this letter. The reason is that my paternal family was unexpectedly bereaved in a most painful way. The traditional head of the family is dead. He died two days ago, after a brief illness which befell him. He was my uncle. He was of same parents with my father who is still alive.

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you all. Amen. Let us not relent in praying for one another. —Onimite B. Alalibo

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From Mexico...

Brother Wayne Murphey: I respectfully salute you and others of the flock of God.... We give thanks for the visit of the Brothers, James Huskey, James Bell and the young men who came to Sinaloa, Mexico June 1-5, 1997. They worked each day with the men of the local congregation, who are also full of gratitude for the construction of the chapel here. Lacking in our congregation was the technical and financial aid which they provided. Now we have celebrated a spiritual "fiesta" under our new roof, while it was raining, with a reading from Habakkuk 3:2, "...O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years,...."

By this we want to tell all of the saints to put their hands to the plow, (Luke 9:62) and their feet on the Rock (Matthew 16:18). We know that the Master of the harvest is the Lord, Jesus Christ, and we are His servants....

This is all for now. We remain under the wings of the Almighty. (Numbers 6:24-26.)

—Pastor Adelfo Gonzalez

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Leaning against the dusty cement block wall, I scanned the faces of the listeners as Bro. Adelfo Gonzales repeated the invitation again. "How many would like to have salvation?" A man with white hair and crippled feet raised his hand high above his head. He said, "I have read the Bible through several times, but I still don't know how to be saved." Three others raised their hands. One was a man perched on a bicycle. His eyes seemed to be pleading for deliverance from the life which his hard face, heavy black beard and long hair portrayed. It was almost dark when the yard meeting was over, but we had instructed and prayed with seven souls which God's mercy had touched.

Earlier on that Sunday afternoon, we had taken baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy to a family who had not come to church that morning because of a sick grandmother. When I entered the oneroom house, Guillermina,

the saved granddaughter, said to me, "We are so glad you have come. We need you. Grandma says she will soon die, but she is afraid. Please tell Grandma how to be saved."

It was a miracle that Grandma Lucia was in Chapultepec, where we live. In the late spring of this year, her daughter, Francisca, felt an urgency to bring her aged mother (98 years old) from the southern state of Oaxaca to Baja California to care for her. Although money was not available for a bus ticket, Francisca packed her clothes and said she would be leaving at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday. She came to church with her bags ready to go. The brethren each *sacrificed something they needed that week* and took up a love offering for her. When it was counted, Francisca had enough for the bus ticket, with only \$2.00 left for food. I took her to get the bus, but it was an hour late, so we visited. After that hour, Francisca was in my heart. It would be three days before she arrived in Oaxaca. I cried all the way home because I knew Francisca would be hungry those three days. I had already given her what money I had. Years before when Grandma Lucia had visited with Francisca she would not come to the Church of God. But this time she attended whenever she was able.

That Sunday afternoon Grandma Lucia greeted me in the usual formal way which consisted of many flowery words and a kiss on my hand, then she said, "Teach me how to pray when I die. I've divided my food with the saints (images), done penances walking on my knees for long distances, given to the poor and been a good neighbor. What else should I do to have peace?"

We talked with her for about an hour and I could see she was really sincere. Very simply I explained to her the plan of salvation through faith in Jesus. Her granddaughter and I prayed, then I asked her to repeat after me a prayer of repentance. After prayer she said, "I have peace. I am not afraid to die."

Grandma Lucia passed away September 16, with a smile on her face. She had served her religion from childhood, but our merciful Jesus saved her in her last days.

At this time Bro. Mayarina Escobar was giving shelter to two ladies who had just lost their mother in a traumatic auto accident. Both of these sisters were brought to the Lord during the four weeks they stayed in his home. What a merciful God to allow these strangers to come in contact with God's children and be led to Him.

God was also merciful to give a wonderful meeting at Pacoima, CA, which we attended. The spirit of the meeting was sweet, the preaching exceptionally good, and many souls sought help at the altar. It was glorious! Bro. Escobar and his family attended, also Gavi, a young neighbor lady. She was sanctified and baptized there.

One afternoon the young people invited people from the nearby apartment complex. The first Sunday, ten Mexican children came to Sunday school. We had a class for them out on the lawn. Some of these children came almost every day at 9:00 for children's meeting. Three of them claimed salvation. A woman from an apartment also came one evening and went to the altar for salvation.

Although no one came prepared to have children's meeting, the Lord blessed in a wonderful way. One day the children were so under conviction that five came to the altar and prayed to be saved.

I believe there were eight adults and two children baptized. Seven of these were from the Pacoima congregation. Isn't God merciful?

A few days after returning from Pacoima, we were visiting an elderly lady who has housing for migrant field workers. A young woman knocked at the door. "May I listen?" she asked. "I like to hear about Jesus."

