

FAITH AND VICTORY

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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. 23 78th Year Guthrie, Oklahoma \$3.00 Per Year May, 2000

My Prayer

By Clifford W. Wilson

When the day is bright and new
Whither sky is gray or blue
Off in secret place I hide
Praying till I'm satisfied.

If my soul is glad or sad,
If my heart feels good or bad
Still in prayer I come to Thee
Seeking what You'd say to me.

Though my needs be great or small
Thou art Master of them all.
Not one good will You withhold
I'm abiding in Your fold.

Not one plea is turned aside,
Seldom is there one denied.
What for me is best You send
On Your judgment I depend.

When my prayer ascends to You
And You send Your answer true,
My heart swells with joy sublime
Heaven's blessing now is mine.

May "HALLOWED BE THY NAME"

By Bro. Leslie Busbee

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ taught us how to pray. He said in Matthew 6:9, "After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name." This was the opening of the prayer. The word "hallowed" means holy, sacred and honored. The Greek word from which this word "hallowed" is translated means to make holy, that is, to purify or consecrate, and also to venerate. To venerate means to worship, reverence and love. It means to look upon with feelings of deep respect; esteem, and reverence. Reverence means a deep feeling or attitude of respect, love, and awe.

The name and person of our gracious heavenly Father should be very dear and precious to our hearts. He is so kind, good and helpful. He is merciful, patient, gentle, longsuffering, wise and ever gracious to us. He gave us life. In Him we live, and move, and have our being. (Acts 17:28.) He created the heavens and the earth and everything in them. He set the bright sun in the sky and the moon and stars to shine at night. He created all the plants and animals. He holds everything in proper order and place. He is all love and light and life. We owe everything to Him. If it were not for His goodness we would not exist.

Surely His name and everything about Him is worthy of our loving devotion and earnest effort. He is so sweet and tender. He comforts us in the times of distress and sorrow. He is the God of all comfort, and the Father of mercies. (II Corinthians 1:3.) When someone is dear and loving to us, helpful and always there when we are in need, always showing kindness, good will

Contents

Sorting Things in the Closet	2
When the Lord Took Away My Song ...	3
Editorials	4
Prayer Requests	7
Camp Meeting Dates	7
Meeting Reports and Notices	8
Letter from the Readers	9
Foreign Mission Reports	11
The Master	13
Where is Now Thy God?	13

and cheerfulness, do we not hold them close to our hearts? I remember Brother Enlow who lived in South Coffeyville, Oklahoma, and who came to us and embraced the truth. He spoke of an uncle of his who years ago lived and preached the truth of salvation and lived such a beautiful life. When he would speak of his uncle the tears would come to his eyes. He loved and revered the memory of that good man. Oh, how likewise we need to love, honor, worship and obey our heavenly Father!

A wise and loving father is held in loving respect by his children. Perhaps in the growing up years there is a tendency to not esteem a godly father, but after children are grown and they begin to see the value of his holy life and what he stands for, then their appreciation and love increases. The writer in Hebrews 12:9 and 10 says, "We have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he (our heavenly Father) for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness." Oh, how we should just love the dealings of our heavenly Father with our souls. Whether it be a reproof, correction, chastisement, or even a special blessing of comfort and instruction, we need to always respond to His dealings with joy of obedience and submission.

Psalms 111 is a beautiful expression of love, worship, esteem and admiration for our heavenly Father. He said in verse 9, "He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name." This word "reverend" in the Hebrew indicates a fear and fright. It is wise to remember the severity of God along with His goodness. Paul, in Romans 11:22, brought this out: "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." The Bible speaks much about the wrath of God against the ungodliness and unrighteous ways of men. We should be fearful of displeasing God and grieving His precious Holy Spirit. There should be fear and trembling concerning our relationship with Him.

"Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." Hebrews 4:1. This is a fear that we should have of coming short of His

pleasure. God has promised us so much, and we do not want to grieve His great loving heart by lack of diligence and earnestness to receive all He has for us. God is so good and He does good. And we want to love Him, worship Him, obey Him, be faithful to Him, and ever highly esteem His worthy name.



Sorting Things in the Closet

By Sis. Connie Sorrell

In the autumn and spring I like to clean in my closets. I sort out the clothes we will need for that season and store the others away. Often there are clothes that the children have outgrown or that we don't need. These I put in a box and give away. Clothes that we will keep I wash and check for any mending that may need to be done. This tends to be a continuous job that never ends.

So it is as we pass through the seasons of life, we sort through occurrences and circumstances that affect us and we learn from them. In our mind we separate what is the good to keep and the bad to throw away. A pessimist dwells upon the bad and will keep the negative on his mind more than he should. Though an optimist looks for the good in every situation, he can become careless and not get the lessons intended for his spiritual growth. To be indifferent to problems and trials is immature or irresponsible; yet to worry takes away the peace and joy that is rightfully a Christian's. How long or how much of a problem should we be concerned about and when should we stop worrying about it?

Let us go back to the closet—the closet of prayer. (Matt. 6:6.) Take all the assortment of troubles, trials and worries to the Lord there. In each problem ask Him, "Is there anything in this situation that I personally can do to make things better? Lord, are my attitudes right about this matter? What needs to be changed in my heart?"

If you wait quietly and sincerely before the Lord, He will answer. (Psa. 91:15; Isa. 65:24.) He speaks with authority and He will never contradict the Holy Scriptures. When He tells you something to change, have the willing determination to obey Him and He will give you the strength and grace to do so. Jesus has said, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." II Cor. 12:9.

