

[29 December 1864]

The Lord Jesus, when on earth said “In the world ye shall have tribulation,” but in the same blessed passage he says, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Ah, yes, and I, too, can overcome by faith; trusting in him I have his sweet companionship continually, and his presence cheers my soul. His promises are my sure support. He leads me by the right hand of his righteousness, and guides me with his eye.

The work here is progressive and progressing. Though there are many dependent ones, utterly unable to supply their own wants, yet the people are feeling more and more a desire to earn whatever they receive, and are making earnest efforts to do so. There is much zeal on the subject of religion, and, I think, many genuine conversions. Quite a number of children have recently professed faith in Christ, and many of them *do* bring forth fruits meet for repentance. There is certainly a great change in them, and in old converts, though I fear it will be some time before the great mass of the people will remember, *feel*, that religion extends to every action of life.

I am very busy, am again teaching, and am distributing clothing to the destitute: kind friends making me the almoner of their bounty. I feel greatly the need of the prayers of all Christians. O, I want everybody to pray. I feel the privilege of prayer more than ever before. That the Lord may bless you in your earnest labors is the heartfelt wish of your sister in Christ Jesus.

[Elizabeth James]

[“From Miss E. James,” *American Missionary* 9 (February 1865): 39.]