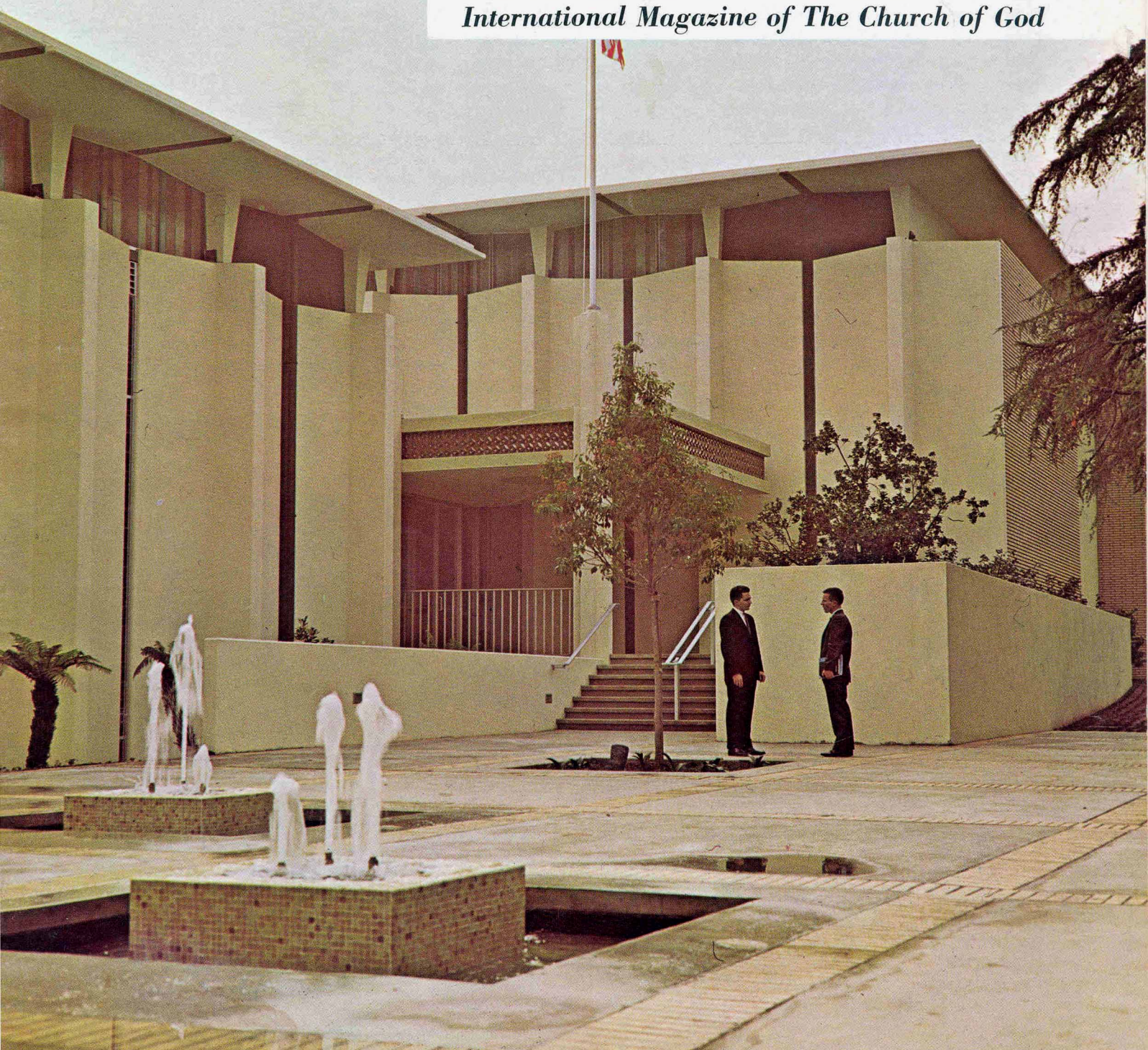


The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



AMBASSADOR COLLEGE ATHLETIC FACILITY

VOLUME XIII, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER, 1964

Personal from the Editor

(Reproduced from the February, 1958, GOOD NEWS)

You are probably often asked how the Ten Commandments could be a law of LOVE.

Here is a way of explaining what love means—an explanation which most outsiders probably never heard before!

When the Eternal RULER of the universe first placed man on this planet earth, all was perfect harmony and beauty. There was PEACE. There was PLENTY. There was BEAUTY. There was every need and facility for HAPPINESS.

In order to make POSSIBLE for man continued peaceful, happy, prosperous and joyful existence, the Eternal God designed that all things operate according to fixed, inexorable LAWS. We have the laws of physics and the laws of chemistry.

Then, of necessity, there is the great, fundamental, invisible, SPIRITUAL LAW which regulates man's relationship with his CREATOR, and man's relationship with fellow MAN. The purpose of this inexorable SPIRITUAL law, like all of God's laws, is to make possible man's HAPPINESS—to bring man PEACE and JOY—to make life REALLY worth living!

When this spiritual law is broken,

then varying kinds of unhappiness, fear and worry, strife and war, come in varying degrees AS THE PENALTY.

That great over-all SPIRITUAL law is just simply LOVE! It is LOVE in continual action. It is love manifest and expressed! It is love, first to God the CREATOR, in reverence, adoration, gratitude and OBEDIENCE—(because He is the SUPREME CREATOR-RULER who alone KNOWS what is right for us and has power to give it); and it is love, second, to FELLOW MAN, expressed in peaceableness, co-operation, service. It is a way that travels the very OPPOSITE DIRECTION from greed, vanity, hate, strife and war.

This great SPIRITUAL LAW is a PRINCIPLE—a WAY OF LIFE—it is an ATTITUDE OF MIND AND HEART. It is the correct way to *think*, and to LIVE. It is not merely moral principle—it is divinely-set-in-motion SPIRITUAL LAW, and it operates automatically and inexorably!

But since man by nature does not know WHAT LOVE IS, God had to define this *principle of LOVE* by TEN DISTINCT POINTS—the TEN COMMANDMENTS.

The Apostle John explained it this
(Please continue on next page)

More About Our Cover...

Unique in construction, this fine facility is the first of the new buildings to be constructed on Ambassador campus. Though the building was done very speedily, no detail of quality was overlooked. It provides an auditorium for college assemblies and functions and Sabbath services for the Headquarters congregation as well as a fine basketball floor and swimming pool for college athletic events.



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The Good News

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THE CHURCH OF GOD

*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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EDITOR

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Garner Ted Armstrong

MANAGING EDITOR

David Jon Hill

SENIOR EDITORS

Roderick C. Meredith

Herman L. Hoeh

Associate Editors

Albert J. Portune

Ronald Kelly

Contributing Editors

W. A. Berg

Leslie L. McCullough

Robert C. Boraker

Raymond F. McNair

Bryce G. Clark

C. Paul Meredith

C. Wayne Cole

L. Leroy Neff

Raymond C. Cole

Benjamin L. Rea

Charles V. Dorothy

Lynn E. Torrance

Jack R. Elliott

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Selmer Hegvold

Basil Wolverton

Ernest L. Martin

Clint C. Zimmerman

Food's Consultants

Velma Van der Veer

Mary E. Hegvold

Isabell F. Hoeh

Rose McDowell

Editorial and Production Assistants

Paul W. Kroll

Jamcs W. Robinson

Donald G. McDonald

BUSINESS MANAGER

Albert J. Portune

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS to the Editor,
Box 111, Pasadena, California 91109.

Canadian members should address Post Office
Box 44, Station A, Vancouver 1, B. C., Canada.

Our members in United Kingdom, Europe, and
Africa should address the Editor, B. C. M. Amb-
assador, London, W.C. 1, England.

Members in Australia and Southeast Asia should
address the Editor, Box 345, North Sydney,
N. S. W., Australia.

In the Philippines, Post Office Box 2603, Manila.

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change in your address. Please inclose both old
and new address. IMPORTANT!

What our READERS SAY . . .

Truth Causes Furor

"Since writing my last letter I have become involved in a difficult situation. Last Sunday I preached a sermon on I John 3:4 and explained to the congregation that the law that John was speaking about was the Ten Commandments. This caused a furor in the church and now quite a number are ready to string me up by the toes. I am still convinced that what you say is right, but I have a couple of questions that I would appreciate you answering."

Secretary of church in
Queensland, Australia

Another Special Miracle

"I want to thank the Lord for His healing power. Brother Armstrong sent me an anointed handkerchief. I laid it on my eyes and prayed. The Lord healed my eyes. I can read the booklets now."

Mrs. O. B., North Carolina

Blessings

"I would like to offer my experience in finding and working in my job to add to the proof that God truly does pour out a blessing that there is not room enough to receive it to the tithe payer. It took me six to eight weeks to find my present job. I was turned away from at least twenty other similar situations, until, I was ready to take whatever pay, whatever conditions availed themselves. At all these jobs I was offered no more than £2 over half what I am receiving in my present job. The working conditions were undesirable in the majority of cases. To all these I had submitted many references and qualifications, but the job I have now fell into my hands without my producing so much as one certificate. My employer is extremely amiable, and the atmosphere is by far the most pleasant I have encountered. To 'top it off' the salary, besides being twice as much as any other similar position would offer, has been increased three times in the eight months I have been employed there, by one-fourth of my

original wage. On the two latter occasions the increase came in the very week I had enclosed an extra offering with my tithe to God's work. God truly has opened the windows of heaven."

Man from Sydney, New South Wales,
Australia

Answered Prayers

"The article 'The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe' has influenced me very deeply. I have already read it several times and have decided to give God the tithe regularly every month."

Man from Switzerland

• *Your prayers for God to call and influence people to support His Work are important.*

Tithing Blessings

"Enclosed please find my tithe and 10 percent of the second tithe. If anyone would have told me I would

be sending money in and especially at these rates last year I would have told them they were crackpots. I really have no trouble in sending you these sums, and my money goes farther, plus we have more than ever before along with the purchase recently of a new home."

Mr. and Mrs. L. M., Ohio

"Four cents of this is tithes for my seven year old son. He picked up cold drink bottles and sold them. I told him two cents were his tithes. He said, 'I'll send three cents.' He picked up more and so his tithes and offering amounts to four cents. I want him to learn God's way of tithing."

Mrs. S. J. R.

John 3:16

"I am at present receiving 'La PURE VERITE' and your Bible Correspondence Course, the first lesson. I am confused, moved and delighted—all at the same time. Confused—because I can give you nothing in return, since I have been in a wretchedly poor monastery for two and one-half years. Moved by the sin—
(Please continue on page 21)

Personal from the Editor

(Continued from inside front cover)

way: "For this is the LOVE of GOD, *that we keep his commandments*; and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

"Love," wrote Paul, "is the fulfilling of the law" (Rom. 13:10). Since no one can fulfill the law if he is breaking it, then love must be the KEEPING of the ten points of the law! He who breaks any one is guilty of all (Jas. 2:10), and is therefore NOT loving his neighbor.

