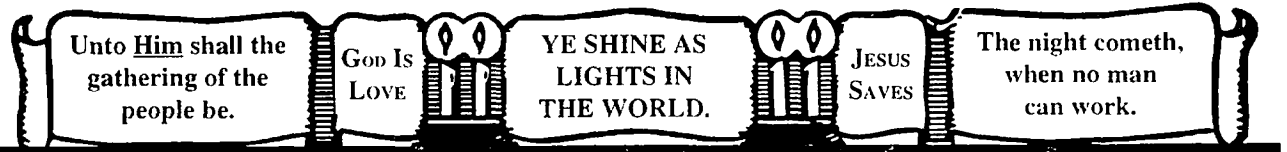


FAITH AND VICTORY

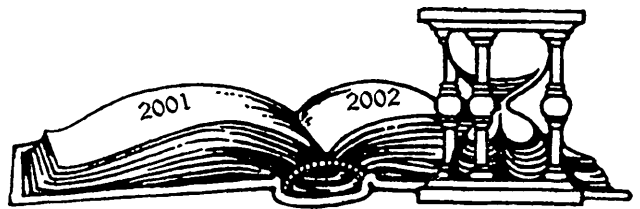
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A Year Untried



A year untried before me lies;
 What shall it bring of strange surprise?
 Or joy, or grief, I cannot tell;
 But God, my Father, knoweth well.
 I make it no concern of mine,
 But leave it all with Love Divine.

No ill can come but He can cure;
 His Word doth all of good insure;
 He'll see me through the journey's length,
 For daily need give daily strength.
 'Tis thus I fortify my heart,
 And thus do fear and dread depart.

Be sickness mine, or rugged health;
 Come penury to me, or wealth;
 Though lonesome I must pass along,
 Or loving friends my way may throng,—
 Upon my Father's Word I rest;
 Whatever shall be shall be best.

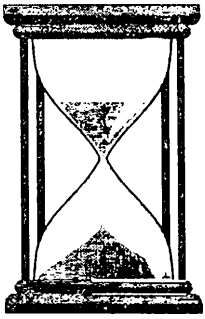
The sun may shed no light by day,
 Nor stars at night illumine my way;
 My soul shall still know no affright,
 Since God is all my life and light.
 Though all the earthly lamps grow dim,
 He walks in light who walks with Him.

O year untried!—thou hast for me
 Naught but my Father's eye can see;
 Nor canst thou bring me loss or gain,
 Or health or sickness, ease or pain,
 But welcome messenger shall prove
 From Him whose name to me is Love.

—R. M. Offord

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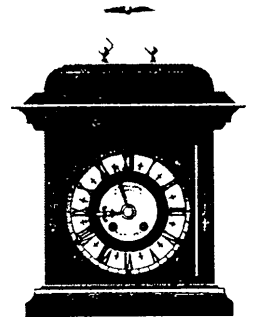


And Time Moves On

By Bro. Randall Flynn
(Written in 1983)

"Time moves on with solemn footsteps,
As it nears the final shore;
Fast the sun of earth is sinking,
Soon our world shall be no more."

—W. G. Schell



Another chapter in the annals of time is swiftly drawing to a close. The year of 1983 is steadily and surely vanishing away. By the time you read this, 1983 will be gone—forever. What has happened to this year? Where has it gone? It seems but just a few days ago since we were making the transition from 1982 to 1983. As we look forward in anticipation to some future event or date, many times it seems far in the distance. Many times we hear people remark that they have to wait "a whole year" for this or that to come to pass; but when we look back to something in the past it seems to have been just a few days ago. Many times we may refer to an incident in the past thinking that it happened only two or three years ago, but when a more diligent search is made we may find that it has been five or six years. Yes, time silently, surely, and swiftly moves along—and we are going with it.

What is time? Have you ever pondered on the meaning of time? Let's refer to the dictionary and observe a few of the many meanings of time: "The general concept, relation, or fact of continuous or successive existence, capable of division into measurable portions, and comprising the past, present and future. Duration with reference to this world and all finite existence as distinguished from eternity or infinity. The portion or period of duration generally allotted to human life. The moment of death." These are just a few of the definitions given, but they pose some very sobering thoughts.

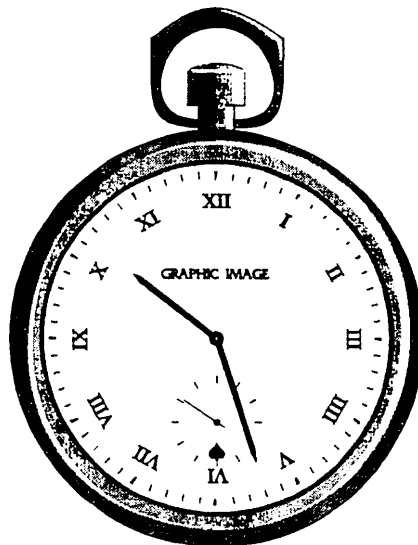
Time is something that man has absolutely no power over; on the contrary, we are in subjection to it whether we want to be or not. There is no way that we can regulate time—we cannot slow it down or speed it up.

How many times have you heard someone express the desire to "turn back the clock," or, "If I could only do this over I'd do it differently"? But time has passed; what has been done is done. Yes, there are some things that can be corrected, but how much better it would be if the error were not made at all! Errors are expensive and time-consuming, and some errors result in total destruction and loss.

Notice in the definition of time it mentions that time is measurable and consists of the past, present and future. What about the past? What about **your** past—the time with which you are most well acquainted? When reflecting on things of the past, some people prefer to look at what others have done, the accomplishments and inventions of mankind, etc., and ignore the things of their own personal lives. Why is this? Are they ashamed of their past? Do they see a life of sin, shame and waste? Oh, how sad if this is the case, but it need not be that way. What do you have to look back on? Do you see a life of sin and shame that has been left exposed in the open, or do you see a life that has been covered by the blood of Jesus, followed by His approval and blessings? What a blessing and encouragement it is to be able to look back

and see how the Lord has worked with us, led and directed our steps, and has brought us to the present with victory over sin and the devil.

