

FAITH^{AND}VICTORY

USPS184-660

Church of God Servant

Unto Him shall the
gathering of the
people be.

GOD IS
LOVE

YE SHINE AS
LIGHTS IN
THE WORLD.

JESUS
SAVES

The night cometh,
when no man
can work.

Volume 78, No. 2

78th Year

Guthrie, Oklahoma

\$3.00 Per Year

April, 2000

The Scourging

"When he had scourged Jesus,..."
Matt. 27:26

*What kind of man
must he have been who flogged
the Son of God?*

*What cursed career that he
fulfilled by striking with his rod!*

*To flay a man, and Him Divine—
a loathsome task indeed!*

*To spill the blood of "God as Man"
should bring one to his knees.*

*Yes, even he with scourge in hand
who thrashed with fiendish glee
Could find forgiveness in the blood
he shed so mercilessly.*

*So powerful, the crimson stain
that fell on arid sand!*

*Its saving grace could cleanse the sin
of the tormentor's hand.*

—Mary Murphey

Simon of Cyrene

By Charles Ludwig

*"And they compel one Simon a
Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of
the country, the father of Alexander
and Rufus, to bear his cross."*

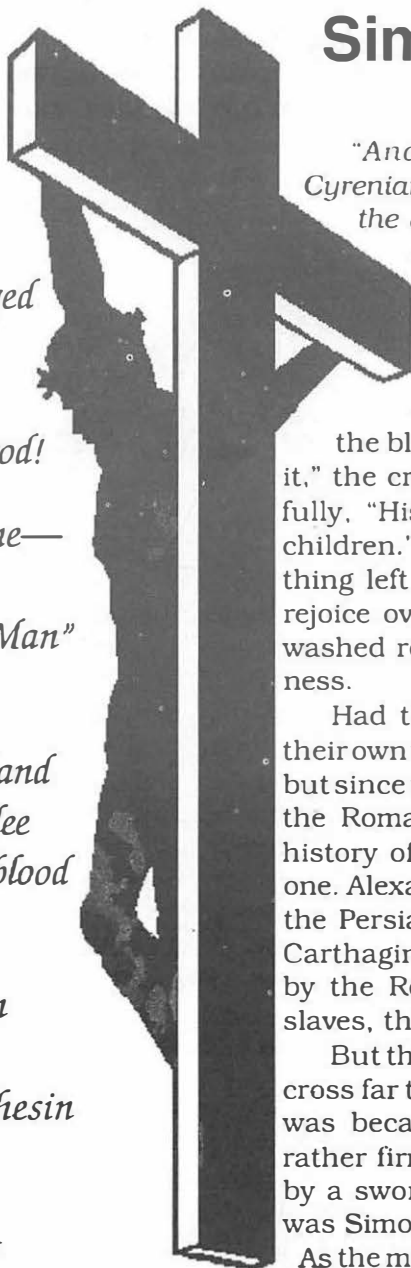
—Mark 15:21

After Pontius Pilate had ceremoniously washed his hands and declared, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it," the crowd shouted back almost gleefully, "His blood be on us, and on our children." (Matthew 27:24-25). The only thing left for the mob to do then was to rejoice over the success of their freshly-washed robes of self-declared righteousness.

Had the Jews put Jesus to death in their own way, He would have been stoned; but since they were doing it the legal way—the Roman way—He was crucified. The history of death by crucifixion is an old one. Alexander the Great borrowed it from the Persians. Then it was copied by the Carthaginians. And finally it was adopted by the Romans who used it to execute slaves, thieves and prisoners of war.

But the Romans considered death on a cross far too cruel for their own citizens. It was because of this that, according to rather firm tradition, Paul was beheaded by a sword instead of being crucified as was Simon Peter.

As the mob faced Jesus, they faced a man



who was utterly worn out. After His hours of agonized praying in Gethsemane He had gone from one weary trial to another, and He had not had a bite of food or a drop of water since the Last Supper the night before.

There had been the trial before Annas, the three trials before Joseph Caiaphas—the preliminary trial, the regular trial, and the repeat trial—the one early in the morning to make everything legal and within the letter of the law. There had been the trial before Pilate and the trial before Herod. And there was the final trial before Pilate.

In addition to this, Jesus had gone through endless mental and physical torture. There had been the pain of three times finding Peter, James and John asleep while having Judas betray Him with a kiss. There had been the pain of seeing Peter slash off a man's ear with a sword. There had been the pain of seeing His disciples flee. There had been the pain of being bound and having His hands pulled high between His shoulders. There had been the pain of being before Caiaphas. There had been the pain of being scourged by the order of Pilate.

The man delivered by the procurator to the mob was already half dead. He was a pitiful sight with the crown of thorns on His head and His raw back and swollen face.

Presently an order was given, and two criminals were brought up out of their dungeon and placed with Jesus. Then each was given a cross on which he would be nailed. At a signal a platoon of legionnaires armed with spears formed a box around them so that they could not escape. Then a man appeared with a sign painted on thin pine board. The large black letters read: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."

The inscription was written in Latin, Hebrew and Greek. A Roman officer on a horse led the legionnaires, and the man with the sign stood immediately in front. When everything was ready the centurion on the horse shouted, "Forward march," and the solemn procession headed for the skull-shaped hill, Calvary.

The road at the beginning of the Via Dolorosa was about twelve feet wide and led up a straight incline before it sloped toward the Damascus Gate. Jesus, with the heavy cross on His shoulders, did not walk as fast now as He had the day before when He led the Twelve into the Upper

Room, the eleven to the Garden of Gethsemane and the three into the edge of the Garden. The cross on His shoulders was heavy enough, but added to that weight were the past sins, the present sins, and the future sins of the entire world. No one else but the Son of God could have carried that load!

As the newly formed column moved toward the grim place of execution, there were multitudes who watched from the streets and the roof tops of stores and houses. Some of the people jeered. Others were silent. Some turned their heads and dabbed at their eyes. Some of them yawned with unconcern. Others giggled and laughed.

In that crowd, however, there must have been people whom Jesus had healed of blindness. But now they were blind again—blinded by their tears. One can almost hear these former beggars shouting frantically, "No! No! You can't do this to Jesus. He healed my eyes!"

But these cries were ignored, and the procession plodded on!

Also in that crowd there must have been some whom He had cleansed of leprosy. And I think I can see them gesturing with the new fingers Jesus had given them and shouting frantically, "No! No! You can't do this to Jesus. He healed my leprosy!"

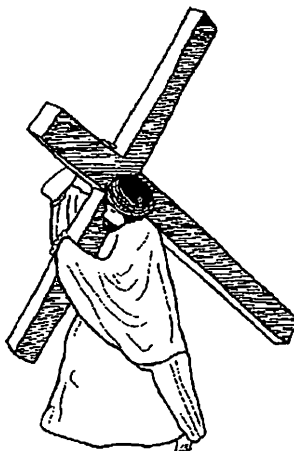
But these cries were ignored, and the procession plodded on!