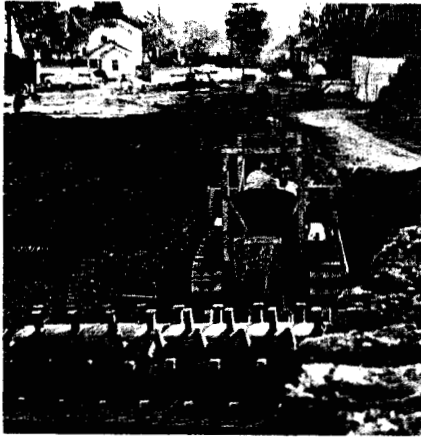
The Creator also made man a FREE MORAL AGENT—and for a purpose!—FREE TO DECIDE WHICH WAY OF LIFE HE WOULD FOLLOW! Ever since Adam in the Garden of Eden, man, somehow, has believed that the law of God is wrong and that man is sufficient unto himself. Man has followed the ways of vanity and of GREED ever since.

"Why, PRIDE," man reasons, "and

the desire to GET, to accumulate, to HAVE, is the impelling motive that stimulates EFFORT, produces incentive for endeavor, spurs man on toward PROGRESS!" "COMPETITION," men believe, "is the very LIFE of trade, commerce and business. It spurs men on, leads to greater production, makes for PROGRESS!" That is the philosophy of this world! That is the opposite of LOVE. *That is the opposite of the TEN COMMANDMENTS!*

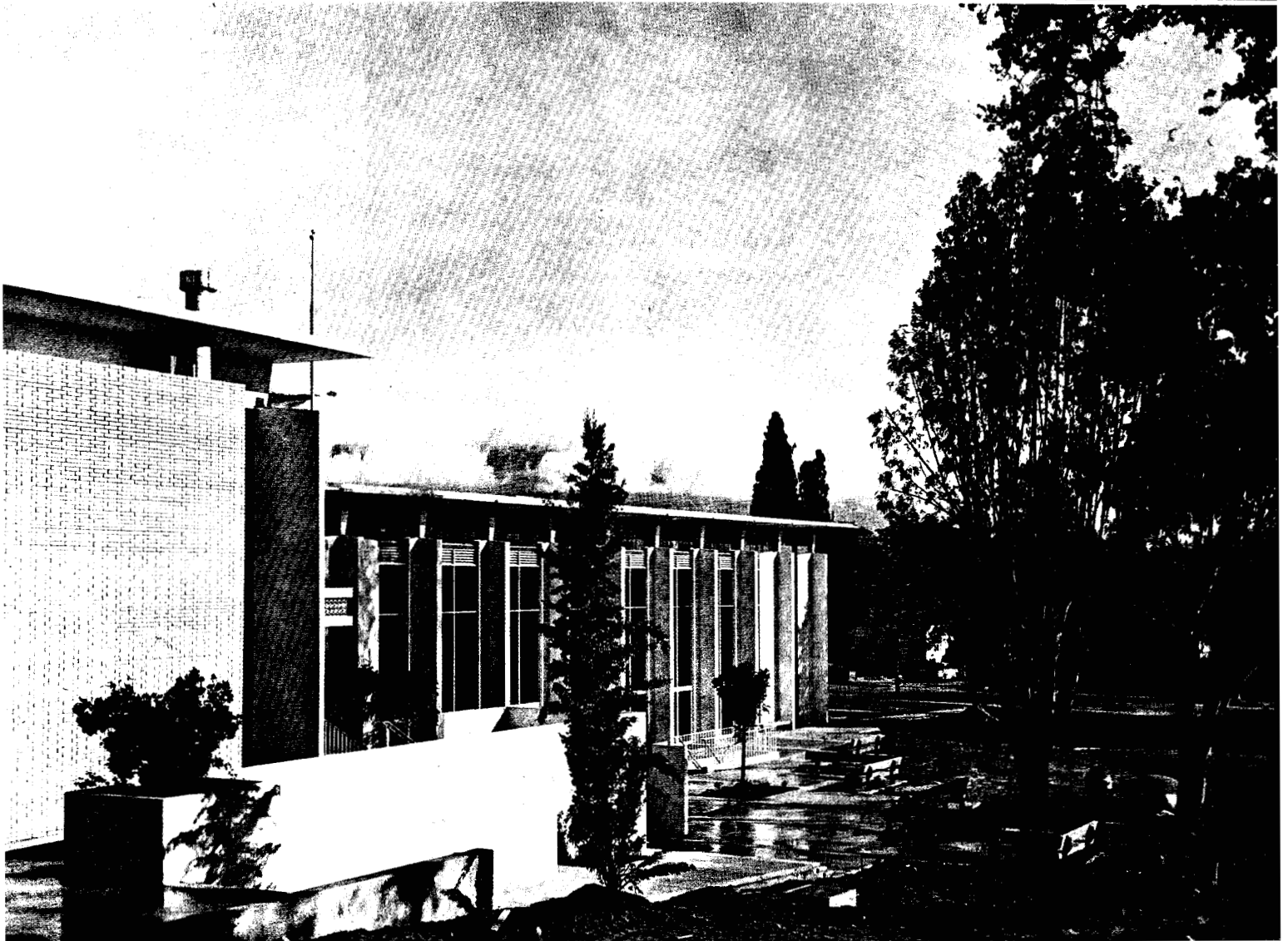
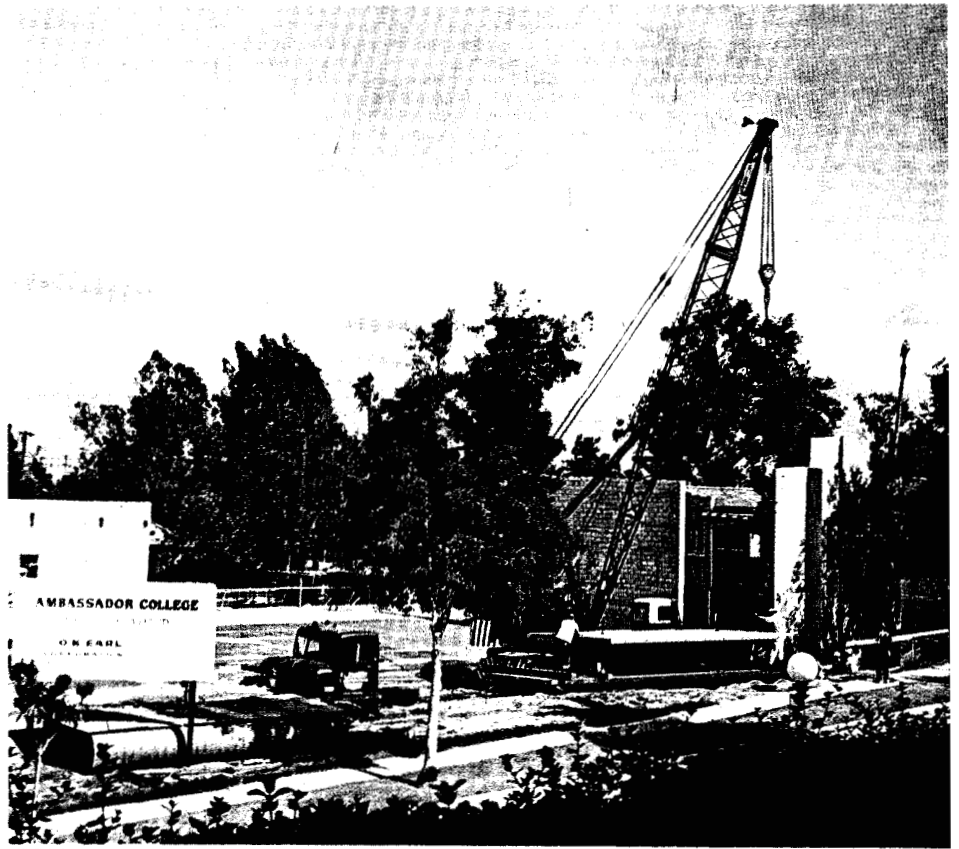
AND THAT VERY PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, PUT TO 6,000 YEARS OF PRACTICE, IS THE ONE ROOT CAUSE OF ALL OUR HUMAN WOES!

That philosophy means that man has REBELLED against the rule and the law of God! God rules by His LAW OF LOVE—the TEN COMMANDMENTS. But God, for a great PURPOSE, made man a free moral agent. MAN CHOSE TO REJECT THE RULE AND THE LAW OF GOD, and instead has tried to govern HIMSELF and his fellows. THAT IS MAN'S GREAT MISTAKE! What man needs is to return to obedience to the law of God which alone can restore order out of chaos!



Ambassador College Photos

ABOVE: Excavation begins on the new athletic facility after the old buildings have been cleared away. RIGHT: Within a few weeks these giant beams were being placed—men and machinery struggling in organized confusion to meet the deadline for complete construction. BELOW: The beautiful southern exposure—with the giant windows of the natatorium—cloud-covered mountains in the background, unfinished landscaping in the foreground. The facility is completed, and being used DAILY in the service of God's Work!



Inspiring PROGRESS in God's Church

Now there are ministers and elders of the True Church around the entire earth. Read here of the marvelous GROWTH of God's Church in our age—and its breathtaking FUTURE.

by Roderick C. Meredith

HERE WE are winding up the year 1964!

When I first graduated from Ambassador College, in June of 1952, there were only *three* active local congregations in this era of God's Church.

At that time, when Ambassador College was just beginning to produce fruit, there was only *ONE* faithful minister in God's Church—and *two* Local Elders who were faithful.

Imagine!

Now as we end this calendar year of 1964, there are 94 local church congregations scattered around the earth—with new ones constantly being added! And now, instead of one minister and two Local Elders, there are exactly 126 ministers and elders of God's Church in all parts of the globe! To a large extent this is the fruit—not alone of *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast—but of *Ambassador Colleges* directly. Through these colleges which *Christ* has established, more trained and dedicated men and women are constantly being readied for service in this end-time crusade.

Recent Ordinations

Several weeks ago, on a visit and inspection tour of our offices in Geneva, Switzerland, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong ordained a recent graduate of Ambassador College in England, who is now the Office Manager there. Mr. Colin Wilkins was ordained as a *Local Elder* in God's Church—giving him added authority in counseling and anointing the Swiss brethren in that area. Coincidentally, another blessing came to Mr.

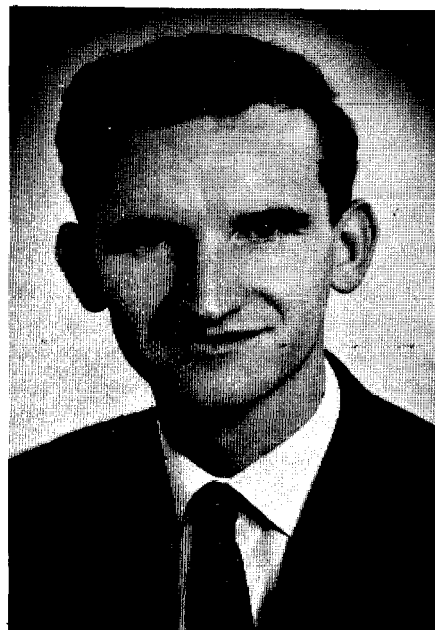
Wilkins and his wife about the same time. For soon after the ordination she brought forth a baby girl! So congratulations! For all our prayers and best wishes go with you, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins!