What about the present? We mentioned earlier that we have no control over the passing of time, but we do have control of how we **spend** our time. What are you doing with your time? Are you using it wisely? Is it being well spent? Some people are very selfish with their time. They have no time for others who may be in need of help. They live only to



fulfill the desires of their own lives; they have no time for God.

A few years ago I saw a tract which illustrated a business man at his desk deeply engrossed in his money and paper work. He was approached by the Spirit of God, inviting him to give his heart to the Lord. The man replied, "Not now; come another time. I'm positively too busy." The wounded Spirit retreated and left the man alone. The scene changed to a later date, and there he was, though aged, still at his desk, and still deeply engrossed in his business. Death approached him and bid him to come. He threw up his hands and cried, "Oh, horrors! I did not expect you so soon! Please come back another time! Death replied, "I cannot wait. I'm positively too busy." This is no doubt a true picture of the life of many people. They live their lives foolishly and selfishly, refusing to take time for God. Death makes an unexpected approach and then, too late, they realize what a sad mistake they made in how they spent their time. Time is on **your** hands. What are you doing with it? Are you ready for that part of time defined as "the moment of death?" We are instructed in Ephesians 5:15-17, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." The Lord "is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing** that any should perish, **but that all should come to repentance.**" II Peter 3:9. "Behold, **now** [the present] is the accepted time; behold, **now** is the day of salvation." II Corinthians 6:2b.

Let's take a few moments now and look just a little at the future. Most of the future is hidden from our view. We do not know what the morrow may hold for us, but there are some aspects of the future that God has uncovered and placed within view for us to behold. Time is finite; it is measurable; it has a beginning and an end. We do not know when the end of time will be, but we do have record of what will be at the end of time. We read in II Peter 3:10-14, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hastening unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens

being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

In closing, let's look once more at all three portions of time—the future, present and past. For the future, we have life and death set before us—blessings or curse. Which one will you choose? "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15b. Today, the present, is the time for action; this is the day that God has given—what will you do with it? Will you walk after His commandments, follow His example in all holiness, meekness, patience, and love, or will you walk after the lusts that are so prevalent in the world today? A new year is set before us. Will we see the end of it? If so, what will our testimony be at that time—one of victory and accomplishment for God, or one of defeat, held under the sway and power of the enemy? It is up to you; through the grace of God it can be victory. And now, the past—this is history—the record of spent time—time that will never return; that cannot be spent again. Was it spent well? How blessed to be able to observe the past and be able to testify as Paul did! "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: **and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**" II Tim. 4:7-8.



An Excerpt From "The Course of Time"

by Robert Pollock

Wide was the place

And deep as wide; as ruinous as deep.

Beneath, I saw a lake of burning fire

With tempest tossed perpetually, and still

The waves of fiery darkness 'gainst the rocks

Of dark damnation broke, and music made

Of melancholy sort; and overhead

And all around wind warred with wind, storm
howled

To storm, and lightning, forked lightning crossed,

(Continued on page 13.)

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).

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

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

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

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

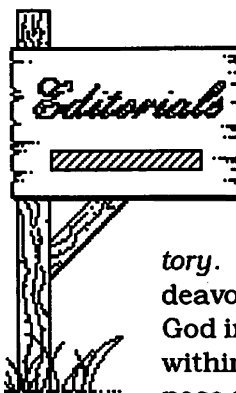
A separate Missionary Fund is maintained in order to relay missionary funds from our readers to the support of home and foreign missionaries and evangelists.

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

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With the new year of 2002 coming on, it seems like a good time to express appreciation to you, our readers. We thank you for your interest in subscribing to and reading the *Faith and Victory*. Our pledge to you is to endeavor to print the pure Word of God in its pages, just as much as is within our understanding. The purpose of this paper has never been to promote a personal agenda or to ride a hobby horse, and our commitment is to keep it on that plane.

We appreciate those who labor with us and have sacrificed in the hope of being instrumental in sharing the Word with others. It is not simply rhetoric to say it sometimes requires sacrifice to commit one's self to promoting the gospel. However, we are assured that those who do so will not lose their reward, as the Lord is faithful to fulfill His promises to workers in His vineyard.

Unless you have been around the publishing trade, it is sometimes difficult to understand the full process involved in printing, and the steps each piece of literature goes through before mailing. Recently I computed the approximate man-hours it takes to publish the *Faith and Victory* each month. It tallied out to 79 hours. The cost for each issue is approximately \$900.00, excluding wages and utilities. And there are many other duties we are busy with other than just the *Faith and Victory*. But I am glad to report that the workers give time and talents willingly. Perhaps at a later date, I can provide additional description of the jobs and the workers who accomplish them.

Not to be overlooked are those who support the work with prayers, finances, letters and writings. It takes everyone working in harmony to promote the Gospel, and we appreciate all who do so.

So they can pre-arrange their work schedules, many of our readers would like to know the dates of camp meetings for 2002. If congregations will send in that information by Feb. 15, we will publish a list in the March issue.

We still have an ample supply of 2002 wall calendars. Each features a colorful nature scene with a Bible verse for every month. The calen-

dars differ slightly in size from those of previous years. They now measure approximately 10" X 10" and are available for \$3.00 each, which includes postage and handling.

On Dec. 25, Bro. Michael Smith returned home from a missionary trip to Ghana and Nigeria. We are thankful God brought him back safely and well, and are looking forward to hearing a report of what God accomplished during his time in those places.

We again remind our readers of a CD which is now available. It documents mission work in the Philippines from 1998-2001 and it contains pictures, video clips and narration of the building of a camp ground near San Jose, as well as information about the first camp meeting held there. It also includes photos of national interest, such as Mt. Pinetubo, a Japanese memorial from WWII, and the Catholic observance of Good Friday.