And I think in that crowd there must have been some whom Jesus had made to hear and to speak. And I think I can see them listening to Jesus' groans and then shouting with their new voices, "No! No! You can't do this to Jesus. He healed my ears and gave me speech!"

But these cries were ignored, and the procession plodded on!

Then all at once Jesus, the Carpenter of Nazareth who had carried many a beam on His shoulders, stumbled and fell to the ground. Someone kicked Him, but He could not get up. His humanity was exhausted.

The centurion was now in a dilemma. He could not ask one of his soldiers to carry the cross, nor could he ask a Jew to carry it. For if a Jew even touched it, he would be defiled and not be able to partake of the Passover. And Roman officers were definitely forbidden to interfere with the religious practices of their sub-



jects.

One wonders where Peter and James and John were at this time. They could have carried the cross. They did not need to fear not eating the Passover, for they had already eaten the Last Supper with Jesus! Peter and John had been at Caiaphas' palace a few hours before. But where were they now? Jesus had been very close to them for three years, but in this moment of trial they were not there to pick up the load for Him! And still He loved them! Oh, what a Christ!

Then Simon of Cyrene, a large city in North Africa, came walking by. Just in from the country, he was minding his own business when he saw the column on the way to Calvary. He stopped to see what it was all about. That stop changed history for him and for millions of others!

The centurion noticed him immediately. He was just the man! He barked an order, and the legionnaires grabbed Simon and forced him to pick up Jesus' cross.

Who was Simon of Cyrene? We do not know for certain, but we can make some pretty good guesses. Mark tells us that he was the father of Alexander and Rufus. (Mark 15:21, Acts 13:1.) And since the gospel of Mark was directed to the Romans, it is evident that the sons were well known in the church at Rome.

The greatest honor ever given to a human being was when Mary conceived and gave birth to Jesus Christ. The next greatest honor given to a human being was this honor—the honor of carrying Jesus' cross.

But how unexpected the honor was! When Simon left home he had no idea that he was going to play such an important part in history! And perhaps as you read this the Lord will honor you and ask you to shoulder a burden. Maybe right now He's saying, "I want you in Burma, Africa, India, Mexico. Or maybe in a voice that is soft and low He is saying, "I need you in the Sunday school. I need you to do regular church visitation. I need your money."

If He is saying these things we should answer, "Yes, Lord," and feel honored in doing so!

Now we often hear that a cross is something that we voluntarily pick up; but this is not *always* so. The text tells us that Simon was *compelled* to carry it. Please remember that real Christians are obedient Christians, and that if we are to obey, we must pick up the burdens Jesus hands us and be thankful to carry them!

I do not know what kind of cross the Lord

may present to you. But whatever it is, carry it! The cross-bearer carries something that Jesus cannot carry in order to enable Jesus to do what the cross-bearer cannot do!

The task Simon was asked to complete was not a very spectacular one. His job was simply to carry a cross a few hundred feet; tradition tells us that Jesus Himself had already carried the cross most of the distance. Although the job looked insignificant at the moment, it turned out to be extremely important!

It is easy enough to get people to assume big crosses—crosses with publicity attached to them, crosses that the multitude can see. But it is very difficult to get them to assume the little crosses that are unnoticed by the crowd. Yet, frequently it is the little cross that does the most good!

Teaching a Sunday school class is not always an easy thing. To some teachers it is a very heavy cross. To work on a lesson for a class with its quota of rowdies is not always easy. Many a teacher goes home and weeps over the happenings of the day. And yet it so happens that here and there a screaming toddler, a paper-throwing junior hears something from or sees something in the teacher that brings about a great change.

Do not despise the seemingly little things! Simon's burden was not unusually heavy. His task was not drawn out. But it was very necessary! And his name is written large in history as a result.

You may be asked to assume a cross for the simple reason that no one else will carry it. Simon was not chosen because he was pious, strong or faithful. He was chosen because no one else could be had!

And when he picked up the cross, without doubt he was met with jeers and boos. One can imagine the abuse that was heaped on him as he stood to his feet with the cross over his shoulder.

Then I think somebody must have gone right up to him and snarled, "Now you're defiled. You can't partake of the Passover. You are the most ignorant ignoramus I ever met!" His ears must have tingled with the abuse. But I do not think he really minded. For I think the Master must have put a wearied arm around him for support, and I think He must have whispered some wonderful words of cheer into Simon's ears!

Jesus had instituted the Lord's Supper the

(Continued on page ??)

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



This non-sectarian paper is edited and published in the interest of the universal CHURCH OF GOD each month (except August of each year, and we omit an issue that month to attend camp meetings), by Wayne Murphey, and other consecrated workers at the FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, 4318 S. Division, Guthrie, OK 73044 (USPS184-660).

(Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, OK)

Notice to subscribers: When you move or change your address, please write us at once, giving your old and new address, and include your zip code number. The post office now charges 50¢ to notify us of each change of address.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES



Single copy, one year \$3.00
Package of 5 papers to one address, one year \$12.00
Larger quantities are figured at the same rate.

This publication teaches salvation from all sin, sanctification for believers, unity and oneness for which Jesus prayed as recorded in John 17:21, and manifested by the apostles and believers after Pentecost. By God's grace we teach, preach, and practice the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ—the same gospel that Peter, John, and Paul preached, taught, and practiced, including divine healing for the body. James 5:14-15.

Its motto: Have faith in God. Its object: The glory of God and the salvation of men; the restoration and promulgation of the whole truth to the people in this "evening time" as it was in the morning Church of the first century; the unification of all true believers in one body by the love of God. Its standard: separation from the sinful world and entire devotion to the service and will of God. Its characteristics: No discipline but the Bible, no bond of union but the love of God, and no test of fellowship but the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Through the Free Literature Fund thousands of gospel tracts are published and sent out free of charge as the Lord supplies. Cooperation of our readers is solicited, and will be appreciated in any way as the Bible and the Holy Spirit teach you to do or stir your heart. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Read Ex. 25:2; I Chron. 29:9; II Cor. 9:7; and Luke 6:38.

Freewill offerings sent in to the work will be thankfully received as from the Lord. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Faith Publishing House. All donations are tax deductible.

A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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

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Editorials



By Wayne Murphey

There's no other name so sweet as Jesus,
No one ever cared so much for me;
As to shed His precious blood to save me,
No one ever cared so much for me.

When I see Him face to face up in Glory,
I will bow at His nailed scarred feet;
And I'll thank Him for the pain He suffered,
Because He cared so much for me.

There's no one who cares like Jesus,
There's no friend so precious to me;
Who would carry a cross up to Calvary,
No one ever cared so much for me.

—Author Unknown

The story of Christ's death is the Gospel the world needs. It illustrates His caring. If every craving heart could comprehend the richness of Christ's love at Calvary, the ills of humanity would be resolved. Lust and greed, school shootings, abortions and euthanasia could become a part of the past.