At the same time, Mr. Armstrong ordained Mr. Etienne Bourdin as a *Deacon* in God's Church. Mr. Bourdin has been one of the most faithful members in the entire French Work, and is now on the staff in our Geneva office.

On the weekend of November 7, Mr. Albert J. Portune and his family made a visit from God's Headquarters to the Sacramento-Oakland Church area. Mr. Portune was present at a special Bible study and church social and gave an inspiring sermon in both churches on "What It Means To Be a Pillar in God's Church." He brought the



Mr. Sid Cloud



Mr. Colin Wilkins



Mr. Harry Sleder

brethren much news and exhortation from God's Headquarters in Pasadena, and many expressed their thankfulness for his visit.

During this visit, as a result of previous consultations, he and Mr. Dennis Luker, local pastor, ordained Mr. Harry Sleder and Mr. Sid Cloud as *Local Elders* in this church area. Mr. Sleder was ordained for the Oakland area, and Mr. Cloud for the Sacramento area.

These three ordinations, including Mr. Wilkins, bring the total number of ministers and elders in God's Church to 126—world-wide. But that figure won't stand for long!

New Churches in Baton Rouge and Jackson

Mr. Vernon Hargrove, new area minister, reports that the new churches in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Jackson, Mississippi, got off to a fine start on the Sabbath of November 28. Baton Rouge began with 149 in attendance and everyone was *very enthusiastic* about the opportunity of this new church. They started out with a ready-made Deacon—for Mr. Harold Richard, who had moved from the Arizona area, is already ordained to that office and trained to carry on those responsibilities in this new church area.

Mr. Kenneth Swisher, the Southeastern United States District Superintendent, flew up from Florida to bring the messages in the two new churches and gave a sermon showing the need for each of the members to have a loving concern for the other.

In Jackson, there were 88 for the first Sabbath service, and Mr. Swisher gave the same sermon to get this new church off to a good start.

So let us REJOICE, brethren, in these two new churches and ask God to bless and inspire Mr. Hargrove and all of the brethren in this new area in their service to the Living Christ.

A Full Deputy Chancellor for Big Sandy College

A few Sabbaths ago, I was preaching at the Pasadena Headquarters Church. I looked at Mrs. Les McCullough and said, "You *never know where* God is going to use you!"

Mr. McCullough—accompanying Mr.

Garner Ted Armstrong and Mr. Albert Portune—was in Big Sandy, Texas, over this weekend for a flying visit to the college there. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong was coming through on his way back from England, and I had received word—by a telephone conference with Mr. Ted Armstrong—that big things were in the offing.

Soon after, the official announcement came: Mr. Les McCullough was appointed as Deputy Chancellor for Ambassador College in Big Sandy!

As some of our other leading men, Mr. McCullough came to Ambassador College as an older, experienced, married man. He had had certain business experience before ever entering Ambassador College. For the past few years, he has been a member of the Executive Staff assisting Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong. Many of you East Coast brethren know Mr. McCullough for his work in setting up and organizing the Feast of Tabernacles at Jekyll Island. In this and many other responsibilities, he has shown leadership and dedication in God's Work and is now shouldered with an even greater responsibility in guiding God's new College in Texas under Mr. Armstrong's over-all direction.

Certainly the new Ambassador College in Texas—and now Mr. McCullough *personally*—will need your prayers, brethren.

So let us REJOICE that the right man has been found for this important position, and let us not forget to remember the *third* Ambassador College in our daily prayers.

Headquarters Church Meets in Beautiful New Gymnasium

Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong recently opened the first assembly of Ambassador College in our own magnificent gymnasium. He reminded the students and faculty that this is the *first* real building that we have ever had the privilege of building on this campus!

It has turned out to be of such fine quality and character, that Mr. Armstrong has given the go-ahead for us to hold the Sabbath services and Bible studies in this fine new edifice—in addition to the college forums, assemblies



Deputy Chancellor McCullough

and other special meetings and activities. So we really intend to USE this gymnasium—not only for athletics—but for many of the *most important functions* in God's Work! Temporarily, at least, until the much-needed college assembly hall can be built, God's Headquarters Church will have the opportunity of meeting in the cheerful, spacious atmosphere of our new gym—which frankly is of much better quality and provides a better atmosphere than most of our local churches anywhere are privileged to obtain.

So the local church area brethren, the Student Body and faculty of Ambassador College—all are extremely THANKFUL that God has at last allowed us to embark this far on our much-needed Building Program. Rejoice with us, brethren, that this fine new edifice has been completed in such a manner. And keep *praying* and doing *your part* for the Building Fund that our desperately needed dining hall and assembly hall may also be completed within reasonable time. Remember and *respond to* last month's article on *The Tithe of the Tithe* by Mr. Portune.

District Ministers Meeting

This year, for the first time, we've decided not to bring in all of God's ministers to Pasadena for the annual
(Please continue on page 20)

Are You SURE We Are GOD'S MINISTERS?

How DOES one know he has been "CALLED" of God? THOUSANDS say they have been—some say they've "felt" that way; that "God laid it upon their hearts," or that they received a "VERY SPAISHUL (special) burden" from the Lord. Did they really? How does God call His TRUE ministers?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

PERSECUTORS HATE this Work of God. It makes them bitterly *angry* when we speak *positively, dogmatically, authoritatively* about the Word of God!

Coming across my desk in just the past week have been several more of the usual booklets, tracts and pamphlets which bitterly criticize this Work. Some of them are nasty. They ridicule. They hurl invective—they impute motives.

But the one *greatest* point that makes our persecutors MAD is to hear us infer we are the ONE TRUE CHURCH OF GOD ON EARTH, THAT ONLY WE ARE HIS TRUE MINISTERS! This literally *ENRAGES* them.

But it's true!

Persecutors, False Ministers Were PROPHESED!

Were these men *called* of God? If *they* were, were *WE*? If *both* were called of God, how is it some PERSECUTE, while others answer not a word?

You need to *thoroughly* understand just WHO GOD'S TRUE MINISTERS ARE. And you need to PROVE it! You need to know, *from your own Bible*, HOW He calls them, HOW to recognize them, and HOW to recognize the *great difference* between the TRUE ministers of Christ and the false prophets of Satan.

But not *only* did Christ warn of false prophets and teachers from WITHOUT the church—He also warned of some who would arise FROM WITHIN!

Just as the early beginnings of our church were fraught with *dangers*, so

is *this present age* bringing us ever closer to the same identical dangers. Jesus warned, "Take heed that no man *deceive* you" (Matt. 24:4). In His warning about deceptions, Jesus talked of false *ministers* who would be masquerading as *true* ministers of the Gospel, who would "show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, *if it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

This warning was about OUR times—NOW!

And to *whom* was the warning given? *To the church!*

Brethren, the time has come to candidly WARN you of a very grave *danger* that could mean the loss of salvation for many of the "babes in Christ" who have been called into the wonderful light of God's Truth.

In the early church, there arose false ministers, and lay members, who began to *set themselves* up as "teachers" and "leaders" of the people. The whole theme of the New Testament, from the very inception of God's True Church to the end of the book of Revelation, is one of APOSTASY, one of God's true Apostles and ministers constantly struggling against FALSE DOCTRINES creeping in, and against *counterfeit ministers* who were trying to lead off people after themselves.

Notice, the Council at Jerusalem was held for *this very reason!* "And *certain men* which came down from Judea *taught* the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved" (Acts

15:1). Notice further that these men wanted to ARGUE about the small, physical question of circumcision. "When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small *dissension and disputation* with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question" (Acts 15:2).

God's *Government* went into effect, and a *decision* was rendered by James, the chief Apostle at Jerusalem (Verse 19), and the other Apostles then delivered a DECREE (binding, authoritative *decision*, as a *law*) to the brethren in the church (Acts 16:4).

Paul's Experience

In Paul's letters of correction and exhortation to the early church, he was often forced to show them, by the manner of his calling and training the *authenticity* of his office. Notice how many of his letters begin with statements of divinely ordained *authority*. (See Rom. 1:1-5; I Cor. 1:1; II Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:1-2; etc.)

Even Lay Members Tried It

Almost immediately after the beginning of God's True Church, certain men arose who began to lead away followings after themselves—out of human jealousy and vanity! "For I know this," Paul said to the Ephesian elders, "that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of YOUR OWN SELVES shall men arise, speaking per-

verse things, to *draw away disciples after them*" (Acts 20:29-30).

In the three cities of southern Galatia, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, the story had been circulated, apparently, that Paul was merely Peter's "messenger boy," and an attempt was made to appeal to *supposed conflicts within the ministry* in order to confuse and divide the church.

Paul, *for that very reason*, unhesitatingly stated the mistake Peter had made in disfellowshipping the Gentiles in presence of the Jews, and told the church, "But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?" (Gal. 2:14.)

The remaining verses of this entire chapter are the inspired words *Paul spoke to Peter!* The often quoted, wonderful statement of Paul, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME" (Verse 20), was a statement made directly to Peter to show the *authority* by which Paul spoke. It was *Christ* who inspired Paul to speak thusly.

Make no mistake! Peter and Paul were not enemies! Everthing was done for the *advancement* of the church, for the GOOD of the flock. The important thing to notice also is that Peter *did* take the correction and later called him *beloved* brother—exhorting the Christians to *take heed* to the things Paul had written in his epistles! (II Pet. 3:15-16.)

And so, even though there was *correction* needed—Peter and Paul were in *absolute union* and *agreement* once Peter acknowledged his error.

Look at the spectacle of the present-day Ecumenical movement. Many differing, disagreeing, conflicting religions, each wanting its *own way*; trying somehow to find some *common ground* for partial agreement. Not ONE admits it has embraced ERROR! Not ONE is willing to REPENT—each holds to its OLD TRADITIONS, but just "modernizes" them, or gives them a "new look" and attempts to "explain" them in more contemporary language.

Not so in God's TRUE CHURCH!

As my father has said so many times, the decisions have always been 100 per cent *unanimous* whenever God's true ministers gather together to settle a question—or when doctrinal points are discussed in the annual Ministerial Conferences. And, so long as we remain GOD'S Church, in which dwells His Holy Spirit, this will continue to be true! God's True Church is a UNITED Church, even as Christ *prayed* it would be! (John 17:11.)

Paul Was Criticized

It has been said the busier a man becomes, and the more he accomplishes, the more criticism he will receive.

God's Word certainly bears this up! Jesus Christ was the *busiest* and the *most-criticized* man who ever lived.

The Apostle Paul was constantly being *criticized* by unthinking, carnal-minded people who did not really *fear God's Government* as they should have.

The Corinthians were accusing him of being covetous of what they supposed was *their* money (which was really not *theirs*, but *God's*), and Paul answered by saying, "Mine answer to them that do *examine* me is this, Have we not power to eat and to drink?" (I Cor. 9:3-4.)

He then proceeded to prove that the ministry *should* be supported from God's tithes.

The entire first chapter of Galatians is Paul's affirmation of the DIVINE AUTHORITY with which he spoke and wrote.