Sometimes the Lord will show us that there

are feelings and attitudes that we have outgrown or that are imperfect. (I Cor. 13:11.) We must put away these imperfections that the Lord's work in the situation will not be hindered. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph. 4:31. Often we must do mending and repairing on our hearts in our closet of prayer before the victory will come.

As we humble ourselves before the Lord, He is able to help us overcome inward conflict. Once we have our own selfish ways, thoughts and attitudes in subjection to the Lord, He has more liberty to work for our good and for the welfare of others. The righteous robe of humility covers our deformed humanity and makes us beautiful in God's sight. "Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Pet. 5:5-7.

Often the burden or problem is too big for us. If we cannot do anything about it, then give it to the Lord. Cast all your care upon Him. He has broad shoulders and He can carry burdens that are entirely too big for a human. Give Him your worries, fears and frustrations because He does care for you. He has given us many promises and He never fails. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight." I John 3:21-22 When we are obeying the Lord, we need not worry. We must simply cast our cares upon Him and keep our confidence in Him.

Anything we cannot change or help, leave it with the Lord to carry. DON'T WORRY. It is a waste of time and energy. We can cast away the burdens that don't fit our shoulders and put on patience and peace of mind. We must give all the "what ifs" to Him because they will tear holes in our peace of mind. As we obey the voice of the Lord, He will direct us into the future. He already knows what is before us. Let us keep our confidence in Him. "Cast not away therefore, your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that,

after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Heb. 10:35-36.

As we journey through life, let us continually go into our closet of prayer and sort out our troubles, trials, etc. before the Lord. Clothed in humility, we can cast out the misfit thoughts and attitudes we have that He shows us. Then we can give our troubles and cares to the Lord, and keep our patience and confidence in Him.

When the Lord Took Away My Song

By Bro. Ulysses Phillips

Job 1:20-21, "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

My heart was filled with gladness;

With joy I sang my song.

My wife sat close beside me,

The music to prolong.

And so we sang together

With joy and bliss supreme.

But one day something happened—

The Lord called my wife away.

With grief I was so burdened,

Dark and gloomy was my day.

I cried, "O Lord, have mercy,

Please take my grief away."

Others offered comfort,

But I knew not what to say.

But I know God is love,

And will always do the right,

And the death of His beloved ones

Is precious in His sight.

So now the clouds are rifted—

The sun again doth shine,

A song of joy and gladness

Rings in this heart of mine.

Someday we'll sing together

On that happy golden strand,

With the saints and holy angels,

And the blood-washed, happy band.

Sing on, my soul, keep singing,

Sweet songs of victory,

Till time on earth shall blend

Into eternity.

FAITH AND VICTORY 16 PAGE HOLINESS MONTHLY



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

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

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

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

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.

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"John is thinking very deeply tonight," said one man to another as he looked at John seated before the fireplace with his head in his hands.

"John is not thinking deeply. He is rearranging his prejudices," replied the second man, who knew John better than the first.

I often think of this anecdote because of the tendency of human beings to consider their viewpoints as correct. Even when in the most introspective mood, we are often prone to regard our opinions as undoubtedly sound.

Everyone has a mind-set. It affects our attitudes as we arise each morning. It influences what we wear. It determines when and what we prefer to eat. It affects how we treat family members and co-workers, and what we think about God. Generally, each person considers his or her personal perceptions and lifestyle as the "norm."

Families also have a mind-set. The unique atmosphere existing in each home influences family members in their treatment of each other. Conditions under which a child is raised are often caste in his mind as "normal" household behavior. Sometimes it is shocking to a young person when he becomes aware that the manner in which members of his family conduct themselves is less than exemplary.

Every church denomination also has a mind-set. Rules are set and adhered to, which among its members, are considered acts of righteousness. The precepts by which a church operates can be deeply ingrained within a group to the point that resistance is met if any attempt is made to alter those rules. To do so is to tamper with an identity, and identity is crucial to a group seeking converts.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5. Here is a safe standard for a mind-set. By patterning ourselves after the very mind of Christ, rather than our own prejudices, we discover how to form our convictions correctly. Practicing His way of thinking also means we follow the instruc-

tion in I Cor. 10:31. "...whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

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We recently learned of the passing of Bro. Titus Enu's daughter, Kate Chibuzor, age 33. We extend heartfelt condolences to Bro. Titus, his wife and family. May God uphold them with His special comfort in this time of grief.

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My wife and I recently had a precious and profitable visit with the saints in the Philippines. The work schedule here allowed us only a short time in that country, but thanks to the careful planning of Bro. Matias Tagunan and his family, Mary and I were able to fulfill a vigorous schedule while there. We felt much was accomplished in our brief stay. We traveled much of the time we were there, visiting a total of ten missions. The result was that we learned of the spiritual and temporal advancements in those places, as well as of the needs.

One of the outstanding congregations we visited was at Llanera, where a sizable number of saints, mostly young people, meet outdoors beneath the tropical trees, due to the absence of a chapel. They anticipate the time when they can obtain the approximate \$2500.00 necessary to buy land and construct a building in which to worship.

At Ganduz, a house is undergoing renovation for use as a chapel, and at Guimba, real effort is being made to establish a work which also will require a building in which to worship.

The tabernacle which was built last year still needs some finishing, such as a concrete floor

and a rostrum. Further needed additions to the campgrounds include a baptistry and dormitories.