Trigger locks, metal detectors, more police on the streets, stricter laws, larger U.N. forces in foreign countries—all pale in comparison to what can be accomplished through a realization of how much Christ loves each person.

So how is this love going to be revealed? Christ came, gave, loved and died, and is now sitting at the Father's right hand. Is it not now up to us who know the love of the Savior? Is it not our responsibility to let His love be seen in our lives by all with whom we come in contact? If God's children fail to carry a concern for people on every continent, in every nation, in every community, in every home, how will others know how much He cares for them?

Friends, there is good news to share. Let us be happy and faithful in doing it.



On April 10, my wife Mary and I are scheduled to leave for a visit to the Philippines. Much work is being done there by Bro. Matias Tangunan and other ministers to strengthen established churches, as well as to begin new

works. We consider it a privilege to go and fellowship the saints there and personally experience what is taking place.

Your prayers for a safe and profitable trip are coveted.

We are receiving more requests for tracts than what we are able to provide with our present work force here at the Print Shop. We are in need of another pressman. As a result, we are putting out a call for someone to come and help us, preferably an individual who already has experience in the printing trade. We are seeking God to provide a worker with a fervent love for souls and the cause of Christ.

If God should burden you to fulfill this need, please let me hear from you soon.

Your brother in Christ, —Wayne Murphey

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NC—Sis. Winnie Robinson has requested prayer for both herself and her daughter, Carolyn.

CA—Sis. Doris Pihaylic asks that prayer be offered for her son, Mike, who is ill.

AL—"Pray that the Lord will get hold of my 16-year-old son's heart before it is too late.

"Also, I need a healing touch to my body."

—Sis. Sharon Horn

AL—"Remember mother in prayer."

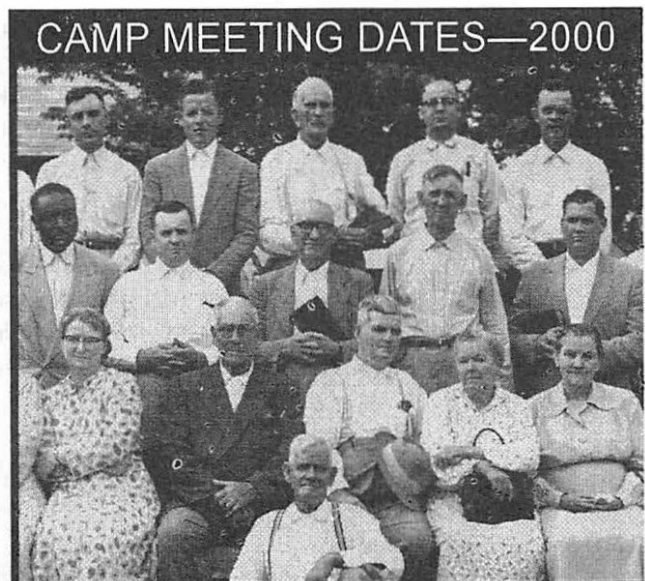
—Sis. Betty Herron

Standing Prayer Requests

Sis. Lydia Bennett
Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
Bro. Jon Busbee
Sis. Mamie Butcher
Bro. Nathan Carver
Sis. Estelene Cramer
Bro. Daniel Davis, Jr.
Bro. Dale Doolittle
Sis. Elaine Dunn

Bro. Ben Harrison
Sis. Mary Hughes
Sis. Janice Johnston
Bro. Louis Kimble
Sis. Helen Lambright
Sis. Betty Lassché
The Lounds sisters
Sis. Loraine Lucas
Sis. Mattie McIntyre
Sis. Bertha Miles
Sis. Virginia Myers
Sis. Dollie O'Neal
Bro. O. C. Porter
Sis. Melba Powell
Sis. Rose Samons
Sis. Myrtle Savoie
Bro. Rudolf Schmidt
Sis. Kay Stover
The Mitch Taylor family
Sis. Marie Weatherford
Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
Bro. Max Williamson
Sis. Esther Wilson

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Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 26-June 4
Holly Hill, SC—June 4-11
Jefferson, OR—June 9-18
Tulsa, OK—June 11-18
Fresno, CA—June 30-July 8
Green Bank, WV—June 16-22
Alcoa/Maryville, TN—June 21-25
Loranger, LA—July 2-8
National (Monark Springs, MO)—July 21-30
Myrtle, MO—August 2-6
Bakersfield, CA—August 9-13
California State (Pacoima)—Aug. 25-Sept. 3

Meeting Reports and Notices

NEOSHO, MO, REVIVAL

The saints at Neosho, MO, would like to announce a special Revival Meeting for Sunday, April 9, through Sunday, April 16.

It is special because we are giving the Holy Spirit, all the saints and all of the Lord's ministers a very SPECIAL invitation. In this meeting we will not have one scheduled evangelist, as we normally do, but we are asking all the ministers that are able and feel a burden from the Lord for us here at Neosho, to come be with us. Please do at least pray for us during this meeting, but we are in hopes that you can be here too!

If you need a place to stay, that will gladly be provided. To contact someone, you may call our home at (417) 628-3425, or Bro. Clifford Cole at (417) 776-2331 or Bro. Mike Hightower at (417) 451-3636.

In the Lord Jesus Christ, —Bro. Bob Huskey
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WICHITA, KS, SPRING MEETING

The Wichita Spring Meeting will run for eight days, from April 16-23. It will start on Sunday morning and end the following Sunday night. Monday through Saturday we will have 11:00 day services and 7:30 night services. On Saturday, we will have ordinance service at 11:00. There will be three services on both Sundays.

We are asking God to send the ministers of His choice. All are invited to attend and please be praying for the meeting. We are glad that five of the six people who were saved during the September meeting are still encouraged. Praise God!

If you need to contact someone, you may call Bro. Emmanuel Gracey at (316) 778-1848 or Bro. Paul Phillips (316) 721-9557.

—Sis. Shirley Knight
— — — — —

MUSKOGEE, OK, REVIVAL

The Muskogee, OK, congregation would like to announce the moving of the Holy Spirit through a meeting to take place in the city of Muskogee, April 29-30. We are planning on holding the meeting in the interest of harvesting souls for the Lord.

This meeting is to take place in the main arena of the city Civic Center. We are requesting the support of the saints—first and foremost by your prayers, then your presence, financial

means and any other way the Holy Spirit impresses you.

Questions or any other correspondence may be directed to Sis. Lucille Johnson, 1311 S. 35th St., Muskogee, OK 74011, (918) 687-4564, or myself, Sis. Rachel Hargrave, c/o Bro. Chauncy and Sis. Crystal Johnson, 1312 S. 37th St., Muskogee, OK 74401, (918) 687-1427.

We are expecting this to be the beginning of a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our area.

In His service, —Rachel M. Hargrave
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JEFFERSON, OR, CAMP MEETING

The saints in Jefferson, OR, warmly welcome you to their summer camp meeting which commences June 9 at 7:30 p.m. and will end June 18. This meeting is held to give people special opportunity for salvation from sin and edification for the believer. The Lord has been good to bless this meeting in the past with His presence and we certainly would appreciate your prayers and presence.