The important thing to realize is that this defense was necessary *only because of the false teachers and "leaders" who were stirring up the people*—trying to discredit God's true ministers—*trying to lead off a following after themselves!*

Paul told the young Evangelist, Timothy, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that *in the latter times* [now] some shall *depart* from the faith [doctrine—body of beliefs], giving heed to *seducing spirits*, and doctrines of demons" (I Tim. 4:1).

Paul called *by name* certain false teachers when he said, "But shun pro-

fane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; who concerning the truth have erred" (II Tim. 2:16-18).

After describing the conditions which will be extant during this very time in the first few verses of the *third* chapter of his second letter to Timothy, Paul said, "But evil men and seducers shall wax *worse* and *worse*, deceiving, and being deceived" (II Tim. 3:13).

Remember, these letters to Timothy were concerned primarily with *church government!* Never forget that even the FALSE ministers will appear *as* the ministers of Christ! "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, *transforming themselves* into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for *Satan himself* is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if HIS MINISTERS also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (II Cor. 11:13-15).

A Cloak of Church Authority

Astounding though it may seem, these false teachers who began leading the members astray *told direct, deliberate lies*, or else led the people to believe by *subterfuge* and *insinuation* that they were known by, commissioned by, and ordained to their positions by God's true ministers!

Yes—they told the people they *represented* Paul, or Peter, and that they came *from* them!

Notice, "I *marvel* that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but *there be some that trouble you*, and would *pervert* the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7).

Simon Magus and his followers were making *every effort* to subvert the True Church. They tried to "divide and conquer"! But the True Church *is not* divided!

Paul then proceeded to put a binding CURSE on perverting Christ's Gospel, even though *he himself* should turn around and begin preaching differently in the future. "But though WE [*including ALL the Apostles and the min-*

isters], or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be *anathema* [cut off from Christ]" (Gal. 1:8).

Paul was forced to write to the brethren at Thessalonica: "Now we beseech you, brethren . . . that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit [an angel, or evil spirit], nor by word [oral teaching from others], nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand" (II Thess. 2:1-2). Did you read it? Paul warned them not to be deceived, even though someone wrote a FALSE EPISTLE, and DELIBERATELY signed it with *his name!* In closing this important letter, Paul purposely signed it with his own hand—saying, "The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle:, so I write [or, after this manner, I write]" (II Thess. 3:17).

He had told them, "Let no man deceive you by any means" (II Thess. 2:3), and then went on to give them an absolute key as to what *was sure* to happen prior to the coming of Christ.

Peter Gave Warning, Too!

Peter was not unaware of the undercurrent toward apostasy that was beginning then. He wrote, "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privately shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction" (II Pet. 2:1). Paul had said the "falling away" from true doctrine was a mystery of lawlessness that was beginning in his time! (II Thess. 2:7.)

The entire second chapter of Peter's second letter is a grave warning against false teachers.

They Always HATE Authority

Notice, however, that there is always ONE THING THESE TEACHERS HAVE IN COMMON. Even Korah, and the ones he led with him in his rebellion against the authority of Moses, showed the same traits (See Num. 16:1-3).

"But chiefly them that walk after the flesh," who are concerned about the

PHYSICAL SENSES, and the fleshly, carnal sensations, the vanity they might have in obtaining an office, the popularity, the money they covet—"in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government [AUTHORITY, RSV]" (II Pet. 2:10).

Do you see?

These false teachers who are prophesied to enter in among you brethren will always despise the Government of God. They will talk against the AUTHORITY in God's Church—promising LIBERTY, emancipation from the authority of God!

That is exactly what Nimrod did. He promised the people LIBERTY from any rule, any order and government that might regulate their lives in the ways of God's laws, which lead to everlasting happiness and peace.

"Presumptuous are they," continues Peter (II Pet. 2:10). Yes, they are always PRESUMING to have office, position and authority—while busily engaged in preaching against it! They wish to ARROGATE to themselves a position of authority—yet promulgate a doctrine of NO authority! They contradict their own words by their ACTIONS, which are visible to all!

". . . selfwilled [not doing the will of God, but of SELF], they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (II Pet. 2:10).

These are never really *submissive* to the authority in God's Church, but just "go along" with it, until it steps on THEM—then, they suddenly show their true colors, and are not in the least bit fearful to speak openly AGAINST Mr. Armstrong, or any other of God's called and chosen servants. Have you ever listened to such a person? ARE you such a person? If you ARE—then CHANGE your ways, before it is too late!

God says of such: "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not" (they never have the facts of the picture, and so jump to false conclusions), "and shall utterly PERISH in their own corruption" (II Pet. 2:12).

The church, during its first age, called the "Ephesian" age, or the Church at Ephesus, in the letters to the

churches in Revelation, was commended because it had "tried them which SAY they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them LIARS" (Rev. 2:2). Jesus showed here that many TOOK THE TITLE of offices in the church and tried to use the sanction of the church, a cloak of "authority," to deceive the flock!

Same Situation Possible Now

Most of us are asleep to the danger of that identical thing developing RIGHT NOW! Brethren, whether most of you realize it or not, there are, at this very moment, FALSE TEACHERS WITHIN the Church of God!

God's true ministers are aware that there are, at this moment, men who are in scattered parts of the country, holding "Bible studies" and meetings, even preaching, in so-called "campaigns" from time to time, visiting, perhaps, with some of YOU people. They DELIBERATELY LIE, saying they are from the Headquarters Church in Pasadena, saying they were ordained by Mr. Armstrong and the other ministers, and that we in Pasadena have commissioned them to labor in the doctrine!

Yes, astounding though it may seem—some are deliberately LYING to listeners of the broadcast—deluding them into believing they represent the ministry of this church.

We have heard reports of men who have been visiting members, or perhaps just listeners to the broadcast and readers of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine, in various parts of the United States.

Every year, at the Feast of Tabernacles, we realize we must be constantly on guard to prevent any lengthy "Bible studies" from developing where certain dominant personalities begin to "teach" the people—FALSE DOCTRINES!

It is GOOD that God's people should talk about the Bible. It is right, just and godly that all of God's people SHOULD do this—but when certain ones try to set themselves forward as ministers, as teachers of the Word, then God's true ministers must exercise the all-powerful AUTHORITY God has given them, with the very POWER OF GOD, in putting down such false teachings in order to protect the flock!

Do not let yourself become an "in-

terested" listener to damnable heresies, evil speakings and gossip *against* someone else, or *against* God's great Work, or *against* any of the ministers as individuals!

Ministry a Grave Responsibility

It is because the ministers must labor in TEACHING others that God lays such a heavy responsibility on them. Notice Peter's exhortation: "*The elders* (all ministers are elders) which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder . . . feed the flock of God which is among you . . . neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock" (I Pet. 5:1-3).

To cause another human being to LOSE SALVATION is the most dastardly act a person can commit! Notice what Jesus said of such an act: "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences [causing another to stumble—and go back into *sin*]! for it must needs be that offences come; but *woe* to that man by whom the offense cometh!" (Matt. 18:6-7.)

The well-known third chapter of James, the lesson on the evils of the tongue—of evil-speaking and gossip—is directed primarily to those who TEACH OTHERS—the MINISTRY.

"My brethren, be not many masters," is better translated, "My brethren, *do not many of you become teachers!*" (Verse 1), "... knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation [*judgment*]."

Why? Simply because, as Paul said to Timothy, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, *and them that hear thee*" (I Tim. 4:16). The minister can help SAVE people by the RIGHT, DILIGENT, FAITHFUL preaching of God's true Word! He can also be responsible for sending people straight to *Gehenna* fire by the *wrong* use of the position in which God has placed him!

It is because of that TREMENDOUS responsibility that James said, "Don't

many of you become teachers!"

But!

Anyone—be he false minister, professing teacher, deliberate liar, or innocent lay member trying to "do good" to others, who teaches doctrines to any other person which LEAD THAT PERSON ASTRAY—comes under the condemnation of the Word of God—which says WOE unto that man! (Luke 17:1-2.)

And, perhaps even without realizing it, YOU could be teaching false doctrines to another person! "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*" (II Cor. 13:5.) "Let him that *thinketh* he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor. 10:12).

Perhaps many of the brethren have not realized the *gravity* of the responsibility of being a steward of God's Word. Many times, "old wives' tales" and cure-alls for petty ailments and afflictions are freely passed out when one person learns another is sick. This could constitute a vitally serious infraction against Almighty God—and against the sick brother or sister! These are *just a few* of the ways in which it is possible to cause a brother to stumble! But *remember*, God's Word is literally *filled* with fearsome WARNINGS to any and all who would *presumptuously* SET THEMSELVES UP as "teachers" of the people, when God has not specifically PLACED them in that office!

How God Calls His Servants

My father fully explained the principles of ordination in his article entitled, "Must God's Ministers Be Ordained by the Hand of Man?"

It is GOD who chooses and calls His servants (Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:28). The WAY He calls them needs to be definitely understood!

Notice, Jesus said to His disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but *I have chosen you, and ordained you...*" (John 15:16). When He was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He said to Peter and Andrew, "FOLLOW ME, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Notice, NOT ONE of Jesus' disciples whom He called and

ORDAINED to the ministry CHOSE THEMSELVES!

I want you to think *very carefully* about this next statement! It constitutes a great principle of God's Word—and a vitally important KEY to be used in God's true ministry!

THERE IS NOT ONE SINGLE EXAMPLE—*ANYWHERE* IN THE BIBLE, WHERE A CALLED AND CHOSEN SERVANT OF GOD CAME FORWARD AND *VOLUNTEERED* FOR THE OFFICE!

Moses argued that he was unfit for the job, Jeremiah said he was too young, Jonah *ran away*, Samuel was directly called of God, David knew nothing until Samuel announced it to him. *All* of the Prophets say, "The word of the Lord CAME unto..." them, not that they volunteered for the office!

Jesus *called* and *appointed* His true disciples. Paul was *struck down* by a miracle. Paul "took" Timothy unto him, and so it is *throughout* the history of God's Church. My father *fought vigorously* against the Truth of God before he was finally called.

However—*after* a person has been called into the *church*, and becomes a Spirit-begotten child of God, it is not wrong, but rather a *good thing* if he DESIRES *an office in the ministry* (I Timothy 3:1).

God Works Through Human Instruments

But Jesus said, "Wherefore *by their fruits* ye shall know them!" (Matt. 7:20.) The Scriptural QUALIFICATIONS imposed upon any person whom God is calling to the ministry are so absolutely RIGID that there is no possibility of unqualified, uncalled and untrained men being ordained.

One great principle that seems so difficult for some few to understand is that the Creator who gives us every breath of air we breathe accomplishes His Plan here below—yes, and even *governs His Church*—THROUGH HUMAN BEINGS—HIS INSTRUMENTS!

God is now sending the Gospel of His soon-coming Government into many parts of this darkened world. But He is not yet shouting with His own booming, earth-shaking voice—He is
(Please continue on page 23)

Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs

How did these clubs develop? How important are they to YOU? How can you benefit from them? Here are the answers to these questions, written by the assistant to Mr. Jack R. Elliott, the Executive Director of Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs.

by Paul Kroll

ONE OF the most important activities carried on by the Work of God today is the system of Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs instituted by God in His CHURCH and Colleges.