The possibilities of starting a congregation in Manila also exist, thanks to the interest of Bro. Arthur and Sis. Nellie Tibayan. They have been holding Bible studies in their home for several months and are planning for the possibility of conducting public worship services in that area in the future.

Please do include the saints in the Philippines in your prayers, and ask the Lord to supply the needs for the advancement of His kingdom in that country. Pray that the work of God in this spiritually fertile region will prosper to the salvation of many souls.

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Interest has been expressed in having Bro. John Varghese, his wife, Sara, and their son, Biju, to come to the Monark Camp Meeting this summer, as well as to attend other of the saints' summer meetings. Therefore a written invitation has been mailed to them for the purpose of obtaining visas, and a fund started to finance the trip. If you would like to contribute towards this cause you may send your donations to this office.

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A special "thank you" to all who have written and supported the work here. We try to acknowledge each contribution, yet cannot articulate how much you really mean to us. The saints are a special people and we treasure the vision of God's Kingdom we share. Let us continue to work together as we anticipate the return of our Lord.

—Bro. Wayne Murphey

IN THE PHILIPPINES...

**AN INTERESTED
CHURCHGOER**





LLANERA CONGREGATION—A CHURCH BUT NO BUILDING



NEW CHAPEL BUILDING AT REHAB. JOSON



MO—"I have a serious prayer request for my niece, Staci Egbert, in Kansas City, MO. She is around 28 years of age and has been a sweet, young lady. Close to her 25th birthday, while she was going to college, she was discovered to have a rare form of bone cancer. For awhile she seemed to be getting along all right, but last night I received an e-mail from my brother. Her tests have come back very bad. The bone specialist doesn't know if there is anything they can do. It doesn't look good. Pray for us all."

—Jim Broker

KY—"I'm having frequent, debilitating and long-lasting migraine headaches; also severe back pains."

—Sis. Alice Hall

Honduras—"Dear saints: We greet you in the lovely name of Jesus. We desire your prayers for our young people. We would like to see them saved before it is too late. We also desire your prayers for our congregation here in Honduras, that we may grow more in the spiritual things of God. I desire prayer for my eyes.

Sincerely," —Bro. Elon and Sis. Elida Connor [Bro. Elon is a young minister who loves the Lord. The Lord recently lifted him up from a very serious affliction where he had been ill and in bed for six weeks.

—Bro. Keith A. Fuller]

FL—"Please pray for my husband, Bro. Kevin Smith. He has a physical need and needs God's healing touch. I would appreciate it very much."

—Cheryl Smith

KY—"My Grandmother Clark is very ill...she's in her 80's and has trusted the Lord for over 30 years. Please pray that God's will be done."

—Sis. Saprena Cooley

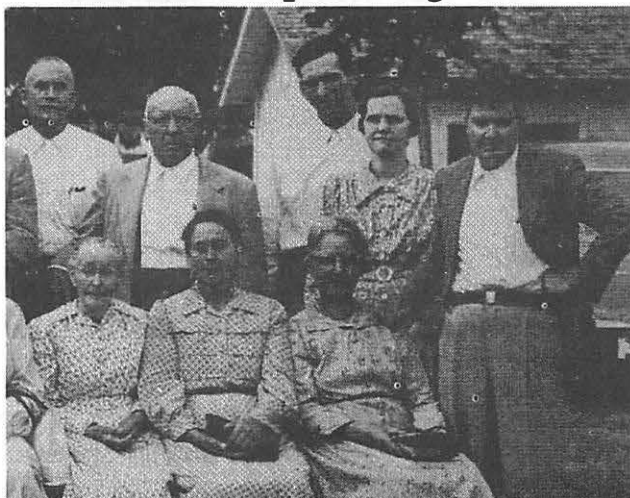
Standing Prayer Requests

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
Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
Bro. Max Williamson
Sis. Esther Wilson



Monark Camp Meeting—1956



Camp Meeting Dates—2000

Oklahoma State (Guthrie)—May 26-June 4
Holly Hill, SC—June 4-11
Jefferson, OR—June 9-18
Tulsa, OK—June 11-18
Green Bank, WV—June 16-22
Alcoa/Maryville, TN—June 21-25
Fresno, CA—June 30-July 8
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

OKLAHOMA STATE CAMP MEETING

The 66th annual Oklahoma State camp meeting of the Church of God will be held May 26-June 24 at the campground located east off of Sooner Road on Lakeview Road, which is a little over four-tenths of a mile south of the intersection of South Division and Sooner Road.

As is customary, the first service will be held Friday evening, May 26, at 7:30, with three services daily thereafter. Early morning prayer services and youth meetings will be held as announced.

An invitation to attend is extended to everyone. Your presence will be appreciated. Provisions will be made for those attending.

The meeting will be operated by freewill offerings. If you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by sending it directly to the state treasurer, Sis. Brenda Wilkins, 1023 E. Prairie Grove Rd., Guthrie, OK 73044.

For further information contact the pastor, Bro. Stanley Dickson, (405) 260-8822.



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.



GREEN BANK, WV CAMP MEETING

The annual camp meeting of the Church of God in Green Bank, WV, will be held on June 16-22, 2000.

We have two services daily at 11:00 a.m. and

7:00 p.m. Breakfast is served at 9:00 a.m. and the midday meal immediately following the a.m. service. A snack is served after the evening service.