There will be two services each day at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. A 2:30 afternoon service will be included on the weekends. Lunches will be served daily. There are R. V. hookups available. Sleeping accommodations will be provided, and if you need more information you may contact the pastor, Bro. Bob Wilson at (541) 327-3621 or Bro. Clifford Smith at (503) 581-4575.
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NORTHPORT, AL, REVIVAL

The saints from Northport, AL, wish to hold its second revival tent meeting, Lord willing and conditions permitting, on June 23-July 2, 2000.

We extend a warm welcome to each and every one to come and be with us in this meeting. We are praying that the Lord will send ministers and workers of His choosing.

The meeting is conducted on a free-will offering basis. You may send contributions to Sis. Sharon Horn, 2107 3rd St. E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404.

There will be some home accommodations and there are hotels near the campground. Meals will be served daily.

Services will be 7:30 nightly with day services to be announced. Weekend services will be 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Please pray that God will stir people to come

and be in this meeting, save souls, sanctify believers and heal bodies. We really desire to see the Lord add to His church here in Northport, AL.

For more information you may contact Bro. Louis Kimble, 2252 Tupelo St., Kenner, LA 70062, (504) 467-9039 or Sis. Bernice Petty, 2207 4th St. E., Tuscaloosa, AL 35404, (205) 553-4450 or Sis. Jessie Shelton, 3940 28th Ave., Northport, AL 35473, (205) 339-3026.

Yours in Christ, —Sis. Sharon Horn
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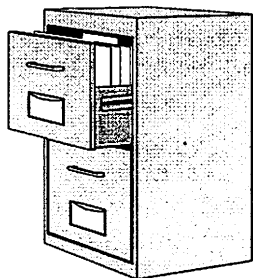
CALIFORNIA STATE CAMP MEETING

The 51st Annual Camp Meeting at 12312 Osborne Place, Pacoima, CA, will convene, Lord willing, Friday night, August 25, 2000. There will be three worship services daily, 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., commencing Saturday, August 26 and continuing through September 3, 2000. Come and worship the Lord with us.

For information, lodging or directions, call Bro. Herbert Clay, (818) 897-1396 or the Sunset Guest Home, (818) 899-2022.

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LETTERS FROM OUR FILES



KS—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey: Once again I would like to thank you and all of the faithful workers at the Print Shop. Both the *Faith and Victory* paper and the *Bible Lesson* book are a wonderful source of information, and give us much insight into God's Word. Each of you are appreciated....

In his love, —Sis. Naomi Hiebert
— — — — —

The Gambia—Dear Bro. Wayne and all the workers at Faith Publishing House: It is almost a year now since you have started sending your papers to me. I would therefore like to thank you very much for the encouragement you have given me.

I cannot thank you enough for your effort in bringing the whole globe into spiritual light. I am praying so that the Lord, who created everything, will grant you the opportunity to flourish

in spreading the Gospel, and to help everyone follow the Lord better.

May God bless you all. Thank you.

Yours sincerely, —Mariama Jallow
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Kenya—Dear Brethren: Greetings to you in the name of Jesus. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith.

I am a fellow-laborer of the Gospel truth on this side of the world. I am truly saved and living in the heavenly places and enjoying the great Kingdom.

My greatest work and desire is to win as many souls as I can to the marvelous light of the evening.

I have been reading some of the books you have published like the *Birth of a Reformation*, by D. S. Warner.

We are the Church of God and seeking to know more from Him. Some of the songs we sing are from the Evening Light song book which is published by you....

In closing, I would like to ask you brethren to pray for the work in this part of the world.

May God bless you to live for Him.

Your brother in Christ, —Japheth Ileri Joel
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FL—Bro. Wayne Murphey: Hope all are well. I have been sick, but thank God, I am looking to Jesus for deliverance. He is my Keeper and my help cometh from Him.

Please pray for me. I am saved to sin no more. I will keep my lamp trimmed and burning. Please call my name before the Lord.

—Sis. Kathleen Williams
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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus' name. I praise the Lord for what He is to me. If it wasn't for the Lord I sure would be lost.

I can't go to church anymore. I am reading my *Faith and Victory* more often now as I have a lady to stay with me and I sit while she does my work. I just can't work like I used to.

I love the Lord and live the best I can and know how. You all remember me in your prayers and I do you. I am getting on in years. If I live until April, I will be 85.

With Christian love, —Hallie Pinkerton
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Dear Brother Wayne and Print Shop workers: We sometimes wonder why God allowed His people to remain in Egypt, even after the years of famine. After all, Joseph could have provided for them in Canaan as well, and they would have

been in more familiar surroundings. The answer is found in the promise that God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. God had promised him that his descendants would be a great nation. He repeated the promise in Gen. 17:1 with the added command to be perfect. God wanted to make a great nation with Jacob's family, and He knew that it would be impossible in Canaan. If Jacob had remained there, the family would have intermarried with the Canaanites, and the holy seed would have quickly been corrupted. As it was, the Israelites had Goshen all to themselves, as the Egyptians shunned shepherds. (Gen. 46:34.) So, even though they became enslaved, God fulfilled His promise to Abraham. From seventy persons, they emerged a nation of about 3 million! Later He brought them out with a mighty hand.

Sometimes we wonder why the Lord has placed us in our present situations. We see ourselves, in a sense, as slaves, subject to circumstances beyond our control or power to change. But remember that the Lord wants to show Himself strong and is building His people, the Church, into a mighty nation. In order to do that He sometimes puts us in places where we must look only to Him and when the cry is great enough, and He is ready, He will act and glorify His name. But we must never give up trusting. I know I am speaking to my dear brothers and sisters who have weathered, and must again weather many trials. But, as Jesus told us in Luke 21:28, when all around seems to fall down, look up, for your redemption draweth nigh!

Several days ago I received a package from Bro. Andrea of San Pietro Vernotico. He is an Italian brother whom I met when we were in Italy last January. He sent me his testimony and a transcription of it. I translated it for the brethren here that they might be edified.

—Bro. Joe Fine

My name is Andrea (pronounced An-dréa) and I am 26 years old. I want to tell you how I was converted to Christ. I was born into a Catholic family. We were four sons, and I was the second. My parents had left the Catholic Church and ten years ago began to interest themselves in eastern philosophy, such as yoga. When I was 16, I also began to do "spiritual exercises" on my bed. These exercises came from a course called Autogenous Training, also known as Eastern Yoga.

In the evenings I went out with my cousin and a friend called Yuri. We enjoyed breaking

things. We would go to the railroad station and throw rocks against the empty train cars, but we also pelted cars that were occupied. We made a game of throwing rocks at windows. Afterwards, we took rocks, broken bottles, pieces of iron and other things and carried them onto the overpasses where the trains passed by. When a train came, we threw the whole lot at the cars and watched the splinters of shattered glass, which greatly amused us. We greatly enjoyed horror films and talking about the devil. My cousin and Yuri were devoted fans of heavy metal rock music and groups such as "Iron Maiden," which are dedicated to Satan.