About halfway through the lesson she left, but returned quickly. Later we learned that Maria was checking on her four year old son who was sick with the mumps. We followed her home and found her little boy lying on a blanket on the cold cement floor.

Early the following morning, I took two more blankets and an egg carton mattress to her. The only furniture in the two room dwelling was a broken down chair and a two burner kerosene stove. I read and explained some scriptures to Maria and her mother who had come to see about the sick boy. Then I read James 5:13 and prayed for the child. The next day when I came to visit, the child was outside playing. I told Maria I would like to teach the Bible to the children if she would get them together. "They go to school in the morning and work pulling onions in the afternoon. They get home about 6:30, but please, do come," she said.

The following evening, Rhonda, Julie and I arrived at 6:30. Twenty-three children and four adults were waiting for us. We have gone five times now, and have had five lessons. The

interest is as good as it was that first day. I see the mercy of God in helping us meet Maria, for I did not realize that people were yet so hungry for God's Word.

It is impossible to measure God's mercy.

—Sis. Charlotte Huskey

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From India...

Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear Brothers and Sisters in America: Greetings to you again in the Holy name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your letter dated August 29 and the *Faith and Victory* paper. I went through the victorious report of Bro. Bob Sallee and his daughter, Sis Karen, and praised God for delivering Sis. Karen from the affliction of Malaria. "Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat; and they draw near unto the gates of death. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saveth them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:18-21.

Next week is our 'ONAM' holidays, and we have arranged special spiritual programs in different parts of our state during those holidays. We plan to have a minister's conference during the second week of October.

Our van is in the workshop now for a major repair. Please pray for our needs in the Lord's work in different areas. Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him,

—Bro. John Varghese

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IN MEMORIAM



On the morning of January 28th, 1903, in Monroe, LA, a beautiful baby girl was born to Anthony and Octavia Bennett. They called her **Neice**. Neice was the eldest of eight children born to this union.

Neice received her early education at Dead Lake and St. James in OK. She received her higher education at Clearview, OK.

In 1923, Neice met and married Richard Henderson, Sr. This union was blessed with six children.

In 1938, Richard Henderson, Sr. passed from this life after a long illness.

In February of 1939, Neice married Scott Regans and off they set on an adventure. They loved and raised five of Neice's children. In May of 1973, Scott was called to eternal rest.

Neice accepted Christ at an early age and remained a saint until the Lord called her home on August 17, 1997.

Leaving to mourn her passing, but celebrating her homegoing, are four children, Richard Henderson, Jr. of the home, Masy O. Jones of Boley, OK, Charline Ryans of Topeka, KS and Darlene Adams of Boley, OK; one sister, Mrs. Gustavia Burrus of Richmond, CA; 7 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great-grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.



Mammon Of Unrighteousness

By Sis. Alta Flynn

"And I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." Luke 16:9.

Having lived all my life not able to understand the meaning of this scripture, being much confused as to what Jesus was trying to get over to His disciples, and learning of others being confused concerning the meaning of it, I have felt impressed to make known the revelation which the Lord gave me concerning it a year or so ago.

For a long time I could not understand, why that after Jesus had warned against riches (Matthew 19:24), being anxious and overly concerned about the material things of life such as what we would eat or wear, He would come up with those words. I began to pray and seek the Lord about being able to grasp the true meaning of those words, that I might profit thereby.

We know it is possible, and has happened many times, for friends to receive someone when they failed physically or financially and aid them along to the end of life. But I knew no friends could have everlasting habitations to receive anyone into. I felt impressed to read other translations besides the King James version, and also to run references. Moffatt made it clear to me that "when you fail," means "when you die." Then the Lord spoke to me and said, "Friends here don't refer to people." It was so precious to feel the Lord so near, and for Him to speak so plainly to me. I was melted to tears. To begin to receive light on that scripture was

wonderful. My eyes were opened as to who our friends would be when we die. They are to receive us into everlasting habitations.

The Lord made it plain to me that by using the mammon of unrighteousness, or money, and all the material things He permits us to have here, to His glory and according to His will, they will be our friends when we get to the end of life. Otherwise they will be a curse and enemies, and we will not be received into everlasting habitations which Jesus has gone to prepare for His faithful children.

There is nothing holy or righteous about money or any material things which the Lord has blessed us with, but He knows we have need of them, and expects us to use them according to His will, always putting Him and His work first.

These are some of the scriptures the Lord soon brought to my mind after I began to grasp the meaning of that verse. "...Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all of these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth;... But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:19-20. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Col. 3:1-3.

One reference the Bible gave was the sad story of the rich young ruler in Matthew 19:21-22. Oh, what sorrow he had when he came to the end of his life, when he could have had many wonderful friends to receive him into everlasting habitations. His life was short at the longest, and now he has been in hell nearly 2000 years with the other rich man who lived in Moses' time and had no pity on poor Lazarus. That sad story is found in the last part of the 16th chapter of Luke.