The meeting will be conducted again at the White Pines campground in Arbovale, just off Rd. 28 and 92.

Lodging is available on the grounds, as well as camper hook-ups. Motels are within a short driving distance. We would like to know in advance if you need lodging, so as to make sure space is reserved, but if you cannot do that, come when you can.

We often have cold weather at night, so bring a jacket. Of a day, you may need an electric fan in your room. Please bring your own bedding.

Lord willing, we hope to see many of you at the meeting. If you cannot attend, please pray for the meeting to be blessed.

If you have any questions, call Bro. Toney Samons, (304) 456-3017 or Bro. Marty Clevenger, (304) 456-3242.



ALCOA/MARYVILLE REVIVAL MEETING

Lord willing, the congregation here plans a revival meeting June 21-25, 2000. Services will be held nightly at 7:00 p.m. with day services to be announced. Sunday services will start at 9:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and end with a singspiration to start at 4:00 p.m.

Accommodations are limited but nearby hotels are available. Pray that God will send workers of His choosing and pray for the meeting. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Bro. and Sis. Jimmy McDonald, (865) 977-6997 or Bro. and Sis. Dwight Porter, (865) 984-2348. The chapel phone number is (865) 681-6838.



NORTHPORT, AL REVIVAL

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

We extend a warm welcome to each and every one who is led 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 souls 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

LORANGER, LA CAMP MEETING

It's not too early to lay up prayers for the summer meetings, "for lo the fields are white already to harvest!" The camp meeting services here at Loranger are to convene July 2-9, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Let us search and prepare our hearts that the meeting will be the means of encouragement, salvation and "times of refreshing." We must "with one accord" intercede for our land, children and ourselves. See the last verse of Malachi.

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.

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.



LETTERS FROM OUR FILES



LA—Faith Publishing House: May God bless every one of your workers.

I am thankful the Lord keeps me with the desire to live for Him.

Since I can't continue to give out papers, I can help by sending an offering to be used where it is needed.

—Sis. Velma Mancil



OR—Dear Bro. Wayne and all at the Print Shop: Greetings in Jesus' name. We trust this will find all there well and happy in your service to the Lord.

The good Lord bestowed a special blessing on us recently without our realizing it. When I parked our car about five miles from where I had filled the gas tank I noticed gasoline dripping under the tank. When the tank was removed to check it, the leak was from where a wire plugged on to go into the fuel pump, which was inside the tank. Taking the fuel pump out revealed that an electric wire inside the tank was frayed and where the loose wire connection was it showed an area that was dark, as if it had been very warm. It was surely the goodness of God that the tank hadn't exploded.

We would appreciate your prayers for us and our loved ones, some of whom are in great need, physically and spiritually.

With Christian love and prayers,

—Bill and Ruby Fern Busch



MO—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: We appreciate all that you do to bring the needs to the attention of those of us who get around less and have little exposure to the needs abroad. We have so very much in this country, that it seems such an opportunity to be of some use in the broader needs around the world. Without you to help communicate those needs and make yourselves available to transfer help, it would be much harder for us to help. The most we might

do can never be enough to even begin to repay our debt to our precious Savior. "How wonderful! How marvelous! And my song shall ever be, How wonderful! How marvelous is my Savior's love to me." Each time I read the story of His offering of Himself, I see more deeply a new facet of the beauty of our Lord's gift. I think I know the story, but every time, I seem to be touched more deeply. Perhaps our life experiences work together with the Spirit to enlighten us more and more.

I want to serve Him faithfully.

Yours for Him, —David and Marilyn Cole

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MO—Dear saints: I would like to tell how the Lord healed me last fall. I have had some trouble with asthma since I was about 14 years old. The attacks usually didn't last more than a few days, so when I started have breathing problems on Saturday, October 23, Ronald and I figured it would run its normal course and be over within a few days. Well, that didn't happen. By the end of the second week, I was so weak I could hardly walk across the room without being extremely out of breath. We have a little girl, and I had just had a baby boy on September 28. My nerves were also bothering me, and that would make my breathing even worse. My parents and other family and friends kept Kendra for us, and Ronald and I took care of Bretton. I cannot express how thankful I am to have a husband who would get up several times a night to bring the baby to me and then put him back to sleep, which was not always an easy task!

During this time (and before), the Lord started dealing with us both about drawing closer to Him and being more fully consecrated. He showed us some areas to move up on, and we felt that when we got to the place He wanted us to be, I would get better. We fully reconsecrated ourselves to the Lord, and I did start gaining strength. But we were still in the battle. Every time I would think I was a little better, I'd get out and do something and get real bad again. This went on for two more weeks. On Sunday, the 21st of November, I was feeling some better, so we went to have a family picture taken. By that evening, I was really bad again. We had stayed the weekend at my parents house, and by Monday morning I was so bad we couldn't go home. My body was already so weak, but I got worse. I could hardly get out of the recliner. My nerves had gotten so bad that I couldn't even hold the baby. For the next two weeks, the devil

fought me harder than ever, and I soon realized that he would win if I didn't really fight back. He had battled my mind and thoughts for six weeks, but it wasn't until November 24 that I felt the power to fight. The devil battled me very hard for two days, but the Lord gave me the victory, and I only had trouble with my nerves a very few times after that! On November 27, the Lord inspired me for complete healing. I had not been able to sleep in bed, but was beginning to be uncomfortable in the recliner. After the Lord inspired me for healing, I stepped out on faith and slept all night in bed for the first time in five weeks! That refreshed my body and mind, and encouraged my faith! From that time on, I continued to improve, though very slowly. But the Lord was so good to me. Whenever I'd feel down or discouraged, He'd showed me that He was near. He gave me so many songs and verses to help me hold on.