Yuri was an atheist, and didn't believe in God. One evening he passed by a place where some believers were selling Bibles and Christian literature. He approached them so that he could mock them and have some fun. But one of them began telling him of the living Jesus and gave him a Bible, challenging him, "You say that God doesn't exist, but He says, 'Put me to the test and I will be found.'" Yuri accepted the challenge and said, "All right! If I find God, I'll let you know." He went home and began to read the Bible, and truly God revealed Himself to him. After three months he called that brother and said, "God really exists and I've found Him!" From an atheist he became a zealous believer and began to talk with my cousin and me about his experience with the Lord. My cousin mocked him, but I was interested. Yuri gave me a New Testament and I began reading and discovered that the Lord was about to return to the earth in judgment. I never knew this before, and I was afraid. When my parents saw that I was reading the Bible, they were angered and told me, "Leave all this alone." But I didn't want to leave off seeking the Lord, so I continued to read in secret.

Even so, my parents discovered what I was doing and were even angrier. They started to belittle me and threw away my Bible. So I went out and purchased another. They found this one, too, and took it away. But I went out and bought yet another. This happened four or five times. When they saw that I continued reading, they began following me when I left the house to meet with Yuri. Therefore, Yuri and I had to meet at night in secret places, in empty streets, when we could escape their watchful eyes. All the time things got worse at my house. When I returned home in the evenings, my parents beat me.

I read in the gospel of John that many times Jesus said, "Whoever believes in me has eternal life." I really wanted to have this eternal life. I prayed, "Jesus, You said that You give eternal life; give it also to me!" Then one day, while I was reading my Bible, I suddenly began to see in my mind all my sins, even those I had committed as a child. I saw the very scenes before me; I felt the weight of my sin grow ever heavier, and it terrified me. I felt the strong presence of God's eye watching over me with all that sin. I was fearful, wanted to hide myself, and felt that I couldn't stand before God as filthy as I was. I wanted to escape, but immediately I knew that I couldn't hide from God. So I went before Him and confessed my sin, begging Him for pardon. In that moment I felt a peace and joy descend into my heart.

I began attending worship with the brethren. But when I went home after service my mother showered blows on me. She pulled my hair, and sometimes she would hit me on the head with a broomstick. One Sunday morning as I was leaving the house, I announced that I was going to church. Immediately she started shouting at me and grabbed a large knife, pointing it at my face. I raised my hand to protect my face, and the knife pierced my hand! When she saw the blood flow from my hand, she came to herself. Instead of going to church, I went to the hospital and received 10 stitches. Then I replied to the Lord, "Jesus, I will never leave You. Have pity on my parents."

[Editor's note: When he desired to be baptized, he knew that if he told his parents, they would be incensed. On the day he was to be baptized, his parents questioned him about where he was going. He replied that he was going to a funeral! He didn't tell them that it was his funeral, and that he was symbolizing the death and burial of the old Andrea.)

I kept trusting in the Lord and He strengthened me. After some days, my father got tired of this situation and one evening he confronted me, "Listen! Enough of this! You must decide. You may go with those people, with your religion, but you will have closed with us forever. For me it will be as if you died and I left you at the cemetery. Or, you can leave that religion and live in peace with your family. If you do, it will be as if nothing has happened."

Even though I feared my father, I had already made my decision to follow Christ. So I responded, "No. I will follow Jesus." And from

that day, my father wouldn't speak to me any more and wouldn't even look at my face! Not even my mother or my brothers would say a word to me. It was a sad time for me. When we ate, they would eat first, and then I would eat alone. Sometimes they would throw me out of the house and I had to spend the night outside. But I always felt Jesus near and when I prayed He strengthened me.

[Editor's note: One time when he was thrown out of his house, he went to an aunt's place to stay. She was aware of the trouble, but didn't know the cause. Andrea explained that it was because he read his Bible. She had never read the Bible before, and was curious. So she requested one and he purchased one for her. In a short time she, too, trusted in Jesus, much to her sister's (Andrea's mother) dismay and anger.)

One evening I went to worship service where they were praying to receive the Holy Spirit. I really wanted to receive Him too and asked the Lord about it. I had already been baptized in water. I was 17 and that evening I went to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Then, while I kneeled in prayer the Spirit fell on those who hadn't yet received Him, and on me as well. It was a wonderful experience! But when I returned home, my mother again showered me with blows. She was so angry that she broke a stick over my head! In that moment I remembered the verse that said, "Blessed are you, when they insult you and persecute you . . . rejoice and be glad, for great is your reward in heaven." Matthew 5:11-12. Therefore, in that moment I was filled with joy for all the pain that I suffered. Even my face glowed! In fact, I didn't want my mother to see my face, for fear that she would think I had gone crazy!

After 5 years I became engaged to a young sister, Margaret, and when I introduced her to my parents, they began to change their attitude toward me. Today our relations are good, as if nothing has happened at all. In fact, sometimes my mother is affectionate with my brethren and me. But they are still closed to the gospel, so I pray for them. I want to thank the Lord because in all these trials He has kept me standing straight and given me victory until now. Hallelujah! To God be the glory! —Andrea

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Canada—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the lovely name of Jesus, our friend. He is the King of kings forever, and in Him we have all we need.

We thank our dear God every day for all He does for us. Joy in the Lord is our strength, and we will keep it that way by His grace.

Although I suffered a severe stroke in 1995, and have been partially disabled since then, I am doing very well by the grace of our God. Our trust is still in the Lord and He is blessing us every day.

Our dear son, Ron, is making some progress too, and we are grateful for it. Our family has been very supportive of us.

Please pray for us, as you have done in the past. We are thankful for it. We pray always for you and all the saints in America and elsewhere. We enjoy the *Faith and Victory* and the *Bible Lessons* and the testimonies by the saints.

God is a wonderful God and promised to be with His children in all the earth. Amen.

May the Lord bless you all,

—Bro. and Sis. George Schroeder

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MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and workers: It will be two years on May 23rd since my husband left us. Of course, I will always miss him. He left me with such precious memories. The Lord has been faithful to be with me. He never fails us.

Trust you are all enjoying your new facilities.

Bro. Marty Clevenger and Sis. Linda Stanley were married here Sunday (March 5th). That gave us an extra large crowd (which we are not accustomed to).

Christian love, —Sis. Mary Lela Taylor

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CA—Dear Wayne: Things are much the same here except that my wife is now on hospice care, and at present seems some better. We are still requesting prayer for her.

I am still encouraged and mean to stay the same.

With Christian love, —Bro. Bob Mickelson

TN—I look forward each month to receiving the *Faith and Victory* paper. It is a blessing to be able to get this kind of literature—clean, spiritual, uplifting and satisfying reading that helps a person live a more consecrated, dedicated Christian life that pleases God, our Creator.