The CD is PC formatted and operates on internet Explorer browser 5.5. It is available for \$19.95, which includes postage and handling. If you have questions about the ability of your computer to operate the presentation, please feel free to call this office. —Bro. Wayne Murphey

Prayer Requests

IL—"Please remember me in prayer."

—Elsie Offerman

OH—Juanita Blankenship has asked prayer for her eyes.

AR—"Pray for me." —Lillian Farris

AL—"Please remember Monroe Hood in prayer as she recently lost her husband. He was a good minister and pillar in our congregation. We will surely miss him.

"Also remember mother. She needs your continual prayers." —Bro. Marshall Whitson

CA—"Here are some people to be remembered in your prayers: Bob Barnes, Marv Bos, Larry Brown and Chris Duplessis.

"I thank all concerned who have prayed for my sister, Sis. Sylvia Busbee. The continual cough which she has had is better."

—Bro. Ivan Forbes

IN—"I want you to remember my sons in prayer. Roy has leukemia and shingles, as well as a bad backache. Jimmy has bad nerves. I know God can heal them.

"I don't feel so good myself. We have had the

flu, and I seem to stay weak. So remember us all."

—Sis. Dessie Wilson

CA—"Please pray for me."

—Sis. Geneva Norling

**Standing
Prayer Requests**

- Sis. Lydia Bennett
- Sis. Alscene Breckenridge
- Bro. Jon Busbee
- Sis. Mamie Butcher
- Bro. Arnett Carver
- Bro. Nathan Carver
- Sis. Estelene Cramer
- Sis. Waneta Creel
- Sis. Hattie Dean
- Bro. Dale Doolittle
- Sis. Elaine Dunn
- Sis. Eleanor Fingerle
- Bro. Randall Flynn
- Sis. Pearlene Gerald
- Sis. Esther Gordon
- Bro. Huey Gordon, Jr.
- Bro. Lee Hilton
- Bro. Shawn Howard
- Sis. Mary Hughes
- Sis. Daisy Johnson
- Sis. Janice Johnston
- Sis. Earnestine Jordan
- Sis. Betty Lassché
- The Lounds sisters
- Sis. Mattie McIntyre
- Sis. Bertha Miles
- Bro. Allan Miller
- Sis. Virginia Myers
- Sis. Dollie O'Neill
- Bro. Charles Pierro
- Bro. O. C. Porter
- Sis. Melba Powell
- Sis. Myrtle Savoie
- Bro. M. Agenemoh Sidi
- Sis. Kay Stover
- The Mitch Taylor family
- Sis. Anna Mae Thompson
- Bro. Preston Vulgamore
- Bro. Curtis Williams, Sr.
- Bro. Max Williamson
- Sis. Esther Wilson

FROM THE READERS

OK—Hello to all at the Print Shop: We are writing to renew our *Faith and Victory*. We love the paper.

God is good. If the whole world could understand where our help comes from, and who is in charge, we would all be a lot better off. God has the whole world in His hand, He sees everything, He hears everything and He knows everything. That is where our help comes from.

You all keep up the good work and may God bless you.

With love, —Bro. & Sis. Marion Caldwell

TN—Dear saints and friends: My heart is rejoicing this morning [12/4/01] for all the things God is still doing for me since the loss of my companion. I am so thankful for all that He does.

The morning that Bro. McDonald passed on to be with the Lord, God gave me a song—"One Thing I Can Do"—number 126 in the *Evening Light Songs* hymnal. I sing it and read it often. It says:

"I thank thee, Lord, that I can cast my burdens
all on thee;
Tho' I be tempted, thou hast died to bear them
all for me.

Tho' tried and pressed, yet I will trust,—This one
thing I can do;
I'll lean upon thy loving breast, Thou'lt guide me
safely thro'.

Tho' raging storms about me sweep, and fiery
billows roll,
To thee, dear Lord, I humbly trust the keeping
of my soul.

O Jesus, I will cling to thee, I'll love thee more
and more;
I'll place my trembling hand in thine, until the
battle's o'er."

Saints and friends, this is "one thing we can
do." Continue to pray for me.

Gratefully, —Sis. Mary McDonald

OR—Merry Christmas to all there who spend
countless hours working and thinking about
how to get the gospel out. This is a season of
hope. Thank God for sending a Saviour who has

forever changed this world. Each of us is forever
changed once He knocks on our hearts' door,
whether we choose to accept or refuse Him....

—Sis. Kathy Smith

OK—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in Jesus'
name. I hope all is going well with you and all the
workers there.

I have been thinking and meditating on the
thought of us partaking of Jesus' glory. It is very
encouraging and satisfying. The scripture says,
"But we all, with open face beholding as in a
glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the
same image from glory to glory, even as by the
Spirit of the Lord." II Cor. 3:18.

When we behold the glory of the Lord through
the Spirit and through His Word, it gives us the
right perspective of what Jesus is to us. It
helped Stephen when he was being stoned.
(Acts 7:55.) It will also help us in living for God.

Paul said, "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth
in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh
I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved
me, and gave himself for me." Gal. 2:20.

Your brother in Christ,

—Bro. T. V. McMillian

MI—Dear sir: I enjoy your magazine very
much. I read it from cover to cover and then pass
it on so somebody else can enjoy it. I have
learned a lot from the articles and rejoice in the
fact that God is still in the prayer-answering
business.

May God bless all of you who work so hard
to publish the *Faith and Victory*.

Your brother in Christ,

—Robert L. Randolph

NY—Dear sir: Please find enclosed a check
to help you in your fine work at the Publishing
House. We do so enjoy your Sunday School
Lessons. After attending other churches, we
find you people still write from the Holy Bible.
Thanks for increasing our faith in God.

Sincerely, —Norm and Cora Eller

Asana, Nigeria—Bro. Wayne Murphey: Greet-
ings in the Lord. The workers of the Church of
God, Asana, Nigeria, feel delighted and appreci-
ate your awakening spirit towards the growth of
the work of God here in Nigeria.