I had told Ronald right after I became sick that I felt like when the Lord did heal me, it would be instantly. Even though it took eight weeks, that is exactly what happened. (I had hoped I would only be sick for a short time, but the Lord's timing does not always coincide with ours.) I'd had a few bad days again Thursday, December 16, through Sunday, the 19th. On Sunday night I prayed earnestly for the Lord to deliver me, and Monday morning I woke up a new person. Thank the Lord! By Tuesday, I was feeling very good, and even fixed supper for the first time in two months! Looking back now, I feel like I must have had pneumonia along with my asthma, but whatever it was, the Lord healed me, strengthened me, and helped us draw so much closer to Him. We were so grateful to all who brought food and helped care for Kendra. It was difficult with a newborn, but the Lord helped him sleep better than normal when we all really needed some rest. Ronald had used up all his vacation days, but his boss allowed him to take several days off with pay to be with me. We were able to move back home on January 1, 2000. (We were having some remodeling done during this time, so we had stayed with my parents until it was finished.) The devil tried to bring symptoms and fears and doubts, but the Lord blessed and kept the dust, etc. (from the remodeling) from bothering me. He truly is our Healer! I've been well since that time, and the spiritual benefits we reaped were worth it all!

Thank you all for your prayers!

—Ronald and Lori Cole

KS—Dear Bro. Wayne: Several months ago I wrote to you asking for prayer for Leo Hiebert. I think I wrote that he had cancer. The Lord has helped so many times. He has been quite ill at times. He has gained weight and he looks much better. For this we are thankful.

He also has a better attitude. He no longer seems to feel like he is hopeless. I believe the dear Lord will save him and bring him back into the fold. Leo said he was saved when he was ten years of age. Within a few years he drifted away from the Lord. Basically he is a good man, however he needs to come back to the Lord.

Thank you, and all those who have and are continuing to pray for us and our family.

May God bless each of you, —Naomi Hiebert

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OK—Good habits are hard to break. Most people think habits are all bad. We can and should have good habits.

Many years ago I was employed with a company where it was mandatory to write the mileage on the fuel ticket. I continue that habit to this day as it is important to note the mileage whenever you change oil and have repairs.

When I was ten years old I had an agreement with God that I would never smoke, and that good habit has stood by me for 55 years.

I recently have had one, and perhaps two strokes. The medical personnel always ask, "Are you a drinker? Are you a smoker?" It is tough to rehabilitate after a stroke. However, I feel blessed because I have some good habits going for me. They have withstood the test of time....

In life people use people, and God uses people. I wish to do God's will. Please pray that I will know the difference between God's will and my will.

—Leroy Classen

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FOREIGN MISSION REPORTS

From Mexico..

The clock of life is wound but once
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own,
Live, love, toil with a will.
Place no faith in "tomorrow" for
The clock may then be still.

The saints here in Mexico are trying to live, love and toil with a will while we have time. The

clock of time may be still tomorrow, but even if it isn't, the opportunity we have today may never come again.

Since last fall, we have dedicated every Saturday to evangelizing (passing out leaflets, having open air meetings, visiting, etc.). It would take many pages to tell of the interesting and rewarding experiences we have had. Several have prayed to receive salvation.

As the months passed it seemed God was leading to spend much time in an area of Ensenada called, "The Seventeenth of April." We had one contact there, a woman who was brought to Christ by Sis. Opal Kelly many years ago. We had service each Tuesday night and Sunday afternoon in her home for several months. Now God has opened a larger home for Tuesday night service and we have been loaned a building which we have each Sunday evening. This community on the edge of the city has rough roads and people living rough lives. Broken homes, drugs and half-built houses describe this place which is about a 30-minute drive from where we live. Many times we have pressed hard to continue working there and each time we do, God sends a special blessing. Last Tuesday several of us wished to stay home but in that meeting God delivered a woman from cigarettes.

We had a three day tent meeting in March which aroused quite an interest. Some came to every service and are still coming to the weekly services. After the meeting one Saturday, we were walking down a rocky hill and met a woman. Tim handed her a pamphlet and said, "You look like a Christian."

"I am," she answered, and invited us to have service in her home. We've met there several times now. This family is so happy to find us as they were asking God to send someone to encourage them. They had quit the church they attended which is being run for material gain instead of spiritual gain. Two other families from the same church have now attended our service.

We experience much sorrow because of being rejected by those whom we love and have had sweet fellowship with in the past. Our emotions are sometimes down, but our faith is steady. When my emotions are down I go to the Lord and He always gives me an encouraging scripture. I believe God is removing everything that we have trusted in so that we will more fully trust Him.

We need prayer about some financial matters and that God will fill the vacancy being made by Bro. Joe and Sis Judy Fine's leaving. They have been a wonderful help here. We will miss them very much and will be praying for them in their work in Italy. We ask that each of you will pray for them and us. Our goal is to do God's will wherever He places us.

When you read this letter the Easter meeting in Culiacan will be history. The Tim Huskey family and others are there, also Bob Huskey flew down there. James wanted to go but the Lord directed him to stay here this time. They have reported that God blessed in the first meeting. The altar was full, some seeking God for the first time.