May God richly bless each person working there to get this good reading out so people can read and enjoy it. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely, —Sallie E. Smith

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OK—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey, staff at

Faith Publishing House and saints scattered abroad: Greetings in Jesus' dear name. We certainly thank and praise God for His love and care to us all. Thank the Lord for your labors of love at the Print Shop.

The Lord had been good to us. He is blessing us in our bodies and we are especially thankful for what He is doing for my husband, Joseph. We desire your continued prayers for us.

Our dear Sis. Mosellette Kern needs prayer. She is the sister of Florene Perkins who used to be in the 3rd Street and Green Pastures congregations. Sis. Kern fell and broke her hip Thursday, the 2nd of March. She had just turned 90 years old on the 10th of February. Please pray that she will heal properly.

May the Lord continue to bless all of you is our prayer.

Love,

—Sis. Frances Chandler

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CA—Dear Bro. and Sis. Wayne Murphey: I received the book, *The Corrupt Tree*. Thank you. It is a blessing and it stirs my mind in way of remembrance. It is very clear and easy to understand. I am so glad I knew Sis. Marie Miles. I met her when I was a teenager. I was impressed by her life and example.

May our Lord ever bless your ministry of publishing. Pray for the work of God here.

We're a part of God's family,

—Sis. Vivian Hattley

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KY—Dear saints: Greetings in Jesus' precious and holy name! Our dear Savior and Redeemer is still hearing and answering our prayers. Praise God!

Recently (February 23, 2000) my husband's father went to the altar and got saved! We all have been praying and fasting for him for some time.

The Lord has also answered other prayers we have sent before His throne. I praise God for being so faithful, loving and kind. He is truly worthy of our praises and lives.

Keep my husband and me in your prayers. We have some special requests we would like to see the Lord work out! He is truly good to us and we know He can work out our requests.

Remember the Garrison, KY, Church of God also. We desire for the Lord to have His way with us.

Please remember our pastor, Sis. Mary Hughes. She is truly a God-led minister and we would love to see her well in body—not for her

or our glory, but for our Savior's! He would get the praises.

Please pray also that the Lord will use my husband and me as He wants. We only want the Lord's way in our lives. We want to keep growing spiritually and gaining more ground. We also want to be in the place spiritually where our Savior would have us to be. We want to hear those words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant;... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matthew 25:21.

We will continue to remember the Print Shop in our prayers,

—Bro. Matthew and Sis. Sarah Howard

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LA—Dear Bro. Wayne: We would like to let you know we, Marie and I, love you and the people at the Print Shop as well as all the folks there.

I had a real hard fall last October 16th, which damaged the right side of my body. It is mostly healed now, except my right foot and the lower part of my leg.

I am so thankful that the Lord took care of me as He did in this. It could have been much worse because I had a loaded automatic shotgun in my hands which I had just shot. I lost my balance which caused me to run real hard, trying to get my balance, until I fell and hit the ground real hard.

I have had a very slow recovery. When this happened Marie had a spell caused by being over-taxed with taking care of and worrying about me. She managed to call our son, Gary, who in turn called some of the Church. Sis. Karen LaCroix and the Purvis' from Oak Grove, LA, came up right away. Also, Marie's sister, Virginia, and later others. These really prayed, and the Church here did also. The Lord came to Marie's aid right away, for which we were very thankful. It was a few days before Marie got somewhat back to normal in her body.

We would like for everyone to know we really appreciate the prayers that have gone up for both Marie and me. Thank you so much and thank the Lord so much.

Love to all,

—Bro. Manuel and Sis. Marie Mitchell

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MO—Dear friends: It has been awhile since I have ordered tracts. I never see anyone giving out tracts, so I thought if none of the younger people will give them out, I will. Someone needs to. I am 85 years old but, Lord willing, I will do

my best to keep souls out of hell. I need your prayers.

May the Lord bless you is my prayer,

—Bessie Frazier

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LETTERS FROM THE MISSION FIELDS



From the Philippines...

February 22, 2000—Dear Bro. Murphey: Hello in the name of Jesus! This is hoping for your happiness as you continue your labors for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

We have held three weeks of gospel meetings every night in three different places, and as a result we have opened another two places for worship services. These are San Felipe and Mopangpang Munoz. After the gospel meetings I became sick with a flu, but I thank the good Lord I am now getting well. When I get better I plan to hold gospel meetings and an open forum around Guimba.

I appreciate the article of Sis. Mary's in the late issue of the *Faith and Victory*. It is truly a reminder! The wise King Solomon also said, "A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame." Proverbs 12:16. May the Lord continue to bless the *Faith and Victory* that it may continue to be a light and encouragement to many people. May the donors receive great blessings from God, and may they continue to support this paper and other reading materials from the Faith Publishing House.

I close with a hope that you may have the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit. May the Spirit of our Lord continue to bind our hearts in love that we may continue to work hand in hand for the salvation of precious souls while we have yet time.

In Christian love,

—Bro. Matias Tangunan and family

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From India...

February 22, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey, saints in America and abroad: Greetings to you all dear ones in the precious name of Jesus.

Our convention at Kothamanalam was very good. Many got saved and dedicated. The convention at Chaypparskuzhy will be conducted next month. All day meetings at Cochirs will be conducted this Saturday. Freedom to conduct street meetings is getting decreased. Persecutions are increasing. Church activities are going on fine.

Our prayers are for you.

Yours in Him, —Bro. John Varghese

From Culiacan, Mexico...

Dear Bro. Wayne: I send you greetings and hope you are enjoying good health together with your family and those who work with you.

We enjoy good health and are full of the power of God in our hearts. We are being strengthened day after day by His power and we can trust in His promises that are faithful for all His children. God is a great God with us because He has taught us many things we must do. Praise the Lord because He prepares us for all good works. The Lord knows what He has prepared for our lives and I know that it is something very special because it is His work. We therefore pray and ask for His direction. He is the one who will guide us to the work He wishes us to do.

I would like to ask for your prayers for my life, so I can serve the Lord. I would like you to pray for my mother, so we will be even stronger and for all my family, so they will seek the comfort of the Lord—for the congregation that feels encouraged to work and support what God has in store for us.

Thanks for your support, your help and your prayers.

May God bless you,

—Bro. Samuel Gonzales



The journey of life began for **Vera Mae Hawkins** on June 12, 1912, in Sulphur Springs,

TX. She was the second child of Andrew and Tempie Jones.

On December 30, 1940, she married John R. Hawkins. The couple moved to Tulsa, OK, in 1942. This union of 52 years was blessed with four children, Wilbert, Joseph, Ruth and Myra.

Her parents, two sisters, husband and son, Joseph M. Hawkins, preceded her in death.

Vera Mae accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior, and served Him faithfully—giving of herself to prayer, studying the Word, teaching Sunday School, and by showing concern and giving tokens of kindness to those to whom she felt she could be a blessing.