As Mr. Armstrong himself wrote in the Introduction to the Ambassador-Spokesman Speech Manual, "Nearly all the leaders in God's great Work—in God's CHURCH—perhaps every one—has received a great part of his training in an Ambassador Club at Ambassador College, or in a Spokesman Club at his local church.

"Without these speech clubs I do not believe any of those God uses as His leaders would possess either the speaking ability or the leadership exerted today."

How Important?

Just *how important* are the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs to YOU? It doesn't matter if you are IN a club or not. If you are a member of the Church of God—and a part of His great endtime Work—they should be VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU!

Not that each church member should selfishly strive to grasp some church office. *God puts* a man in office. The Spokesman Clubs are not a "stepping-stone" to the ministry. *Let every man*—and for that matter—every member in God's Church realize that! This is not the purpose of the Spokesman Clubs. But more of their vital purposes later.

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in his Introduction to the Speech Manual—



A big welcome for Spokesmen in Shreveport, La.

which is the basic guide to the function of the club—outlined the GREAT VALUE of the Spokesman Clubs to *all members*.

"The value and importance of your Spokesman Club, to YOU, and to *God's Work*, is beyond evaluating. It means development and growth as a MAN, as a HUSBAND, as a FATHER—in addition to development and growth in spiritual character and in ability to serve, as a BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD."

Notice that these clubs are of tremendous value to *God's Work*. You

should be praying that God would guide those at Headquarters to set the *right policies* for the Spokesman Clubs—regardless as to whether YOU think that *you* personally will ever be in the club.

Since it affects the Work, it involves YOU PERSONALLY! It also involves you personally in the *local church*. If the men in the local club are growing as men, husbands and fathers—their wives and families will also grow. As a result, your *local congregation* will also grow.

Spokesman Clubs Increase

At the writing of this article, there are ONE-HUNDRED-TEN SPOKESMAN CLUBS. *Today, THE SUN NEVER SETS on the Spokesman Club locations!* There are clubs in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, South Africa, Australia—with perhaps one to be started in the near future in the PHILIPPINES!

The clubs generally average twenty members each. Immediately, it is apparent that a great part of the church is DIRECTLY INVOLVED. This is a total of 2,200 men—adult, baptized members of God's Church—attending one of the Spokesman Clubs—plus some THREE HUNDRED MEN in the Ambassador Clubs, at the three Ambassador Colleges.

When you realize this will also affect the *wives and children* of these men directly, it becomes quite apparent WHY the Church of God at Headquarters regards this function as a tre-

mendous way in which to help shepherd the flock.

Club Organization

Today, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong directs a Headquarters Executive Committee which supervises the ever-increasing world-wide activities of the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs. Mr. Ted Armstrong is the Chairman of the Committee.

However, the chief officer of the Committee—responsible to oversee the policies and programs of all the clubs—is Mr. Jack R. Elliott, who is also the Dean of Students at Ambassador College, Pasadena, California.

Of course, the clubs are *locally* administered as an activity of the CHURCH!—not the other way around. The Spokesman Clubs are one of the functions and agencies which the church uses to guide the TOTAL GROWTH of *all* its members.

Although locally supervised by the *minister*—they are an extension course and activity of the Ambassador Colleges. Thus, they achieve the status of an educational, college extension but church-oriented function.

Today, the Ambassador - Spokesman Clubs are a smooth-flowing organization complete with a very effective

Speech Manual. It has its *own* Constitution and Bylaws which are based on the principles of *God's Word*.

For example, here is an excerpt from the Constitution expressing the basic purpose of the clubs. "The purpose of the Ambassador and Spokesman Clubs . . . is to qualify church members to *better represent* the Kingdom of the Eternal, Living God by training in *character development*, leadership within God's Church, effective organization of right thoughts and ability to put them across in plain, understandable speech."

Many times when the local minister is planning a church-sponsored outing, he may call on members who have developed leadership through the Spokesman Club to *help him organize* the function. In this way, THE WHOLE CHURCH benefits from what these club members have learned.

Intriguing History Unfolds

As all aspects of God's Church, this *now* very effective tool, the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs, began in a tiny, *insignificant* way. Let's take a quick behind-the-scenes look at the fascinating story of the history and development of this most important activity.

Ambassador clubs began in the seventh year of the College and are now



twelve years old. Little is remembered of that monumental first meeting on February 10, 1953. The secretary's Minutes reveal little except that it was decided to hold weekly meetings.

The club was organized and set in motion by Mr. Elliott only after its purpose and proceedings had been reviewed and approved by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, now an Evangelist and the Second Vice-President of the whole Work of God, was the most effective speaker that evening. Mr. Kenneth Swisher, now a Pastor and District Church Superintendent, was acknowledged as the one who gave the best Table Topics comment. Dr. Herman Hoeh, another Evangelist, Managing Editor of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, and Dean of Instruction at Ambassador College, gave the most helpful evaluation.

Later Minutes reveal that Mr. Dick Armstrong was the first Ambassador Club president and Mr. Meredith became the first vice-president. The original membership was *twenty-one!*

Today the Ambassador Clubs have grown to a total of FOURTEEN with nearly *three hundred* students inside their ranks.

The presenting of the awards highlights this evening Ambassador Club at Brickel Wood, England. Gerald Crosswell, a transfer student from the United States, is receiving this trophy as Mr. and Mrs. Garner Ted Armstrong join in the applause.





Here you see a panorama of a Spokesman Club during ladies' night. If the faces do not look familiar to most of you, it is because this is the Spokesman Club, Johannesburg, South Africa. This serves to illustrate the world-wide scope of these speech clubs. Mr. Gerald Waterhouse, Evangelist and Director of the Work in South Africa, is seated, back-center, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Williams at his right.

The first meeting of any Spokesman Club was at Pasadena on October 24, 1956—some eight years ago! At the time, it was called the "Senior Ambassador Club." The Minutes reveal that Mr. Sidney Hegvold, now an instructor at Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Texas, was the *first president!* It also was started by Mr. Elliott, after its purposes and format were approved by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong.

The first meeting was held on the Pasadena campus in what is now called "Murphy House" and houses Ambassador College co-eds.

Another club was soon started in Big Sandy, Texas. This was followed by those in Houston, Texas and St. Louis, Missouri. These were all under the Headquarters supervision of Mr. Dick Armstrong.

On October 2, 1958, the FIRST ANNUAL Spokesman Club meeting was held in the Lounge Room of the Old Tabernacle—now the Dining Hall at the Festival Grounds in Big Sandy, Texas. It appears from the Minutes that there were then FIVE SPEECH CLUBS—Dallas, Texas; Gladewater, Texas; Houston, Texas; Pasadena, California, and St. Louis, Missouri!

New Name Adopted

It was here that a HISTORIC EVENT took place! The name "Spokesman Club" became the official title recognized at Headquarters. Here is an excerpt from that meeting:

"Mr. Hill"—now a Pastor in God's Church and Managing Editor of *The GOOD NEWS*—"stated that there is some confusion concerning the names being adopted by the speech clubs in the various churches outside Pasadena. To avoid future problems of this nature, Mr. Hill moved that we unanimously accept the name "Spokesman."

This name, along with a number of other suggestions, was taken into consideration by those at Headquarters. The name "Spokesman Club" was approved by Mr. Armstrong and finally adopted for all clubs.

The Minutes for the combined club meeting at Gladewater the next year reveal that there was a total of ELEVEN CLUBS! Thus, that year *seven* more were added.

The records for the next years are

not complete. But in 1960, probably some EIGHT additional clubs were added. The big jump in new clubs occurred in 1961 when NINETEEN new clubs were added to the existing ones.

By January, 1962, some THIRTY-SEVEN Spokesman Clubs were in existence. *Twenty-one* were added in that year to bring the January, 1963, total to approximately FIFTY-NINE!

In 1963, there were also TWENTY-ONE new clubs founded. This past year up to the writing of this article in late November of 1964—a record TWENTY-EIGHT clubs have been established—to make a grand total of *one-hundred-ten* Spokesman Clubs!

What IS a Meeting Like?

No doubt, many of you have wondered, "What do they do in the Spokesman Club?" For this purpose many of the clubs have an "open house" inviting many of the congregation, perhaps the widows, or other guests, to see the men in action. Probably every club has had one or more *ladies' nights*, where the wives can "look in on" what their

husbands are doing and learning in these vital speech clubs.

But here is a behind-the-scenes view of a typical Spokesman Club in session.

At the time when the meeting is to begin, the Local Director—who is usually the minister of the church—begins the club with an opening prayer.

He may then appoint someone to lead in a brief, fast-moving "vocal exercise" session. This is to get the men limbered up and to get their vocal mechanism in shape.

The vocal exercise leader may have the men do "tongue-twisters" such as, "A big black bug bit a big black bear, made a big black bear bleed!" See if you can say that RAPIDLY—without stumbling!

Or he may have them do "barking" exercises—or go up and down the musical scale. Anything to get them limbered up.

Next, the men sit down to enjoy the meal (if it is a dinner club) and some scintillating conversation for ten minutes or so. Here in a relaxed but formal atmosphere the men may discuss anything from *world news* to the personal tidbits of the week.

Business Session

The president rises, makes a few opening remarks and calls for the introduction of the guests. Then he will have the club secretary succinctly sum up the gist of the *previous* meeting. Special emphasis is given to the business which the club is undertaking.

Then comes a most interesting portion of the evening—the *business session*. Here the members discuss club activities which are pertinent to them—ladies' nights, dues, meeting places, or other business of such a nature.

This lasts for fifteen minutes. Members receive the opportunity to bring up SOUND IDEAS—and to think them through to achievement.

After business comes the Table Topics session. Here the men are mentally challenged to comment—on the spur of the moment—on almost any given topic. This session offers an opportunity for EVERY MAN in the club to jump to his feet in stimulated discussion of thought-provoking subjects.

This is a time to learn to THINK ON YOUR FEET!

Anything from a "most embarrassing experience," or current events topics, to answering Scripture questions may be asked by the Table Topics Chairman.

This twenty-five minute period ends and a short recess of about five minutes or so begins.

Stimulating Second Portion

Then the men return for the second portion of the meeting. The president calls for the "Toastmaster" of the evening. It is his responsibility to get the five speakers off to a *zippy start*! He must take the responsibility of a genial host—and create an atmosphere of eager interest for the speakers.

When he gets through with his introduction of a speaker the audience should be thinking, "I *really want to hear* from this speaker!"

When each speaker is through he receives a short but thorough evaluation from one of the men of the club designated as his evaluator.

Immediately after the five speakers plus their evaluators have finished, the president calls for the "opinion slips" of the men. Each club member puts down his opinion as to who he thought gave the most effective speech and evaluation and the most improved speech.

But this IS NOT VOTING!

In the Goals and Purposes section of the Speech Manual, this principle is illustrated, "There is *no voting* in conducting the Ambassador - Spokesman Club business! An opinion poll may be taken to quickly determine the wishes and counsel of the club membership as a whole, for 'in multitude of counselors there is safety' (Pro. 24:6)."