Remember God's request at all times. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: prayye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Luke 10:2.

—Charlotte Huskey

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Dear Bro. Wayne and Print Shop workers:

What a wondrous time is spring
When all the trees are budding;
The birds begin to sing,
The flowers start their blooming.
That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it.
You want to sing,
It's fresh like spring,
You want to pass it on.

We greet you once again in the name of our Lord Jesus, who has done wondrous things, whereof we are glad. How precious He is to our souls, and how He helps us in all our afflictions and trials with just the right help and resources for our need. We thank the Lord for each one of you who have sacrificed time, talents and treasure for the work of the gospel.

There is a great thirst for the Word of God, and we see it all around us. What a job it is to pass out tracts with God's Word and then watch people reading them! Several days ago, my son, Paul, and I went to the park to give out tracts, and there was a bus load of university students there. We were able to give out about 50 tracts to them. Another time, we met a large group of medical students there and gave them tracts as well. I can only remember two times that I saw tracts that had been thrown away. Bro. Saul once told me that they would read portions of the tract and later read the rest. And who knows

how many others will get to read the precious Word of God when they carry them home or to work or class? Pray for these precious people, and ask the Lord what part you can play in bringing in the harvest.

Lately we began Sunday evening meetings in a borrowed church building in the hills above the city. We had the first service last week. It was well attended, and included two families that had recently left a cultic group that forced their members to sell merchandise and bring the money to the church. They had to sell, or the rest of the members would ostracize them. Pray much for Bro. Martin and Bro. Francisco and their families, because they have been abused by this cult, and will need the balm of Gilead to heal them. Pray that they will come to the light of the Church of God and find rest for their souls. There was also a large group of children who were quite disruptive. We don't blame them because they didn't know anything about respecting worship. What a sad commentary on our times, when parents fail to teach their children respect for the things of God. But with prayer and proper teaching, they can become useful citizens in God's kingdom.

By the time you read this, the brethren will have left and returned from Culiacan, Sinaloa. This is their annual Easter conference. Our family did not go, as we'll be leaving during the meeting. Please pray for the fruit from the meeting, that the Lord will edify and save many souls.

Lord willing, we will leave Mexico on the 26th, and will be in Guthrie for at least the first two weeks of May. Then we plan to leave for Italy on or about the 15th of the month. We'll need your prayers as our family travels and adapts to a new life in a culture similar to, but with many differences from, Mexico. The work will not be easy. Therefore, we solicit your prayers for our spiritual well-being and the souls to whom we will be ministering. We'd also love to hear from you. Our e-mail address will be the same as before: joefine@juno.com. Our mailing address will be: Contrada Restinco 17, C.P. 27, 72011 Brindisi (BR) ITALY.

We want to thank each of you for your financial and prayer investment in the ministry that the Lord gave us while here in Mexico. It has already reaped fruit. Our young men have ministered and the Lord has been pleased to reap a small harvest of souls. A few weeks ago, Bro. Marco preached at the drug rehab center to

a group of migrant workers and one woman was saved. Bro. Saul has been busy with children's work in the hills, with Bro. Marco's help. The children love him and he is very patient with them, always eager to share the gospel with them and anyone else he encounters. He will be leaving early for the meeting so that he can work with the youth of his church. Bro. Uriel is settling down, and we have hopes that the Lord will use his youthful enthusiasm to spread the good news. Be sure to pray for each of them. Remember that at this time last year they were new converts, but eager to learn more about God. Pray that they will stand firm in the truth that has been taught them.

Pray also for the Huskey's. Our leaving will create a vacuum that we are all praying the Lord will fill with just the right ones. Perhaps the Lord would send YOU to assist in the work. Ask the Lord what part you can play in gathering in the harvest. The fields are still white and the "Help Wanted" sign is still hanging on heaven's door. May the Lord bless each one of you.

—Bro. Joe and Sis. Judy Fine

From India...

March 17, 2000—Dear Bro. Wayne Murphey and dear saints abroad: Greetings to all you dear ones in the marvelous name of Jesus Christ.

Our convention at Kothamangalam was a real blessed one during the 3rd week of February. On February 26 we had an all-day service at Cochin which was also a blessed gathering. In the first week of April we plan to conduct a Vacation Bible School for children at Karickom. The convention at Chaypankuzhy will also be conducted during the first week of April.

Here is some good news. The postal department considered our application for the renewal of postal registration for our magazine. It got renewed for the year 2000. Thank the Lord, as He heard our prayers. Let us exchange our prayers.

Yours in Him,

—Bro. John Varghese

The Master

He never thought it stepping down to
walk with men who earned their bread.
Their joys and woes to share He chose.
He understood the tears they shed.

—Selected by Sis. Doris Bowers

Where Is Now Thy God?

A Tale of The French Revolution

By James F. Cobb

(Continued from last month.)

Before we proceed with our narrative let us take a look into Kerner's parsonage. The pastor had three children: a boy of seven, and two girls of six and four years of age. He taught them himself. His great object was to make them early acquainted with their Creator and Redeemer; and to lead them to trust in Him who alone, in this wicked age, could preserve them from the general apostasy. It was the greatest joy to himself and his like-minded wife, to see how they daily grew up and increased, not only in useful knowledge, but in the infinitely more important knowledge and love of God their Savior.

The children were also much under the care of their grandmother, Kerner's mother; for his wife was much occupied by household matters; and as they possessed a farm and orchard, there were many servants to superintend.