Vera graduated from Grayson High School, and from Langston University in 1938, with a degree in Education. She taught elementary school in Brown's Chapel, OK. She also taught "home bound" students for Tulsa Public Schools.

She leaves to cherish her precious memory a son, Wilbert J. Hawkins of Los Angeles, CA; two daughters, Ruth E. Hawkins of Long Beach, CA, and Myra J. Moaning of McCloud, OK; a nephew, Earl Reese Williams (who was like a brother); ten grandchildren; a host of other relatives and friends.

A homegoing service was held March 15 at the Church of God chapel, officiated by Bro. Charles Chandler. Burial was in the Crown Hill Cemetery, Tulsa, OK.

Thank You

The family of Vera Mae Hawkins wishes to express our deepest gratitude to the Church of God, our relatives and friends for your prayers, cards and every act of kindness during our time of bereavement. May God richly reward you.

Donna Sue Sorrell was born May 24, 1933, and went to her heavenly home March 2, 2000. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bud and Myrtle Porter. She is survived by her loving and caring husband, Sherman Sorrell; one daughter, Sherry and Pete Logan; one grandson, Evan Ismael; one brother, Daune and Althea Porter, and one sister, Dena Porter.

In 1998, Donna told her sister, "I have been praying and God has forgiven me. I have peace and am ready to go."

Donna was very much loved and well thought of by all who knew her. She will be greatly missed.

Services were conducted by Bro. James Bell with Bro. Paul Sorrell assisting. Burial was in Eastlawn Cemetery in Springfield, MO.

Thank You

We would like to thank all the friends, family and saints for their kindness through the death of our dear wife and sister. All your cards, phone calls and support in every way was greatly appreciated, and will not be soon forgotten. Donna will be greatly missed. We loved her so much. She was a precious person.

Thanks again for all you've done,

—Sherman Sorrell and Dena Porter



Simon of Cyrene

(Continued from page 3.)

night before. But on this gloriously terrible day He continued a custom that He has never stopped. This wonderful custom is that *He always walks with the one who is carrying a cross!*

Are you weary of your burden? Look at Jesus by your side. He is carrying the heaviest end of the load—the end with the rough edges. And if He isn't, it is because you will not let Him!

Are you weary of the scorn of the crowd? Look at Jesus, more of the scorn is being heaped on Him than on you!

Are you weary of your tired, aching, diseased, faltering body? Look at Jesus. He was so weary He fell. And His body was covered with wounds, spittle and blood!

When Simon took hold of the cross, Jesus was so faint that He had fallen to the ground. But now that He had Simon to lean on, He gathered strength. In the crowd that day there was a large number of women who were weeping and lamenting over Jesus. Presently Jesus spoke to them: "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?" Luke 23:28-31.

This was a very remarkable prophecy concerning what was to come. I wonder if Jesus would have had the strength to utter these words without the help of Simon? Perhaps not! Carrying a wooden cross a short distance may have seemed insignificant to Simon, and yet it enabled Jesus Christ to preach!

What you are doing for the Master may seem

very trivial and insignificant, but it enables Him to carry on His work, for we are yokefellows with Him. Listen to what Jesus had to say on this matter, "And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward." Matthew 10:42.

That day Simon had to give up taking the Passover because he had carried the cross and thus defiled himself. But whenever we give up something for Jesus Christ, we always receive far more in return. Remember the Master said, "And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life." Matthew 19:29.

Simon of Cyrene gave up the Passover, but in its place he received the "peace that passeth understanding." It was an excellent bargain!

Mark tells us that Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus, but he does not tell us anything about Alexander and Rufus. Why? It just was not necessary! We believe these two sons were well known and loved by the readers of Mark's gospel in Rome! They were pillars in the Church! Indeed, it is thought by some that Rufus traveled with Peter and Andrew on evangelistic trips. We do know that he was well known to Paul, for at the conclusion of his Epistle to the Romans he wrote, "Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine" (16:13). It seems that the whole family was saved!

But now let us indulge our imaginations, move the clock ahead some thirty years from the time Simon carried the cross, and go into an obscure part of the city of Rome. Nero has been on the throne since A.D. 54. Because of him many Christians have been put to death. Peter has been crucified. Paul has been beheaded. Others have been burned to death, some of them as flaming torches.

But the Christians, the brave Christians, continued to worship. Let us slip into one of their meetings. A letter of Paul's is read, prayer is offered, communion is taken, a song is sung. Then a leader asks volunteers to rise and tell how they met Christ.

Timothy gets to his feet and tells how he found the Nazarene through the preaching of Paul in Lystra in A.D. 48.

Then John Mark stands up. He tells how he

saw the arrest of Jesus and how he had to flee home naked. Then he tells how he found Him as his personal Savior.

After John Mark sits down, Rufus takes the floor. "I was with my mother and my brother, Alexander, in the country near Jerusalem," he says, "when my father went into the Holy City on the morning of the Passover. All of us had planned to go into the Temple and enjoy the feast."

"But Father didn't come back for a long time, and when he did I noticed something had happened to him. There was a new light in his eyes. His worries and anxieties were gone. But I also

noticed blood on his gown, and so I asked him what it was.

"Then he told us the story of the cross. At first we could not believe that it was actually the Messiah. But we saw the change in Father and learned about the Resurrection, and so we knew that it was true.

"And that is how our entire family became followers of the Lord Jesus Christ!"

Simon of Cyrene bore the cross patiently, and as a result his sons, Alexander and Rufus, became Christians. And perhaps even Paul heard the gospel first through their mother.

Bearing one's cross pays!

Where Is Now Thy God?

A Tale of The French Revolution

By James F. Cobb

(Continued from last month.)

The majority of these were soon undeceived when they saw that the hatred against the rich which was now proclaimed had its foundation less in the wrongs which they had committed than in the possession of that which their enemies wished to appropriate themselves. Oppression, instead of coming from above, now came from below, and was subsequently much worse in its effects. Instead of the luxury and extravagance of the nobles and the wealthy, there was now the licentiousness and lawlessness of a mob freed from all the restraints of order and discipline. Respect for society had before checked open immorality, which now shamelessly stood out in its worst forms. Whilst formerly the religion of many had been only a name and had brought forth no fruit, now everything which was from God was openly ignored. Hatred of Christ was publicly preached; Christianity itself was despised as a superstition; and those who would not consent to such opinions were persecuted and despised as fools and hypocrites.