We appeal to you to pray for the church here
in Nigeria to grow spiritually, physically and in
other endeavors. We also pray God to strengthen

you for His work and to guide you in all of your understanding in Jesus' name....

Thank you and remain blessed,
—Bro. Ufot Michael Akpan

KS—Dear Bro. and Sis. Murphey: Thank you for your prayers on my behalf. I am doing better, and I praise the Lord for all His many blessings.

There is a song that goes like this, "Count your many blessings, name them one by one." I would be unable to count the Lord's many blessings. Ever since I can remember I have loved that old song. When we reach the end of the song, "Count your many blessings, see what God hath done," it helps us to reflect upon the blessings the Lord has given us, and we then realize how innumerable they are.

Blessings to all of you, each one who has a part in the labor for the Lord.

— Naomi Dickerson-Hiebert

IL—Dear Bro. Murphey and all the saints: Please remember me in prayer. I am the daughter of Edward and Iva Boling from Gale and Pinckneyville, IL. I am sure some of you remember them both. My mother passed away in the Golden Rule Home in April, 1974. Dad had passed away in 1968. My late husband and I attended several camp meetings with them years ago.

I have several things going on in my life that I need prayer for, and I know the Lord will help me get straightened out and on the right road. I do love and trust the dear Lord.

Love to all,
—Elsie M. Offerman

CA—I have been ill and many saints have prayed for me. I wish to thank them all. I am recovering.

—Bro. Ivan Forbes

WI—Dear Bro. Wayne: Greetings in the holy name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour....

My health is not good. I am very weak and slow in walking. But I trust the Lord, my Saviour. He is every day with me.

On October 21, I had pain in my knee. I prayed to my Lord, "You said I'm with you to the end. Then You are in this room. Please, please, take the pain away." The pain went right away! We have a wonderful Friend. I am thankful to be His child.

Again, greetings and may God bless all of you in the Print Shop. —Sis. Martha Schmidt



From the Philippines...

December 6, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: Greetings to both of you and to all the workers in the Print Shop in the most wonderful name of our almighty Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, who bought and redeemed us from the bondage of sin.

I am so thankful to Him for He has been felt since I dedicated myself and my whole being to the Lord.

I am inspired and encouraged while this writing is being done by the experiences of Old Testament Bible characters like Abraham, Moses, Jacob, the prophets and many others. They went through so many heartaches, persecutions, problems and trials, to the extent that their faith was tested. Yet, they stood still and were victorious as God held the victory.

I have had some of the same experiences. There were times I decided to quit the ministry with reasons to look for greener pastures where I could give my family a decent living. My faith has been tested by being offered a position where I would be receiving a salary commensurate to my work and load. But, praise God, I was strong in His mighty power. The commitment and dedication implanted in my heart, to serve God and humanity, were the prime factor for not leaving the ministry. An apostle of Jesus Christ, named Peter, was once asked this question, "Lovest thou me more than these?" He replied, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee..." My prayer to God is to have health to be able to continue the task that has been left to us — to feed His lambs.

With regards to our mission in this place, I would like to share with you some of its developments. Salvation was brought to some people in the community. They heartily accepted the Lord, Jesus Christ, as their personal Saviour. God provided us a worship house conducive for our spiritual growth and formation. But we

have still to raise funds for the finishing of the wall, ceiling and flooring.

Our home Bible studies are being done in the afternoon and evening. One family who resides in another village requested us to have a Bible study which is scheduled for 10:00 in the evening. We have been doing this for almost two months which has resulted in the salvation of five members of the family. Praise be to God for their real decision to commit themselves to the Lord. Now they are actively participating in the services and work of the Lord. There are more souls who are hungry and thirsty for the gospel, and we are praying for them to come to the Saviour to be fed, and to drink the water for which they will never be thirsty again — the water of life.

Share my love with all who love the Lord. My family (Rose and Jashen) and all the saints in this place are sending their greetings to you and to all the brethren over there.

Yours in God's love,

—Bro. Paterno C. Tangunan

— — — — —
Honduras, C. A. Report

December 22, 2001—Dear Bro. Wayne and Sis. Mary: Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May God bless each dear one who prays and supports the Lord's work in Honduras. The work is moving forward.

We experienced great blessings from Bro. Toney and Sis. Jeanie Samons, Sis. Bonnie Riley, Sis. Andrea Meek and Bro. Keith and Sis. Juanekie Fuller, Sis. Judy Trepaigner and Bro. Ptolemy Matthews.

Thank you brothers and sisters for your love to the work in Honduras, your love to the unsaved souls, for your deep concern that the Word of God be spread throughout the world, and for the material blessings shared with the workers in His vineyard.

Kindly extend our best regards to all the saints.

I thank God for all His many blessings and pray for guidance in all things.

Remember us in your prayers.

—Bro. Tony and Sis. Carrin Hamilton

— — — — —
 The third quarter of our school year began August 20, 2001. The new mission was ready to be occupied by that time. Thank the Lord.

Bro. and Sis. Fuller, who arrived on the 16th of August, were there to help us from the

beginning of that quarter and were a real blessing to all of us. Bro. Fuller taught some extra-curricular lessons in world geography (including Honduran geography). A giant world map was drawn in the middle of the Learning Center's floor with sidewalk chalk. The children were pretty excited over their lessons and they were also able to learn where their teachers came from.

The Fullers were also a blessing to the saints and in the church services. In one service, one of the school children's mother, who in her earlier years had been sweetly saved, came back to the Lord.

On August 28th, Bro. Ptolemy Matthews joined our crew. Bro. Ptolemy (being already acquainted with most of the school's procedures), fit right in and was a blessing in helping relieve some of the work load, and in many different ways.

Four days later, Bro. Doug and Sis. Lenita Wall, with their youngest daughter, Kaylee, arrived for a short visit. We certainly enjoyed them, and appreciate their contribution to the work.