In the evening, when the children were gone to bed, the pastor's aunt—the widow of Laforest, a still active lady, who carried on her husband's business with the help of an assistant—generally came in and spent some hours in the family circle. Naturally, the events of the day, which so affected all the relations of life, and threatened so much evil to the pastor's home, were the chief topics of conversation. When, in reading the newspapers, the name of Laforest was mentioned—and he was often named and praised as one of the most zealous patriots and enlightened leaders of the people—the pastor's poor aunt would be deeply grieved, and weep many bitter tears.

"Oh," she exclaimed on one of these occasions, "Oh, that I must live for this!—that my only son should walk in the way of the ungodly, and sit in their council. Oh, that the Lord had taken him to Himself when he still belonged to Him and loved Him, as he was taught to do from his infancy." And then turning to Kerner's wife, she continued, "How happy you are, dear Mary, that your son is still walking in the way of truth, and following his Savior."

"Do not despair, dear sister," replied her companion; "The Lord's hand is not shortened that He cannot save. Nothing is impossible to Him. He can bring back your poor son into His ways, give him a new heart, and deliver him

"They said that with priests and pastors little trouble was taken; the guillotine was still at work, and would soon employ itself on him, as it had done on so many of his brethren."

from his sins. For this we all diligently pray to Him; indeed we do so now every day."

At the close of the evening they would read together a chapter of God's precious Word, after which the pastor offered prayer, not forgetting in his prayer the friend of his youth.

Every morning before breakfast the family again assembled with their servants for domestic worship; and thus by prayer and reading the Scriptures, they strengthened themselves for their daily work. Sometimes friends in the parish who were living members of the body of Christ, joined in these services; but to avoid observation they only came separately. For the same reason they dispensed with any singing.

The superintendence of the school and the visitation of the sick, although there was much implied limitation, were not forbidden to the pastor. He faithfully used the opportunities afforded to "strengthen the things that remained and were ready to die," to awaken new life where death seemed to have dominion, and to scatter unremittingly the good seed, in hopes of future better days. The Government issued tables with moral maxims, the contents of which were to be impressed upon the children. Kerner used these, connecting them with the necessity of a pious life and conversation, and pointing the children to Him who was the source and example of true morality. In visiting the sick, he was able to speak more freely, especially when he knew that they revered the faith of their fathers. He never neglected to direct all to Him who has taken our sicknesses and sorrow upon Himself. Many were refreshed and comforted by him; and often the warm pressure of the hand gave him an assurance, before the last hour, that faith in the all-sufficient merits of the Redeemer would bear the parting souls safe into a blissful eternity.

All Church ceremonies were strictly forbidden, but on several occasions, with closed doors, he observed the Lord's Supper with the most spiritually minded of his flock.

Whether it was that these illegal acts were undiscovered, or that even the enemies of Christianity in his parish esteemed him too much for his self-denying love to accuse him, he was left quiet and unmolested. The faithful in the parish loved him too heartily; the indifferent at least

respected him; and the apostates got out of his way, and did not trouble themselves about him. The pastor thanked God for his safety, and continued his work for souls whenever he had the opportunity. He ever indulged the hope that the day of trial would pass away, and the time return when he should be able, publicly and freely, to testify to his Lord and Master, and work for Him.

In this hope Kerner was not a little strengthened when a decree from the Convention appeared, stating that the French nation again recognized a Supreme Being. Who else could this Supreme Being be but Christ the High and Lofty One, who had humbled Himself for our sakes? The pastor welcomed the decree with joy, and took fresh courage. He thought he perceived in it the first step towards a reaction from utter godlessness to the religion of their fathers. It was as the first ray of dawn, after a long dark night in which not one star had shone in the gloomy heavens.

He could not refrain from publicly expressing this opinion. Trusting to this decree, he had the pulpit again placed in his church. On the next Sunday, though that day had not been legally re-established, he ascended the pulpit and preached on the Gospel on that day to a numerous audience. After the sermon, he invited his people on the next Sunday to the celebration of the Lord's ordinances and a baptism.

This was too much. The decree of Robespierre and his companions, who still with iron scepter ruled over enslaved and God-estranged France, had not gone so far. A stranger, accidentally present in the town, had from curiosity followed the people streaming into the church. He immediately sent a report to the capital of the province—to the revolutionary tribunal, of which he was a member.

In a few days two constables appeared in the town from Strasburg. They inquired at the inn for the refractory pastor who had lately preached and baptized, contrary to the laws. They said that with priests and pastors little trouble was taken; the guillotine was still at work, and would soon employ itself on him, as it had done on so many of his brethren.

The innkeeper's daughter, who was devoted

"I shall not flee. If He will deliver me from death, means and ways will not be wanting to Him; but if it is determined in His council that I should die, His will be done."

to her pastor, overheard this, and escaped unnoticed as quickly as possible. She hastened to a man whom she knew to be a friend of Kerner's, and told him what she had just heard. He ran at once to the parsonage.

"Fly instantly!" he exclaimed to the pastor, who met him as he entered. "Your life is at stake. The bailiffs are here to take you to the guillotine in the capital. Linger but a few moments, and you are irretrievably lost."

"My life is in God's hand," replied the pastor, after a moment's reflection. "I shall not flee. If He will deliver me from death, means and ways will not be wanting to Him; but if it is determined in His council that I should die, His will be done. Whether I live or die, I am the Lord's."