But throughout it is the *Government of God*—and members learn this. The Director in some cases may go AGAINST THE CHOICE of the members when he sees that the majority has been wrong. But often the impression the speaker left on the audience has been correctly indicated by the club members.

This gives the members the opportunity to *discern and judge* as to what

are GOOD speech traits—and gives them the insight to correct any defects or improve good points in their own speaking.

Director Gives Evaluation

As the opinion slips are coming in, the Director takes the speaker's stand and begins the *most important portion* of the evening—his over-all evaluation of the club.

In Spokesman Clubs these evaluations may take half an hour—with all emphasis on getting to the one or two main problems of the club that evening.

His is an OVER-ALL evaluation. Usually one or two good or bad points have consistently cropped up during the meeting. These will affect the average member of the club. This is especially what the Director watches for.

At the end of such a meeting, each man has had an opportunity to speak and to be evaluated. He comes away from the meeting with a *greater understanding* of his weak and strong points. He is now armed with greater knowledge as to how to work on himself.

That evening the average member has probably had to master his *self-will and vanity*. He has had to have the *self-discipline* to prepare effectively. Above all he has had to *grow in humility* to take the sometimes strong correction.

His whole personality has become broadened. He has had the proper Christian fellowship and recreation. The *principles and workings* of God's Government have become more obvious. He has had an opportunity to demonstrate leadership and service among his fellow club members.

In short, this is a great opportunity to become closer to the *stature and fulness of Christ!*

No individual realizing this tremendous benefit will forsake his duty and at the same time this opportunity—if he is in a club. If he is NOT IN A CLUB—and should be—he is missing a tremendous opportunity to grow, serve others—and better fit himself for a position in God's Kingdom, because the benefits extend beyond the individ-

ual—to his wife and family, plus to the entire church! It is evident that *God is blessing* the Ambassador-Spokesman Clubs. He has shown by its OWN GROWTH—and the *fruits and products* of the clubs—that they are good! He has put His stamp of approval on them.

Anyone who is able to attend, *should* attend to be part of this great church function—so that ALL MAY BENEFIT! And those of you who are *not* ABLE to attend? Are you supporting the

clubs in your area by your *prayers*? Are you praying for their success—especially for guidance of those at Headquarters?

Are YOU taking advantage of this great opportunity? If you are in a club, are you putting forth *total, one hundred percent effort*? If you are NOT in a club—is there a reason, or are you simply *shirking* your responsibility and missing out on a great blessing? Only you know—and God!

The Bible Answers Your Questions

Please address any questions YOU would like answered
in this column to the Editor.

Just what is a "saint"?

According to Webster's Dictionary, a saint is "A holy or godly person; especially one regenerated and sanctified or undergoing sanctification." A saint is "One of the beatified souls" or "one who is canonized by the church."

Similarly, E. Royston Pike declares that the term "saint" refers to the BLESSED DEAD (see *The Encyclopaedia of Religion and Religions*). He explains, "... a saint is one, man or woman, who has been canonized for having displayed the virtues of faith, hope, and charity, prudence, justice, and fortitude in a heroic degree, and furthermore has *performed miracles*."

Is this definition *true*? Not according to the plain Word of God! Notice what the *Bible* says!

The Greek word in the New Testament translated "saint" is *hagios* and simply refers to a holy person or object (see *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*). Therefore, *saints* are simply those people who have been set apart by God for His purpose—those people who have repented of their sins and have come under the government of God!

The word "saint" merely means a TRUE CHRISTIAN!

The Apostle Paul called all the brethren in Christ *saints*. He wrote to the

Corinthians, "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to *them that are sanctified* [set apart for a holy use] in Christ Jesus, CALLED TO BE SAINTS, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours" (I Cor. 1:1-2).

Notice! Paul calls all the Christians at Corinth SAINTS—as well as "all that in every place" call upon the name of Jesus Christ and serve Him!

Furthermore, we read in II Corinthians 1:1 that Paul writes to "... the church of God which is at Corinth, WITH ALL THE SAINTS which are in Achaia." And, Paul also wrote the Romans, "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, *called to be saints*..." (Rom. 1:7).

Writing to the Ephesians, Paul declared, "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but *fellow-citizens with the saints*, and of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19). And, Paul exhorted the Hebrew Christians, "Salute all them that have the rule over you, *and all the SAINTS*. They of Italy salute you" (Heb. 13:24).

How clear—the word "saint" merely refers to a *true Christian*—and "the saints" are true Christians everywhere!

But what makes a person a saint? What "sets us apart," or makes us

"holy" to God? Christians are sanctified or set apart from the world by one thing—the INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

True Christians have been begotten by God's Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14; II Cor. 5:5). We become Christ's when we receive the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul explained, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the SPIRIT OF CHRIST, HE IS NONE OF HIS!" (Rom. 8:9.)

How plain! Having God's Holy Spirit is what sets a person apart from the world—makes him a true Christian—and makes him a SAINT! All those people who are begotten by the Holy Spirit ARE SAINTS!

Contrary to the definitions of *men*, and the opinions of *men*, a "saint" is NOT a "beatified soul," or an heroic individual "canonized" by the church for having lived an abstemious life and performing miracles. *Such is not Biblical teaching!*

No, rather, if we are true Christians—if we are truly Christ's—then, brethren, *we ARE saints!*

If God changed His mind in Exodus 32 about destroying Israel, how can I be completely assured that He won't change His mind about healing me?

First let's look at some of the examples in the Bible which record God changing His mind.

In Exodus 32 we find God planning the destruction of all Israel. In fear of the entire nation being destroyed, Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights beseeching God for mercy. Then, in Verse 14, we find, "The Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."

Another example is in Jonah 4. Again, God seriously considered destroying the entire city of Nineveh for their uncontrolled wickedness. But Jonah began to preach God's Word there and the *people repented*. Once again God changed His mind (Jonah 4:11).

For one more example, turn over to

II Kings 20 and read the account of Hezekiah. He was on his "death bed" and *he cried out to God* for help. He did his part; he exhibited the faith he needed. God not only healed him of his immediate illness but went above and beyond and *added fifteen years* to his life (II Kings 20:6).

God only changes His mind about *preserving and destroying* a person or nation (Jer. 18:7-10). Even then He leaves the decision up to the particular person or nation. If that nation repents of its evil practices, God will forgive them and preserve them. And since God PLANS this change upon certain conditions it is NOT a change in the way we refer to a *human being* who is *changeable*—it is a planned change based on prerequisites.

Notice what God says in Exodus 15:26, "If you will . . . give ear to his commandments, and keep *all* his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee." If you obey God, He will watch over you and heal you of ANY disease you may have.

Nowhere in the entire Bible do you find an account of God's changing any promise He has made, *as long as you do your part*. He is not slack about His promises (II Pet. 3:9). God never forgets His promises to heal you. But you must come to Him and ask and also obey Him. Even then, you may not be healed instantly, because God doesn't promise WHEN you will be healed—only that you surely WILL BE! Your *own faith*—the faith of Christ in you—is a vital factor (Matt. 9:29). If you aren't healed, examine YOURSELF, not God. Be faithful to God and He will ALWAYS be faithful to you (Heb. 13:8).

Recently, while reading the account of creation in the first chapter of Genesis, I noticed that there was light brought forth on both the first and the fourth day. This has me puzzled!

Confusion arises from the translation of the verbs. In Verse 3 when God said, "Let there be light," the word LET from the Hebrew doesn't mean to create or make—it means merely to

manifest what was previously in existence.

The Hebrew word for LET in Verse 14 is an entirely different word from that used in Verse 3. By this time the atmosphere had been completely purified and the heavenly bodies were now unveiled in all their glory.

In Verse 16 we read, "And God made two great lights." Once again a clearer verb translation makes this plain. The Hebrew meaning is: *constituted, appointed or ordained*.

Gods' creation progressed in this order: On the first day, from an already existing heaven (sun, moon and stars) and earth, God manifested light through the darkness of the clouded atmosphere. The firmament was divided on the second day. Dry land and vegetation appeared on the third day. Then on the fourth day, the sun, moon and stars *became visible* for the first time. They were then appointed or ordained for special purposes: for signs, seasons, days, years, etc. (Verses 14-18).

Should Christians today eat of that sinew which is on the hollow of the thigh of their cattle? Is this portion specifically proscribed in Genesis 32:32?

The example of the Israelites abstaining from this particular portion of meat is *not binding* upon Christians today.

Although this tradition was faithfully observed by the Jews in the time of Jesus Christ as is recorded in the *Antiquities of the Jews* by Flavius Josephus (Book 1, Chap. 20, Sec. 2), and is followed today by *some Orthodox Jews*, there is no record in the Bible that Christ ever observed it Himself. It was a tradition of men.

You will notice that Genesis 32:32 shows that the children of Israel VOLUNTARILY *took upon themselves* the observance of this custom out of respect for their ancestor Jacob. Whether they did or not IN NO WAY affected the *blessing* he received for persevering while wrestling with the Messenger.

It would not be *wrong* to observe this custom today. However, such an ob-

servance would be TOTALLY UNNECESSARY.

In Matthew 16:28, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." Jesus' disciples died long ago and Christ still hasn't returned with His Kingdom. What is the meaning of this verse?

The *context* of the verse clearly reveals the meaning. Notice that Jesus was talking *only to His disciples* (Matt. 16:21). Then in Verse 28, Jesus could hardly have made it more clear that He was referring to *only some* of His disciples by saying "*some of them that stand here*."

Next, notice that Jesus merely said that they would "*see* the Son of man coming in his Kingdom" before they died. He *didn't* say He was actually *going* to come before they would "*taste of death*."

The first verse of the next chapter begins with "and"—it is a *continuation* of the same train of thought. The next few verses are still a part of the *context* of Verse 28 of the preceding chapter even though a chapter break was placed there.

Continue reading: "And *after six days* Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart." Here were *some* of Jesus' disciples going with Him.

Now, notice the companion accounts of this occurrence in Mark 9:2-4 and Luke 9:28-32. Jesus went up into the mountain to pray (Luke 9:28). The next verse says, "And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering." Matthew describes this amazing miracle as a *transfiguration*, and says that Jesus' face *shone* as the *sun*! God was divinely intervening by His Holy Spirit to *change* the *appearance* of His Son!

"Trans" means *across* or *beyond*, and "figure" means *form, shape, or appearance*. So Jesus was taken "*across*" or
(Please continue on page 23)

Are YOU Responsible?

A growing problem—prevalent in this world around us—is found too often in God's Church today . . .

by Dave Albert

A MOMENT of inattention behind the wheel suddenly results in a tragic accident snuffing out the lives of several people.

Deep and worsening financial troubles trigger a violent husband-and-wife argument.

A child regularly "forgets" to do his chores around the house and gets his assignments in late at school.

Are these just *unrelated incidents* in everyday life? No!! These are typical symptoms of a common character disease called *IRRESPONSIBILITY!* It is an attitude of mind that manifests it-

self constantly in the world around us, and is all too often present in the Church of God today!