The Fullers were here until the 8th of September. We were all sad to see them leave. Bro. Tony Hamilton, Bro. Ptolemy, and myself, did our best to carry on from there. Along with their core curriculum, we gave the children a few lessons in weights and measures and in manners. We acted out some of the scenes for socially correct and incorrect behavior which we believe were profitable.

The quarter ended on October 5th with a simple gathering to give out progress report cards to be signed by the parents. We also had the children give a short presentation, followed by a few refreshments.

In meeting with the parents we received some encouraging feedback. Most of them are happy with their children's progress in the school. After this first year, all of them who could not read English are now able to read, and it's such a blessing to watch their delight in doing it. Some of the children have also given their hearts to the Lord. Please pray that God will keep them encouraged.

Our fourth quarter began uneventfully on the 8th and pretty much continued that way until the rainy season began. Some of the children, who usually walked to school, were hindered by the rain. Those who rode in back of the church's small pick-up, (as many as could)

would crowd into the cab of the truck, and those who could not, missed school that day. Sometimes they would all take a chance and try to beat the rain, but some would get to school soaking wet. The rains also brought about a lot of mud, which became an added problem, but we are so thankful to the Lord for helping us to continue on through all of these hindrances.

When the hurricane threatened to come our way, we prepared by boarding up the windows and purchasing extra supplies. But the Lord was merciful and spared us from a direct hit. We only got a lot of rain and some winds, thank the Lord. (Bro. Ptolemy was looking forward to that hurricane and was a little disappointed.)

November 16th marked the end of our school year. We held a presentation the next day during which we awarded the children certificates. Some were awarded for certain character traits demonstrated throughout the year. Most of the ABC's received certificates for successfully completing their Learning to Read program. One child (Marlena Hamilton) was given a certificate and a small gift for outstanding Christian character throughout the year.

After Bro. Fuller's return to the U.S., Bro. Ptolemy and myself also endeavored to work with the night English class that he had been teaching, but were met with a lack of real interest and poor attendance. We then decided it best to postpone the class until some future time, Lord willing.

Being free from that responsibility, Bro. Ptolemy, along with a young man in the congregation, began having Bible studies on Thursday nights with some young men in the community. We also began having sewing classes with the ladies one night a week. Attendance was good and included some of the ladies in the community.

We thank the Lord for Bro. Ptolemy's commitment to stay until the end of the school year. May the Lord bless and reward him and all who have supported this great effort. We are also thankful for all who have prayed or contributed in some way to this cause. May the Lord bless and reward each one.

I am very thankful that the Lord has enabled me to be a part of this work. I am looking forward to another wonderful coming school year, if the Lord wills. Please continue to pray for us and the work in Honduras. The saints are very happy to have such a wonderful school for their children, and have repeatedly expressed their appreciation.

—Sis. Judy Trepaigner



Charles Everett Reynolds of Scio, OR, died at the Heart of the Valley Care Center in Corvallis, OR. He was 96.

He was born in Point Pleasant, WV, the second of 11 children, to George Thomas and Vicie (Porter) Reynolds.

After learning to paint houses from his father, he began working for the railroad, eventually working his way up from fireman to engineer.

He married Madelon Marcella Beltrame, on April 2, 1937, in Cumberland, MD.

They moved to California, where Mr. Reynolds worked for the railroad out of the Sacramento and Roseville roundhouses. In the early 1950s, as the railroads were converting to diesel locomotives, he left and began working as a painting contractor. He also owned and operated a fishing and swimming resort located in an old rock quarry.

In 1968, the couple bought a farm in Jefferson, OR, where Mr. Reynolds continued painting and also raised a few head of cattle. Ten years later they retired to Scio, where he enjoyed giving homegrown vegetables to friends and neighbors.

He was a member of the Church of God in Jefferson, belonged to the Oregon State Sheriff's Association and enjoyed traveling throughout the country with his wife.

Survivors include daughter Charlotte Gregory of Lebanon, OR; son James Leo Reynolds of Sacramento, CA; three daughters from an earlier marriage; Lenora of Mobile, AL, Lareda and Norma Jean, both of Point Pleasant, WV; sister, Ruth Williamson, also of Point Pleasant; eight grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Madelon, in June of this year; son, Charles

"Buddy" Reynolds; sisters, Autumn, Pearl, Augusta, Pauline and Helen; and brothers, Jim, George, John and Harold.

Funeral services were at the Church of God in Jefferson, with Bro. Bob Wilson officiating. Interment was at Franklin Butte Cemetery in Scio.

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On August 7, 1930, the youngest of 14 children was born to Leroy Sr. and Alberta Rue Syas in Preston, OK. This precious baby girl was named **Lorene**. She attended school in Grayson and Beggs, OK, and in 1950 graduated from Beggs Wheatley High School. After graduating she moved to Tulsa, OK, and began her career in retail.

In 1956 she married Orsbon Hawkins and was the proud mother of four daughters. Lorene was a long-time employee of Safeway/Home-land Stores and retired after 25 years of dedicated service. She loved and cared for people and people loved her. The love the people had for her was evident whenever you shopped in her store and saw her customers waiting, just to be checked out through her line.

She accepted Christ as her personal Saviour in June of 1972, and fellowshipped with the Church of God Evening Light saints. She was a faithful ambassador who had a special gift of helping and enjoyed reaching out to all in need. She loved children and took great joy in teaching them about the Lord in Vacation Bible School and in her neighborhood nursery school.

In spite of being confined to a wheel chair in her retirement years, she continued to worship God, attending church services, and continued to enjoy traveling and participating in activities with her children and grandchildren.

Though we loved her dearly, after 71 wonderful blessed years, God loved her more. He took her to her eternal home on Monday morning, October 8. To God be the glory!

She was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers and eight sisters. She leaves to cherish her memory four daughters, Sylvia Nichols, Cynthia Johnson (Roy), Shelia Hawkins, Portia Dawson (Terry Sr.); five grandchildren, Brandon, Gwendolyn, S. E. LaNeal III Nichols, Terry Jr. and Tierra Dawson; three great-grandchildren, Deion, Tia and Taylor; one sister, Eddie Walker, Boynton, OK; one brother, Leroy Syas Jr. (Loretha) of Chicago, IL, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, saints and friends.