His wife and family were in the adjoining room, and, hearing the loud talking, hastened in. They did all they could to induce him to a hasty flight, but he remained firm.

"I should," said he, "by my flight deny my Lord." "If He will that I should praise Him by my death, and bear a public testimony to Him, I am ready to do so."

They were still urging him, when the constable appeared, and bound him before carrying him away.

"I commend you to God, my beloved ones; pray without ceasing," was all he could say.

His wife wished to embrace him. One of the bailiffs pushed her back roughly, and called out mockingly to her, as they went out, that she must not expect her husband to return, for she would never see him again alive.

There was a disturbance in the street. The news of the arrest of the pastor had spread like wildfire through the town. Many had assembled before the parsonage, and loudly expressed their grief when they saw their faithful minister brought out bound. A few showed signs of wishing to liberate the prisoner by force. The pastor entreated them for Christ's sake to be calm, and to submit to the command of the Government which had the power over them.

"Think of Him," he said, "who for our sakes suffered Himself to be bound to the cross, who was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and opened not His mouth. Let me depart quietly, and pray for me. Even the hairs of my head are numbered. If it is God's will, I shall see you all again."

They stood on one side, and suffered them to go by. The constables immediately demanded a carriage, and left the town hastily with their prisoner.

In the parsonage there was much weeping and lamenting. Kerner's wife sorrowed aloud, and would not be comforted; his mother wept quietly alone. Then the widow Laforest appeared. She had heard of the deed of violence, and hastened over to learn the circumstances of it.

"Compose yourself," she said to her sister. "How willingly would I exchange with you!" Your son is a child of God. If these bloody men slay his body, they cannot harm his soul. Above, you will meet him again. But my poor son! He is now already dead in sins, and when he departs, a second death awaits him."

And she who wished to comfort them wept for her own sorrow.

Then a thought struck her. She exclaimed to her sister,— "Perhaps your son can still be saved, and that through my poor lost son. He has influence with these butchers. Perhaps he can use it for the friend of his youth."

She asked for paper and ink, and wrote a few hasty lines. In half an hour after the post went out which bore the letter to Strasburg, and thence to Paris.

The mother had a little over-estimated her son's influence. Latterly it had rather declined. Laforest no longer approved the bloody measures of Robespierre. There had been too much blood-shedding for him; and though he had not publicly expressed this, yet the tyrant had heard of it through his spies, and had already placed him on the list of the suspected whom he got rid of from time to time. As he had sent his friend and companion, Danton, with all his followers, to the scaffold, because he relented and advised moderation, there was no reason why he should spare a less important man when he began to halt and reflect on this bloody road. Yet he decided to wait until Laforest had spoken against him, which he had not yet done.

When Laforest received his mother's letter, suddenly old, long-suppressed feelings and recollections were aroused within him.

"Kerner!" exclaimed he, "Oh, were I as thou art!"

He struck his hand upon his forehead; then he reflected.

"I will try to save him," he said half aloud to himself, "even if it should cost me my life. If there is nothing in his Christianity, yet he is the friend of my youth, and my cousin. And," he presently added, "a good, brave man too,—a better than I am."

But how should he try to save him? Should he apply to Robespierre for him? That would be signing his own death-warrant as well as his friend's. He knew Robespierre too well for that. Perhaps he might be able to persuade the judges at Strasburg, whom he knew personally, to make an exception for once, and release this one prisoner. At least this seemed the best plan to him; so he took post-horses at once, and hastened to Strasburg.

He went to the judges, and pleaded for his friend. They shrugged their shoulders. He requested to see the prisoner. This they granted.

The meeting of the two former friends was not hearty as it should and could have been. They both felt embarrassed. Probably they both felt at this moment what a deep gulf separated them. The one was a man of the world, an enemy of Christ, a despiser of everything which was precious and valuable to his friend, a companion of those whose principles he abhorred with his whole heart. The other was a humble disciple of Jesus Christ; he openly confessed the faith which Laforest regarded as a contemptible superstition. In his political opinions, too, he was undoubtedly his opponent.

Still, the old affection between them was not extinguished. Laforest expressed his deep sorrow to meet his friend thus; told him he had come, if possible to save him; and made particular inquiries of him as to the reason and manner of his arrest.

He then visited the most influential of the judges, who was also president of the tribunal. He could not succeed in winning him over; on the contrary, he made himself suspected through his zeal for the prisoner.

"Your friend," said the judge, "is a dangerous man. When we sent to arrest him, there was almost a riot on his account. I think he must die."

Laforest tried to represent the innocence of his friend, and became quite warm about it. At length he made the remark that it seemed to him that now quite blood enough had flowed, and we should show some moderation. A malicious smile passed over the judge's face as he

said this; but suddenly he became quite friendly in his manner.

"Everything which I can do, citizen, shall be done,—if not for the prisoner's sake, for your sake. You are a warm friend of the people, I know. Only have patience for a few days, till I have interested my colleagues for you and your friend, and I hope all may be well."

Scarcely had the doors closed behind Laforest before he sat down to his desk to write a report to Robespierre. He first mentioned Kerner. He described him as a restless and dangerous man, and accused him of endeavoring to excite a tumult against the Government in the town where he dwelt. Then he proceeded to mention Laforest's exertions to effect the liberation of this rebel, and introduced the expressions he had made use of, accompanying them with the most odious meaning which he knew how to apply to them. At the conclusion, he inquired what should be done with both men.

(To be continued next month.)

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