Though Pastor Kerner had at first underestimated the power of the new movement, yet he saw clearly that the work was not of God, but hostile to Him; that Satan had here disguised himself as "an angel of light," in order with less hindrance to carry on his work, and if it were possible to "deceive even the elect." In his family, and among the most serious of his parishioners, he openly acknowledged that such was his conviction, and earnestly warned them against this new light which only led to darkness. As

long as it was possible he exercised his office as a pastor with great faithfulness and care. He abstained purposely from all mention of politics. In the pulpit he proclaimed Christ the Crucified, Risen One, with warmth of heart and the power of conviction, but he did not speak against the unbelief which had spread from the capital over the whole land, still less against those among his parishioners who he knew favored it. In adopting this course, he was not influenced by the fear of man, nor was he seeking to please man; but he thought the truth would itself make way with those who were inclined to receive it, whereas if he publicly opposed and denounced the errors of the times, he knew that he would thus put an end to all his usefulness without attaining anything. His determination was to "work as long as it was day," remembering that "the night cometh when no man can work." And the night *did* come—not indeed suddenly, as in the tropics, when at sunset darkness at once ensues, without any intervening twilight, but as in our land, where, after the disappearance of the sun, twilight gradually introduces the coming night.

Each post brought fresh news from the capital, which the pastor and those who shared his opinions received with fear and horror; while the revolutionists in the town, who all belonged to those who had nothing to lose, but hoped to gain much in a general overthrow, and to be able to indulge their lusts and passions unhindered, were filled with tumultuous joy. Two pieces of intelligence particularly had these effects on both parties, namely, the condemnation and execution of the King and Queen, and the abolition of the Christian religion publicly decreed by the chiefs of the existing reign of terror.

Whilst the first act of treason and inhumanity filled all right-minded people with grief, and with abhorrence of the wickedness of its perpetrators, the ungodly decree affected all the relations of religious life, and threatened to destroy the Christian Church.

Every public service of God was forbidden. The parishioners dared not assemble in church to hear the testimony of Christ and His Word. The grown up youths dared no longer come to their pastors to be instructed and examined in the saving truths of the gospel. The pastor's office was abolished. He was allowed to remain in the parsonage, but it was no longer to be called by that name, but, like the church, a "public building." He was himself declared to be a civil officer. As such, on the tenth day of the week—for Sunday too was abolished, and every tenth day appointed instead as a day of rest from work, and of social pleasure—he was required to exhort and encourage the assembled

still carry on quietly among them the work of a good shepherd and pastor.

"You must not leave us, good pastor," said they. "If you went away, we should be without any support, whereas in these times of general apostasy we need increased support. Better times, we trust, will return: till then, persevere, and encourage us to persevere too. You need not deny our Lord Jesus. If you are asked concerning your faith, nothing remains for you but to confess it, even though it should cost you your life; according to our Lord's words, 'He that confesseth me before men, him will I also confess before my Father which is in heaven; but he that denieth me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.' Let us then keep to this resolution. We will earnestly pray the Lord to give you the real wisdom of the serpent and the real harmlessness of the dove, and to preserve you from denying Him as from death itself."

"All were in anxious suspense as to what he would say and do: some because they took a deep interest in their former pastor, whom, in spite of his deposition, they still regarded as the shepherd of their souls; others because they hoped he would give them an opportunity of accusing him before the tribunal and obtaining his condemnation."

citizens to hatred against tyrants, to war against the enemies of the country, and to obedience to the laws. He was also enjoined to give lectures to the youth on patriotism, liberty, equality and fraternity. All the clergy who would not consent to these ordinances were denounced as traitors and enemies to the country, and cited to appear before the revolutionary tribunals everywhere set up, to receive the punishment of their disobedience—condemnation and death.

Great indeed was Pastor Kerner's grief when this decree was made known to him. Long and earnest was the struggle in his heart before he came to any decision as to what he should do: whether he should flee or remain and resist the godless ordinance, or submit to it as far as his conscience would allow him.

Before he decided he consulted with the most devoted and religious of the elders of his church. They all implored him to remain, and to comply with the revolutionary requirements as far as it was possible to do so without denying his and their faith. They urged that he might

Kerner for a long time hesitated. He deeply loved his flock: many of them he felt convinced would stand firm in the hour of temptation and trial; but there were also many who needed a firm support to prevent them from falling away; and at length, for the sake of these, he resolved to remain. He did not fear that he should really deny his Master, but he dreaded an appearance of doing so, if he yielded to the commands of the ungodly tyrants who were not even Christian governors.

After much prayer and supplication for wisdom and grace, he at last made his decision.

When the eventful tenth day arrived, the church, out of which the civil officers had long since removed the pulpit, was filled to overflowing. Not only the usual churchgoers were there, but many others too, who never before had entered the house of God. All were in anxious suspense as to what he would say and do: some because they took a deep interest in their former pastor, whom, in spite of his deposition, they still regarded as the shepherd of their souls;

others because they hoped he would give them an opportunity of accusing him before the tribunal and obtaining his condemnation.

The latter vainly thought that by getting rid of Christianity they would also get rid of the power of their accusing conscience! They expected that, regardless of the command of the government, Kerner would appear in his pastor's dress, and not only preach as before, but publicly speak against the ordinances. But they were wrong. He stood up among them in plain clothes, without a Bible or prayer book. That he had prayed much before, his most intimate friends could see by his countenance. He had resolved to adopt the same expedient which Pastor Oberlin of Steinhall, guided by the same wisdom from above, also adopted at this time.

"Citizens," said he, "I have called you together in the name of the government. It has commanded me to speak to you against tyrants; to animate you for the conflict against the foes of our country; to exhort you to obedience to the laws of our republic. This I will now do.

"You should hate tyrants from the bottom of your hearts; you should fight against them, and seek to destroy them for ever, whenever you have the opportunity. Now, I know no greater tyrants on earth than the devil and sin, who both seek to enslave you and obtain your ruin. You should hate these tyrants with your whole heart. I will tell you afterwards how you may fight against them and vanquish them.

"I am to encourage you to engage in conflict with the enemies of our land. I do this readily. I think such a battle is the sacred duty of a citizen. As soon as we are attacked, we should rise up as one man to repulse the invaders, and thus help to save our beloved country. And not only should we be thus ready to repulse the external enemies of our land: there are other enemies also, enemies within, which are not less dangerous and equally need to be resisted. These are lawlessness, drunkenness, the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and many others. Of the conflict against these, I will afterwards say a few words.

"Lastly, I am to exhort you to obedience to the laws of the republic. This therefore I now do. Laws are from the government. We are to obey our government, which you know very well. Without laws no state, not even our republic, can exist. Laws are given to protect good citizens and to be a terror to evil ones. To submit to them is the duty of every good citizen. How you can

best do this I will also tell you."

Kerner then spoke further on each of these heads, dealing with each very wisely, as David did when he went in and out of Saul's palace under the eyes of his enemies, so that his friends were edified, and yet his enemies could find nothing to accuse him of.

At the next "decade" (ten days after), only about half of his former hearers were present, and at last only those came who had formerly been accustomed to visit God's house. Though Kerner still refrained from speaking openly and directly of Christ, he could often speak many a word of encouragement to his people; and much that he said was clearly understood by those who lived in faith, whilst it could give no offense to the opponents of the truth, because they could not comprehend the deeper sense of his words. At the same time, the pastor sought in quiet to work for the Lord with great faithfulness in his parish.

(To be continued next month.)

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