QUESTION AND ANSWER
BY
BRO. OSTIS B. WILSON
Reprint

QUESTION: Please comment on Luke 21:25-27. Is this speaking literally or spiritually? Also Mark 13:19-20.

ANSWER: Luke 21:25-27 reads thus: "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Mark 13:19-20 says, "For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days."

It must surely be evident that some very cataclysmic and catastrophic things are being set forth here. Let us at once drop the idea of any literal interpretation on these scriptures. But in a very real sense, spiritually and figuratively, this scripture spoken by Jesus Himself has been fearfully and wonderfully fulfilled and these things have come to pass. Both of the passages incorporated in this question are a part of Christ's discourse to His disciples concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, the complete overthrow of the Jewish polity, the end of the world, and of the signs of His second coming. Luke merely refers to signs in the sun, moon, and stars; but Matthew goes a little further in describing those signs. I wish to insert here Matthew 24:29 which says, "Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken." Since Matthew identifies those signs in more detail, I would like to transfer the emphasis to Matthew 24:29 for the time being.

We must recognize that many prophecies have a twofold fulfillment, especially prophecies concerning the Jews and ancient Israel. The reason for this can be easily explained because

literal Israel was a type of spiritual Israel, and some of the things which happened to them have been repeated in the history of the Church in this age of time.

This scripture probably had its primary fulfillment in the destruction of Jerusalem and the Jewish nation, and Adam Clarke applies it totally to that, excluding all other explanations.

He says, "In the prophetic language, great commotions upon earth are often represented under the notion of commotions and changes in the heavens. The fall of Babylon is represented by the stars and constellations of heaven withdrawing their light, and the sun and moon being darkened—Isaiah 13:9-10; the destruction of Egypt, by the heavens being covered, the sun enveloped with a cloud, and the moon withholding her light—Ezekiel 32:7-8. The destruction of the Jews by Antiochus Epiphanes is represented by casting down some of the host of heaven, and the stars to the ground—Daniel 8:10." He further says in regard to this particular scripture, "The Jewish heaven shall perish, and the sun and moon of its glory and happiness shall be darkened—brought to nothing. The sun is the religion of the church; the moon is the government of the state; and the stars are the judges and doctors of both."

I will not make any argument with this, as the applications seem to fit all right. But I do not at all consider that to be the end of this prophecy. If it had a fulfillment at that time, the historic annals of the Church in this age of time surely show a terrible fulfillment of it in the Church. However, I agree that it had a very catastrophic fulfillment in the Jewish nation. I want to discuss it now as it pertains to the history of the Church.

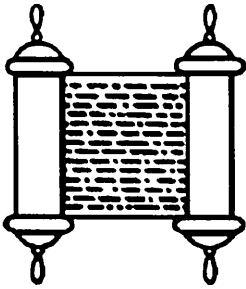
In Isaiah 21:11-12 we read, "The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night?... The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come." The reference here is to a time of night and darkness—a time when men groped for the Word of God and could not find it—Amos 8:11-12. Dumah means "silence" and, no doubt, refers to the period of about 400 years between Malachi and Christ when there was no prophet or voice from God; just silence. When the call came to the watchman, "What of the night?" or what time of night is it? The answer came back, "The morning cometh." Surely that was a comforting message for night and silence-weary Israel.

Accordingly, the morning came, the gospel day dawned and Jesus, the Sun of righteousness arose with healing in His wings (Malachi 4:2), and "The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up." Matthew 4:16. Jesus is the Light of the world (John 8:12). The dawning of the gospel day was a great event to the human race, and Jesus, during His ministry, healed their dread diseases, cast out the devils, bore the burdens, and alleviated the sufferings of those who came to Him. His apostles and the early Christian Church continued the same work and manifested the power and glory of God and the light continued to shine for a considerable period of time.

After he had announced the coming of the morning, the watchman followed up by saying, "And also the night." There was another night coming after the dawning of the morning. In Amos 8:9 we read, "And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day." The term, "In that day," was often used by the prophets to signify this gospel day in which we live. In this day, right at noon when the sun was at its zenith and shining in its glory and brilliance, it would suddenly drop out of sight, and the clear day would become dark. Read Micah 3:5-7, telling that the sun would go down over the prophets, and it would be dark unto them and they would have no vision.

In Isaiah 63:18 we read, "The people of thy holiness have possessed it but a little while: our adversaries have trodden down thy sanctuary." This actually came to pass in the great apostasy from the truth which came in about 270 A.D. About this time a worldly and ambitious spirit began to work in many of the ministers. Instead of the humble, lowly ministry which characterized the early Church, ministers began to strive and compete one with another for power, position, preeminence, and worldly gain. Some became exalted above others and still others became exalted over them, and this trend finally resulted in the establishment of the Pope of Rome as the universal head of the church.

Paul wrote in II Thessalonians 2:3-4 about the falling away which would come after his time and the revealing of the man of sin, the son of perdition "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the



The historian Mosheim wrote of these men that they "Imperceptibly extended the limits of their authority, turned their influence into dominion, and their councils into laws; and openly asserted at length, that Christ had empowered them to prescribe to his people, authoritative rules of faith and manners."



temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." In verses 9 and 10 he says, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." In verse 7 he spoke of the "mystery of iniquity" and said it was already working. This "mystery of iniquity" was the worldly, ambitious, striving, competing spirit for preeminence and position which laid the groundwork for this "man of sin" to be exalted to his supreme position.

The historian Mosheim wrote of these men that they "Imperceptibly extended the limits of their authority, turned their influence into dominion, and their councils into laws; and openly asserted at length, that Christ had empowered them to prescribe to his people, authoritative rules of faith and manners."—Taken from page 106 of *The Revelation Explained* by F. G. Smith.