It is a *sin* that could keep you out of the Kingdom of God, or could at least greatly subtract from your eternal reward!

Why We're Guilty

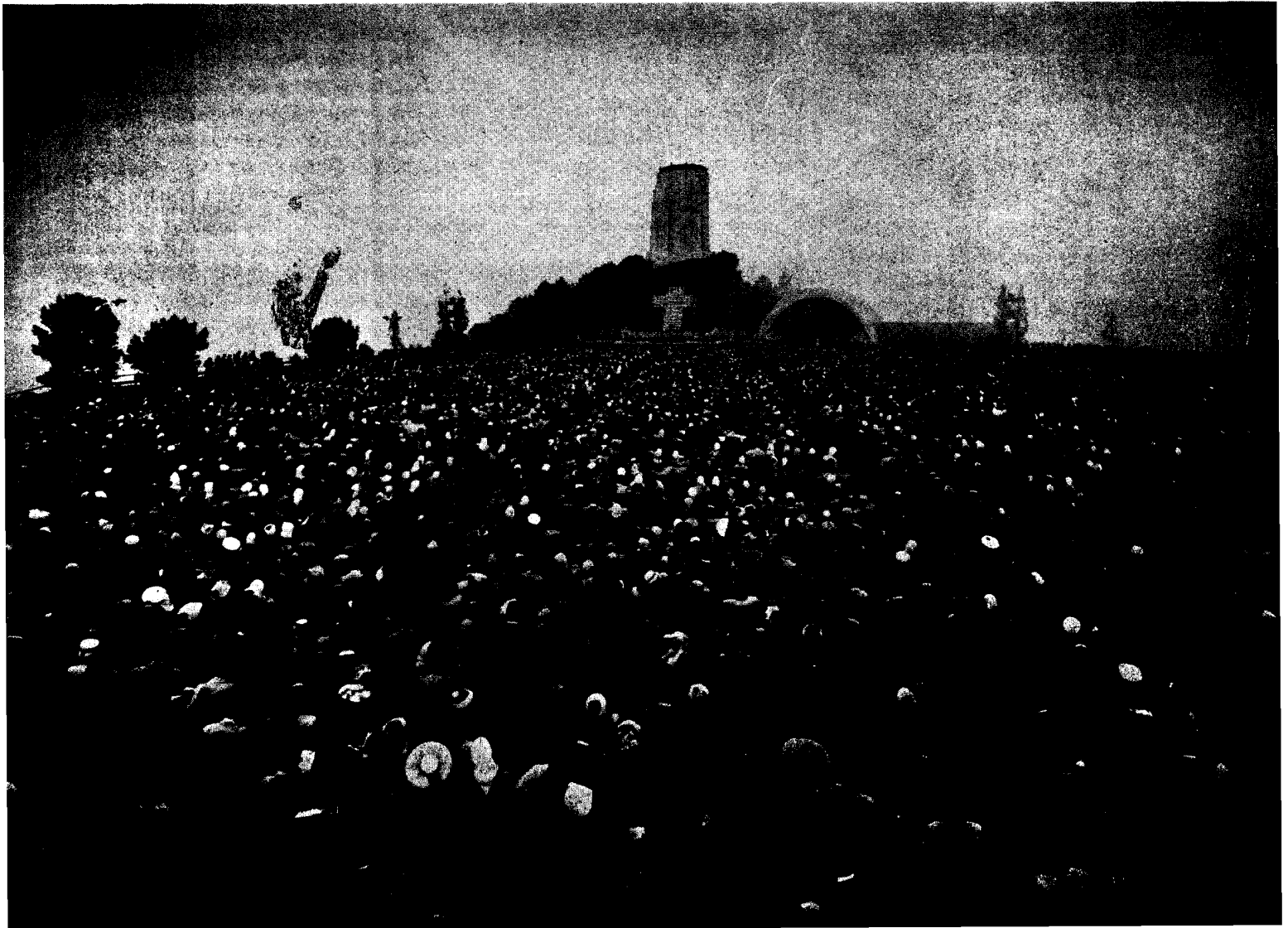
Let's be honest about this matter of responsibility. Many times in our lives, in many different ways, we have *failed*

to properly execute the responsibilities—whether small or great—we've been given.

Stop and think a moment. When is the last time you just plain *forgot* something—forgot to buy something at the store, pay a bill, mail a letter, meet someone, or arrange for something? Chances are it hasn't been too long ago. And whether the incident was painfully embarrassing or quickly

These massed thousands do not realize they are going to be held responsible for worshipping according to the dictates of paganism. They have never bothered to check up, to prove, to take the responsibility of finding out why they were born. God has been merciful in bringing you out of this—are you now properly taking your other responsibilities?

Wide World Photo



forgotten, it demonstrates a human weakness that must be overcome!

Why even in God's Church must this problem occur and reoccur with discouraging regularity — sometimes with heartbreaking results? We in God's ministry have seen this one character fault—*irresponsibility*—contribute to broken homes, personal and business financial woes, unruly children, unhappy parents, and many other BIG problems. You may feel this is a little, minor matter, brethren, but Jesus Christ very plainly shows in His Word it is *not!*

The answer to why we face this problem is found in I Corinthians, Chapter One. Turn there in your own Bible, and begin reading in Verse 26 where *our calling*—yours and mine—is described: "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things [or foolish ones, as is implied by the original Greek] of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things [or weak ones] of the world to confound the things which are mighty. . . ."

Yes, God says in His Word that we have been the *foolish* and *weak* ones of this world, not the high and mighty. And this is why many of our actions—even *since* coming into God's Church—in our families, on our jobs, with our finances, etc. *have been* foolish and weak. These shortcomings and weaknesses which began in our youth—and even *before* through heredity—carry over into our adult lives and cause us to have attitudes and actions that are *not* dependable, trustworthy, reliable, or responsible. We are today just the product of so many yesterdays—if we've lacked these important character traits in the past and have made no effort to overcome it, then we are *still* irresponsible.

But that is no excuse! Christ commands us, "Become ye therefore PERFECT!" (Matt. 5:48.)

For Example

Let's get down to some clear-cut, concrete cases where you may be guilty.

First of all, let's take a look at the family *finances*. What is the financial picture like in your home? Good, sound, well-regulated? A smoothly functioning budget with savings in the bank? If so, congratulations! You have shouldered a very important responsibility. If not—and this applies to too many of us!—you have failed in this responsibility.

Finances, whether in the home or business, demand a continual, diligent execution of responsibility. They are a good yardstick by which to measure your character. How do *you* measure up? The tragedy is that most of us have had little or no financial training in the past from our parents or anyone else. Most of us "spent it" about as fast as we "made it." *We never LEARNED financial responsibility.* And what a toll this takes in later life! What unhappiness it causes families all over this land—even leading to divorce in many cases.

Whose fault is it? Though in most homes today the woman is the financial manager, it should *not be so!* The husband as *head* of the home (Eph. 5:23) should shoulder this vitally important responsibility! If it is not that way in your home, chances are you

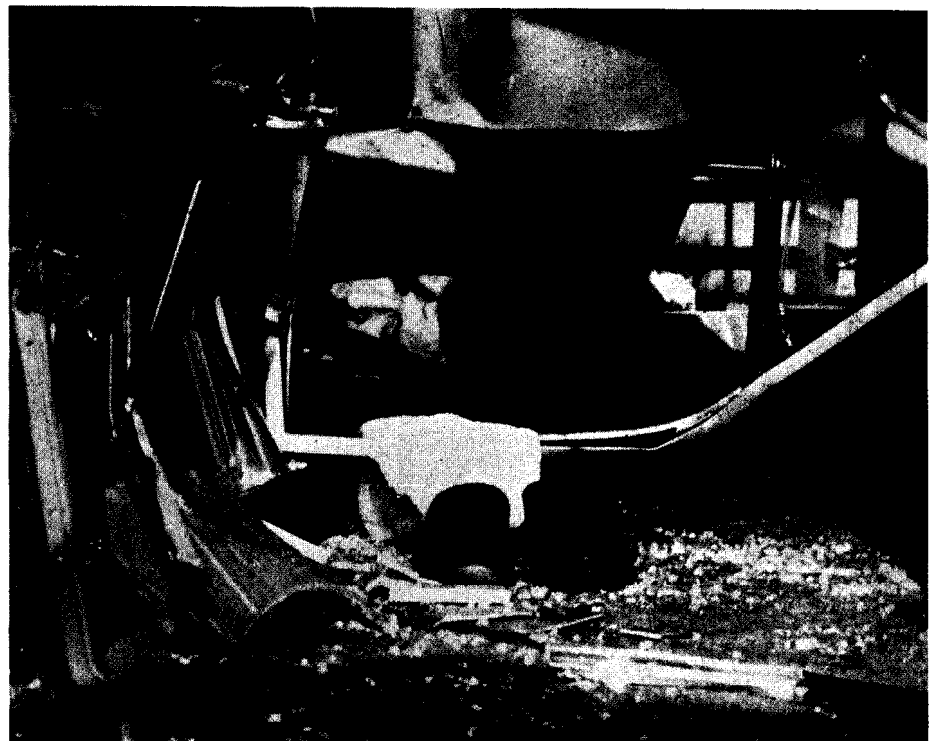
have an upside-down home. This is the *man's* job, and too many men are failing to perform it. It is very difficult for a wife to deeply respect her spouse if he can't keep the family's financial ship on an even keel. How many bitter arguments would be forever ended if the "Mr." would only do this.

And once tackled, thought out, and planned, a budget can be fun! It's really a good feeling to know that the money is going where it ought to go. Most families have talked about having a budget for years. *Why talk* about it? *Why not do* something about it! Then wives have the responsibility of *sticking to it*, and almost every woman would cheerfully admit she would much rather stick to the budget her husband made, than try to manage things all by herself. She wasn't made to handle this task—to manipulate and control the income and the outgo. **YOU WERE, MEN!!**

Don't fail in this. Jesus Christ says, "If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon (that is, riches or *money*), who will commit to your trust the true riches?" (Luke 16:11.) The answer is *no one!* If you cannot prove faithful in discharging

It's suddenly too late, the realization of the responsibility of guiding 4000 pounds of metal at speeds of a mile-a-minute was not properly executed by this unfortunate young man.

Wide World Photo



your present financial obligations, God will not give you the much greater duties of the Kingdom of God. It is that important!

If you realize this is a problem with you, start doing something about it now. There are many good books on this very subject at your disposal in your public library; banks often have similar material. Study about it, think about it, pray about it. If necessary, consult your local minister about it if you are in a church area. In a few weeks' time you can be in control of the situation, and from there you can go on to a sound financial standing for yourself and your household. You will be very glad you did! This doesn't mean your wife can't write the checks, address and stamp the envelopes for you—but it *does mean* that you should always know your living expenses are within *your* earning power.

Other Areas

Now that you have begun applying your mind to this matter of responsibility, do you begin to see other areas that need your attention? As important as money matters are, they seem almost small compared to other tasks in your life. Take the everyday business of driving, for example. Are you a *responsible* driver? When you have the lives of your family, friends, and others at stake as well as your own life and property, how do you take that vast responsibility?