We don't have to be rich in order to fail in being a good steward over the material things the Lord has entrusted us with. Just to put the desires of self first for unnecessary things, will cause us to miss heaven. May we not be as the unfaithful steward Jesus told about in the first part of the 16th chapter of Luke. He was not a faithful steward, but squandered his Lord's goods and was not trustworthy, therefore, he was put out of his stewardship.

At 86 years of age, I know the remainder of my life is short, and I am asking the Lord to help

me to live in a way that the last part will be the best for Him. I want to be found with oil in my vessel and not turned away from Heaven in the end because of being a foolish virgin. (Matthew 25:3.)

May we all be good stewards, then at the end of life have wonderful friends waiting to receive us into everlasting habitations.



Great Things The Lord Hath Done

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Psalms 126:3 says, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Let us consider some of the great things that God has accomplished and provided for us. Too many times we look at and consider what God is **not** doing.

Let us consider some of the writings of the apostle Paul. In **Ephesians 1:3** he said, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." How wonderful that we can be in the shower of the true riches of Christ in things of faith, love, humility, courage, hope, patience, holiness and all the other qualities of life and character that are in the inner man, the part of us that is spiritual and of the true essence of God Himself! He goes on to say in **verse 4** that, "...he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love." Think of the plan and eternal purpose that God had in mind for us before the world began! He had us all mapped out and purposed to be in His

blessed image of holiness and perfect love. Let us so yield unto His Holy Spirit and be submissive to His Word so that this wonderful plan of God can be accomplished in us!

Verse 5 says that He has "...predestinated (or, determined to be beforehand) us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will." Oh, how blessed to be the children of God! It is the good pleasure of His will that He has made it so that we can be born from above and be children of God not only by creation, but by the working of His power and grace on the inside, cleansing the heart and setting it right for Him.

Verse 6 says that "...he hath made us accepted in the beloved." This means that we can share with Christ, His beloved Son, all the blessedness and special privileges of being dear and precious to Him. What He said of Jesus as being His well beloved Son He can say of us, also.

Verse 8 says that (according to the riches of His grace) "...He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence." The word "prudence" here in the Greek means "to have a strong mind and purpose toward." God has wisely and earnestly drawn near to us to be our God and Saviour. He is offering every power and benefit that He has to us for our help and happiness. He wants to be our God.

Paul in **Ephesians 2:4-6** tells us some more things that our God hath done. "But God,

who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ,..." God has, in Christ, made it possible for us to be quickened (or made alive). We were dead in trespasses and sins. But as we hear the everlasting gospel and the Word of God and believe and obey, we are raised up from spiritual death and separation from God to fellowship with Him. He said in **verse 6** that He "...hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." We can be raised up to sit together with Christ and His holy saints in heavenly realms of power, love, and triumphant grace.

1 Peter 1:3-4 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." Think of the riches of this wonderful living hope that God has raised us up out of sin to have and to enjoy! Think of this blessed inheritance that we have in Him! Oh, can we let our heads hang down in shame and our hearts droop with sorrow when we have such riches promised us?

II Timothy 1:9 says that God "...hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given

*Has not the Lord done great things,
and ought not we to be glad?*

us in Christ Jesus before the world began." How blessed it is to be saved from the power of sin and the binding influence of this present evil world! And think of this holy calling! The word *calling* here in the Greek means "invitation." What a wonderful invitation we have received from the Lord Jesus to leave the world and be crowned with eternal glory some day! In **verse 10** the apostle Paul goes on to say that this holy calling "...Is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

Praise the Lord! Look what great things that God, through the power of the resurrection of His Son, has accomplished. He has abolished death. He has brought to light life and immortality through the gospel. We can be raised from the dead state of sin to a life of victory and someday share in His blessed resurrection and be immortal to live with Him forever. Has not the Lord done great things, and ought not we to be glad?

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**Excerpts Taken From
Sept., 1947
Faith and Victory**

"The Dover Camp Meeting is now numbered with the events of the past, and we believe we can truly say that the Lord was with us from beginning to end in a wonderful way, as the prayers and supplications of His servants ascended to the throne of grace....

"This was one of the best meetings that have been held on these grounds, which was the testimony of many. Several who were afflicted or sick were prayed for and testified to receiving the healing touch. One boy who had been afflicted for about three months and was obliged to go on crutches came to the altar for prayer. God saved him. He sat upon the altar as prayer was offered for his healing. He claimed his healing and went away carrying his crutches in his hand. He went through the rest of the meeting without them, and is still going. What a mighty God we serve!

"Bro. Henry Caldwell and Bro. LeRoy McCray were ordained as deacons and Sister Callie Owens as a deaconess. May God give them courage to toil on faithfully in the service of the Lord, is our earnest prayer.

"Electric lights have been installed in the church and on the grounds, which is a great benefit.... The attendance of this meeting was larger than any previous meeting in this place."

—U. Phillips and Henry Caldwell