F. G. Smith again quotes from D'Aubigne's *History of the Reformation* on page 195 of *The Revelation Explained*. "Salvation no longer flowing from the Word which was henceforward put out of sight, the priests affirmed that it was conveyed by means of the forms they had themselves invented, and that no one could attain it except by these channels.... Christ communicated to the apostles, and these to the bishops, the union of the Holy Spirit; and this Spirit is to be procured only in that order of succession.... Faith in the heart no longer connected the members of the Church, and they were united by means of bishops, archbishops, popes, mitres, canons and ceremonies."

One more quotation from D'Aubigne from page 185 of the same book, "The living church retiring gradually within the lonely sanctuary of a few solitary hearts, an external church was substituted in its place, and all its forms were declared to be of divine appointment."

When the "man of sin" exalted himself above all that is called God, this pushed Christ into the

background and put Him out of sight. When these exalted men declared they had authority to prescribe authoritative rules of faith and manners for the people of God, that pushed the Word of God into the background and put it out of sight. Jesus was the Sun of righteousness; the Light of the world. He was darkened. The stars, which symbolize ministers (Revelation 1:20) and those who apostatized and departed from the true faith, fell from their high and heavenly position.

This is my understanding, and so far as I know the understanding of my brethren in general of this text of Scripture.

My understanding of Mark 13:20, "And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved:..." is this: The passage was in reference to the destruction of Jerusalem and the overthrow of the Jewish nation, and this statement referred specifically to them. The destruction of human life was so extensive (Josephus, a Jewish historian accounts for at least 1,357,000 that perished in the conquest of Judaea) that had it gone on much longer, perhaps not a single Jew would have been spared. The "...tribulation of those days..." in Matthew 24:29 and the severe affliction spoken of in Mark 13:29 refer to the extremely severe conditions prevailing with the Jews during the time of the destruction of Jerusalem and the overthrow of the Jewish nation. The detailed description of this given by Josephus is terrifying and sickening. Jesus said there had never been anything like it from the beginning of the creation and never would be anything to match it again. The wrath and vengeance of Him to Whom vengeance belongs against sin, rebellion and rejection of His Son is a dreadful thing. Hebrews 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

It was soon after these things that the conditions began to develop which plunged the world into the Dark Ages referred to in figure in Matthew 24:29.

An Excerpt From "The Course of Time"

(Continued from page 3.)

And thunder answered thunder, muttering sounds
Of sullen wrath; and far as night could pierce

Or down descend in caves of hopeless depth
Through all that dungeon of unfading fire,

I saw most miserable beings walk
Burning continually, yet unconsumed,
Forever wasting, yet enduring still;
Dying perpetually, yet never dead.

Some wandered lonely in the desert flames,
And some in fell encounter fiercely met,
With curses loud, and blasphemies, that made
The cheek of darkness pale; and as they fought
And cursed, and gnashed their teeth, and wished to
die,

Their hollow eyes did utter streams of woe.

And there were groans that ended not, and sighs
That always sighed, and tears that were wept
And ever fell, but not in mercy's sight.

And Sorrow, and Repentance, and Despair
Among them walked, and to their thirsty lips
Presented frequent cups of burning gall.
And as I listened, I heard these beings curse
Almighty God, and curse the Lamb, and curse
The Earth, the Resurrection Morn, and seek,
And ever vainly seek for utter death.

And to their everlasting anguish still
The thunders from above resounding spoke
These words which through the caverns of perdition
Forlornly echoing fell on every ear;
"Ye knew your duty, but ye did it not!"



"Letting Go"

By Mabel C. Porter

Taken from *The Gospel Trumpet*, 1914

I have just finished reading a sermon on "The Art of Letting Go." Part of it, at least, I feel like passing along. So as I write, I shall also quote.

The preacher spoke of the beauty of the grace of forgetting and of the fine art of letting go, at the right time, of some of the things we grasp, or that fall to our fortune in life. We have, in the cities, the trash cans, in the offices the wastebaskets, and everywhere there is a dump;

but mentally and spiritually how much useless and very harmful matter we shove back on the shelves and handle over and over. "Whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report—things of virtue and praise—may be stored up for future planting and cultivation, but let us dump the useless waste."

How many people I know would be so much healthier in spirit if they would make better use of a spiritual wastebasket! It just means to dump the trash that hinders the victory that you should have; it may be a bad habit, a grievance, prejudices, bad company, heavy heart burdens—anything that discourages, saddens or brings darkness instead of light.

"Clouds shut out sunshine. Fear weakens. Gloom depresses. Anxiety warps the judgment. Let the art of letting go come to our rescue. The speech of the apostle falls upon us: 'Brethren! This one thing I do, forgetting those which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' (Phil. 3:13-14.) Which shall we let go? The past or the future? The encouragements or the discouragements? We cannot hold both the good and the bad.

"Unnecessary and unpleasant recollections are good things to let go.

"Do you have hours when the only possible thing, apparently, the only right thing to consider, is something that gnaws the heart and frets the mind? Ah, the things that ought not to have been! How many hours we have toiled the past year! What burdens we have borne! What griefs have fallen upon us! What losses we have sustained! Shall we, then, keep open the sepulcher of the old year, weep above it, and ask our friends to keep flowers of sympathy upon it?

"Heart wounds are good things to let go. *They are inevitable....* If we remember all slights, if we number all wounds, if we stop to think of every tingle of inward pain, we shall be most miserable,... for treasuring these in memory, we shall be letting go the sweets, the joys, the chances of friendship and service that make life a joy to ourselves and to others.

" 'Go bury thy sorrow.
The world hath its share
Go bury it deeply,
Go hide it with care.

" 'Hearts growing weary
With heavier woe

Now, droop mid the darkness—
Go comfort them, go.'

"Let go of prejudices that blow fogs between us and our neighbors; fogs that conceal the real character and shut out any possible brightening of the soul life of another. If there is warmth in our souls, it fails to reach them. We are chilled in the damp and irritated by the fog that lies between us and them."

Let us be especially careful to have fair judgment, mercy and love to keep the way clear between us and the discouraged souls around us. Those who are on their feet and climbing should reach out a hand to the fallen.

"When over the fair face of friend or foe
A shadow of disgrace shall fall; instead
Of words of blame or proof of thus or so,
Let something good be said."

Dear friends, how short is life! Can we hold on to the grievances? Some people so hug their sorrows that I am sure when the end comes they will be sorry to let them go. The end will come. Now is the time to "let go" of all rubbish and hardness and unpleasantness. Cast it out to where it belongs and in its place make room for beauty, purity, joy, light, truth and life. Which do you choose?



Best Fitted For His Service

The story is told of a fisherman who had a large tank on the side of his fishing boat. It was perforated so that the water of the sea passed right through it.

He would put the fish that he caught in this tank to keep them alive and fresh for the market, but he found that after they had been kept in there a few days they lost their firmness and flavor.

Their life in the tank was not their natural life. They did not have to struggle for their food, and they were safe from their enemies. Such a life of ease produces deterioration.

There was another fisherman there who also kept the fish that he caught in a tank on the side of his boat, but he always brought his fish to market in good condition. Others tried to find out his secret, but he would not tell. After his death, his daughter told the secret.

He always put a catfish in the tank and it kept the fish in fear of their lives all the time, and they always had to struggle to keep out of his

way. It was like their natural life in the sea.

The afflictions and misfortunes which distress the children of God are not all to be explained as chastening for their wrong doings. There may be the catfish in the well placed there by Him who knows all things to keep them in the best of condition. Those who live in comfort and ease usually never amount to very much for the Lord. God, in choosing men, always selects those who have gone through trials and hardships.

A noted violin maker went out into the timber to select his own timber for the making of his violins. He always chose the wood from the north side of the tree because he said it was used to the hard beating storms from the north and was tough and would stand more strain. This he said was better suited for violins. Those who have withstood the stormy trials and hardships of life are the ones who are best fitted for His service.

—Selected



List of Books Available for Sale

A Hive of Busy Bees by Effie M. Williams. An excellent book for children. 118 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00.

A Missionary's Experiences in Mexico by Carrie L. Sheppard. 60 pages, bound in a heavy paper cover. Price, \$1.50.

A Saloonkeeper's Daughter Saved by Bertha Mackey, 15-page booklet of a young girl's experiences in a convent. 50¢.

Adam Clarke's One Volume Commentary of the Entire Bible 1356 pages. Abridged from original six-volume work. Actual words of Adam Clarke have not been changed, except in a few instances where a word has been inserted in brackets to complete the sense when taken from the original. Price, \$39.99.

Adventures in the Land of Canaan by R. L. Berry. Instructive allegory of true-to-life experiences in sanctification. 128 pages in heavy paper cover. Price, \$3.00.

Cruden's Complete Concordance. Revised edition, clothbound, 783 pages, over 200,000 references. Price, \$15.97.

Egermeier's Bible Story Book for children, illustrated with beautiful colored pictures. 576



**Excerpts Taken From
Jan., 1977
*Faith and Victory***

"Let us yield to God, and let us also have the same mercy in our hearts toward others as God has toward us. If we see a little fire in a person's life, let us fan it and cause it to burn. May we never be guilty of trying to put it out. Pour the oil of love upon it and never dash cold water. Let us be workers with God and not against His plan." —Sis. Marie Miles

"The Lord has been very good to me in these perilous times. I have been sick for two or three years; every year I get worse. This year I didn't think I would be able to keep up my housework, as I live alone, but I prayed and the Lord blessed me to do my own housework, even blessed me to make my own garden." —Sis. Della Harris

"This letter leaves me praising God with my whole heart, soul, mind and strength for the way God has worked things out in my life, for the way He is lifting the burdens and working for the good of all concerned. All glory to His holy Name! Surely all things do work together for good to them that love the Lord. (Rom. 8:28.) I have been compelled to go a mile; and by the help and grace of God I am endeavoring to go the second mile. I want to live right down in the dust of humility, and just turn all over to God completely." —Sis. Sadie Stamm

"As the New Year approaches we realize it brings us closer to eternity. We don't know how much time is left, but it behooves all people to awaken and turn to God if they aren't saved, or to

draw closer to Him if they are saved. Sin is waxing worse and worse, but we can rejoice because there is a plentiful amount of grace at our disposal. I am saved and have a refuge and hiding place in God."

—Shirley Knight

"In the letter of Dec. 3, 1974, I had asked the prayers of the saints concerning the Lord causing my mailbox to be moved one-half mile nearer. God touched the hearts of the officials and they moved my mailbox closer. Thank God! You'll never know how I rejoiced and gave Him the glory."

—Sis. Mary Dorsey

"As some of you know, I have been here with the saints in Jefferson, OR, since 1960. God has been with me, yet all has not been without trials and problems, but as we prayed and looked to the Lord He would give victory, for which we do thank Him. I do thank the Lord that today I know He does all things well."

—Beatrice Spaur

"I wish to thank God before man for His help and strength. Bro. Ostis Wilson held a meeting here and the Lord used him wonderfully. The Word of God was rich to all who were able to hear. The Lord used this time to prepare me for the trial I was to pass through afterwards. The Lord richly blessed me with the understanding that there would be a battle, and He prepared me for it with the scripture in I Cor. 10:13. I never would have been able to come through the trial without His help. Praise God!"

—Bro. Kenny P. Farris

"We want to thank all of you for your prayers in Ray's [my husband] behalf. We surely do appreciate God's love. I can never thank Him enough for the miracle He has worked in my husband's life. He is saved and wants to do the Lord's will in everything."

—Ray and Mamie Butcher

"We are living in a day when there are so many things to attract our minds and draw our souls away from thinking on the things of God and eternal life. I find we have to put forth a desperate effort to live in close communion with the Lord. The Word tells us to strive to enter in. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...." —Natalie Allen