"Speed Kills!" is a popular highway slogan. That is not entirely true. Recently Mr. Donald Campbell of England drove his turbine-powered race car "Bluebird" to the fantastic speed of 403.1 miles per hour for the official Land Speed Record of the world. That is five or six times as fast as you or I will ever drive our family auto, and it didn't kill him. But *one split second of INATTENTION or CARELESSNESS would have!* The same is true of each one of us whenever we take to ourselves the responsibility of driving.

As members of God's Church we do a lot of driving. We travel to and from church services, Spokesman Club meetings, annual Holy Day observ-



Wide World Photo

If you continue in the way God has shown you, shouldering correctly the small responsibilities He gives you now—God will someday give you the power to remove scenes like this from off the earth.

ances, and special events. All the more reason we should think and act with responsibility, and thus qualify for God's promised protection. Plan all your trips with *responsibility*. Leave *on time*. Drive within the specified speed limits. Keep alert—stay **ALIVE!**

Equally great is the full-time job of properly rearing your children. Even though God's Church has supplied every help and aid, many members still shrug off this responsibility lightly. They overlook somehow the most glaring offenses, putting off forever the task of disciplining their children. Yet "He that spareth his rod *hateth* his son..." God says in Proverbs 13:24. Furthermore, while they are still children is the time to train into them the *habit* of responsibility.

Children should be given *regular chores* to do around the house such as dish-washing, lawn-mowing, snow-shoveling, etc. They may be given a small allowance *to manage*, so that they can learn God's tithing laws and proper *financial CONTROL* which should include some savings. Parents should encourage school-age children to *prepare their assignments fully and ON TIME!* By giving them the guidance and

training that in many instances we did not receive, they will be not the weak of this world, but *Millennial Pioneers* equipped with good, responsible character traits.

Spiritually, TOO!

Most important of all are our *spiritual* responsibilities. A big point to consider here, however, is that if we cannot even master the little physical details in our lives, we will certainly not be able to prove faithful spiritually. Responsibility or "faithfulness," as the Bible puts it, is a far-reaching virtue. It involves every facet of our lives.

Countless times we have been exhorted, urged, and encouraged to **STUDY** and **PRAY** regularly, faithfully, day after day, *at least* thirty minutes a day. This is the *most important responsibility* of all to our spiritual life and ultimate salvation. Yet why is it that this is the one in which we all too often let down? We can't afford to let that happen, brethren! The time is too short!

Notice how Christ explained this in Matthew 24:45-51. He asked, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over

his household, to give them meat in due season?" Christ then explained it would be the servant that was responsible in all his duties even in his master's absence, like the ant of Proverbs 6 that laid up for the winter *without* "guide, overseer, or ruler."

Nobody is standing over us with a whip or club to make us pray and study as we ought. We must make *ourselves* do these things, calling on God for the strength to overcome our resisting carnality.

The evil servant (Verses 48-50) who begins to abuse his office and utterly fail to perform his responsibilities shall be totally unexpected and *unprepared* for Christ's return, and shall be cut off and have only the reward of the other hypocrites who also *pretended* to be doing their duties. For these there will be "weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Verse 51).

Become Responsible NOW!

Don't let this happen to *you!!* If you feel yourself drifting in that direction, check that drift *now* before it is forever too late! Ask yourself, "What are my responsibilities?" List on a piece of paper as many of them as you can think of. Note which ones you are doing faithfully and which ones you aren't. Then arrange the ones you have been falling down on in the order of their importance—spiritual ones *first!* Then launch into an all-out campaign to perform these responsibilities faithfully, regularly, diligently. And don't forget to enlist God's help at every step of the way, remembering that "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak!" (Matt. 26:41.)

Remember that there *won't* BE any IRRESPONSIBLE members of the God family! If you don't demonstrate the virtue of responsibility now in your everyday living, you won't make it into the Kingdom of God!

But if you *do* make it part of you now, someday you will hear our Master and King, Jesus Christ, say, "Well done, thou good and faithful [*responsible*] servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord!" (Matt. 25:21.)

Inspiring PROGRESS

(Continued from page 6)

Ministerial Conference. God's Work has grown so large—and so many *dozens* of men are now ordained and in the Work full-time that it is becoming increasingly awkward, time-consuming and expensive to bring all of the ministers in each year for this important Conference.

But, our churches and ministers here in the United States are divided into seven church *districts*. And so, from now on, each church *district* will be having its own ministerial meetings two or three times each year plus getting together with those of us from Headquarters at the Feast of Tabernacles, Passover and perhaps on Pentecost. Then, the *District Superintendents* and certain other ministers—as the need arises—will come into Pasadena for the *general Conference* to represent the *whole Church*.

Two of these district conferences were recently held, and the ministers and their wives attending them were helped and inspired in many ways. On November 15, 16 and 17, the North-Central District Conference was held in the home of the Area Superintendent, Mr. Dean Blackwell.

There were meetings each day, reports by each minister on his area, and many discussion periods concerning prospective members, problems and future growth potential.

In addition, two evenings were set aside for socializing, and certainly God's ministers and their wives were thankful for this change of pace and for the opportunity to be together again. Mr. Blackwell reports that the ministers' conference was a success in every way and should add to the growth, enthusiasm and effectiveness of God's ministers in his church area.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, the ministers from the Southwest District met on the college grounds at Big Sandy under the direction of Mr. Leroy Neff, acting District Superintendent there until Mr. McCullough's arrival. They had the special treat of having lunch with Mr. Herbert W.

Armstrong, who was passing through Big Sandy on his way back from England.

During the three days, they also had special instruction periods, forums regarding church problems and potential growth and fine social occasions—some of which were shared with the Student Body and faculty at Big Sandy.

Mr. Neff reported: "I believe that the conference was very helpful for everyone and that each minister can be a little better servant of Jesus Christ and a more helpful minister in each church. The ministers profited from being here, enjoying the fellowship, the meetings, and the opportunity to visit Ambassador College, Big Sandy, as well as to participate in the social events."

God's Work Must Be ORGANIZED

In reviewing these District Ministers' Meetings, brethren, each of you should remember that God's Church needs to be increasingly *organized* as it grows in size and scope. "For God is NOT the author of confusion" (I Cor. 14:33).

We now have exactly SEVEN Church *Districts* within the United States. These include the Northeastern District, whose Superintendent is one of God's Evangelists, Mr. Raymond Cole. This is the fastest-growing district comprising the largest population area in the United States. New churches—such as the recently established churches in Buffalo, Harrisburg and Asheville—are constantly being raised up in this district. It has tremendous potential for GROWTH.

The Southeastern United States District is one of the newest. But it is also fast-growing, and its Superintendent, Mr. Ken Swisher, has had much experience during his many years at Gladewater.

The Southwestern United States District—mentioned above—also has good growth potential, and now has the added advantage of having its

Headquarters at the *third* Ambassador College at Big Sandy. Mr. Les McCullough will become the permanent District Superintendent upon his arrival at Big Sandy as Deputy Chancellor.

The North-Central District is one of the oldest and largest. The District Superintendent is Mr. Dean Blackwell, now one of God's Evangelists, and constant growth is evident in this district also.

The Central-Midwest District is superintended by Mr. Bryce Clark, Pastor of God's Churches in Kansas City, Springfield and Omaha. It is one of our newest districts but is rapidly growing as are all others. The new churches in Omaha, Nebraska, and Columbia, Missouri, are a fine addition—plus a considerable addition now that the St. Louis Church is coupled with Columbia and so now falls in Mr. Clark's district.

The Pacific Northwest District is the "oldest" in this era of God's Church. It is the area where God raised up Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Armstrong to initiate and guide this era of God's Church. It includes our two oldest churches, the "mother" Church at Eugene, and the District Headquarters Church at Portland, Oregon. Mr. Carlton Smith is now the District Superintendent there—having moved from New York City—and reports show continual and steady growth in this district with the Portland Church soon to reach the 500 mark in regular Sabbath attendance!

Last, but actually first in priority and responsibility, is the Headquarters District. It comprises the Churches of God in California, Nevada and Arizona. Its Headquarters is, of course, Pasadena, California, and the District Superintendent is your author who also has the over-all responsibility as General Superintendent, under Mr. Armstrong, over all the Churches in the United States.

So you can see, brethren, that even our local church congregations must now be *organized* and properly directed from God's Headquarters through various District Superintendents in order to preserve the spirit of *growth, unity* and *consecration* demanded by the Living Christ, our Head. In your personal,

daily *prayers*, be sure to REMEMBER these various church districts in the United States—plus each of the overseas church areas—and *pray for them* intelligently and specifically—"breaking your prayers up fine" as you approach the throne of God.

Be sure your whole *heart, interest* and BEING is in this Work of God—and in Christ's *Church*, which is His Body—and leave no stone unturned in doing your part, *and more*, in this CRUSADE in which Jesus Christ has privileged each of us to have a part.

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 3)

cere love you show us in offering us all these good things. Delighted—because this is such a blessing in these hours of suffering."

A Catholic nun from Lyon

Effective Sermon

"I have just recently given my life into God's keeping, but I have not yet been baptized. I thought that at last I had found peace, but I found it was not as peaceful as I had expected. Nothing seemed to go my way. I was almost ready to let go and leap back to my former way of life when I heard a minister in the locality. He said we were in a war against Satan and our human carnal nature. He said we were in a fight that was no easy battle, that we would fall flat on our faces, but God would pick us up and set us on our feet again. He said some will give up because the battle is too fierce and it's easy to go the way of least resistance. As he spoke I sat straighter and listened closer. I saw myself as one of those who were giving up. I decided that I wouldn't give up at all. Christ had it much harder than I. Thank you for training that wonderful man and I thank God for allowing you to train him."

Woman Member

Free Coal

"Having heard some of your talks on Malachi 3:10 I decided to send in some money to help the Work along. As a result I have a couple of years' supply of coal piled near the barn on account

of trucks ditched in front of my house, breaking down on the road and truckers just backing in and dumping it off when they were afraid of being caught with an over-weight load. There was truly not enough room in my coal cellar to receive it, as the pile contains 40 to 50 tons. We have lived on this farm since 1943 and no one ever had any reason to pile off coal here until this summer. I feel sorry for those coal men, and I guess they think this vicinity has something wrong with it."

Elwood P. H., Ohio

More Tools for Learning

"Your PLAIN TRUTH magazine has blessed me for about 12 years. Now we have Bible studies at Kearney, Nebraska. Also we were honored by visits to our home by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sharp and later by Mr. Roger Foster and Mr. Wilcox. It has really opened my wife's eyes to see how helpful and thoughtful your ministers are. In going through our home they alerted us to mistakes we were making and told us how to correct them. What other church would take the time and effort to inquire, instruct, and reprove us in our welfare? Most churches would smile at you all the way down the road to hell! It always takes more effort to prepare a fine meal, make a better suit or better car; so it must be this way."

Mr. Delmar M., Nebraska

"I just can't tell you how much we enjoyed the Feast of Tabernacles in Squaw Valley. What I really want to say is, I can't thank the Church of God ENOUGH for helping me go. I have seven children. I wish I could thank all the people personally for what they do to help people like me. Maybe you can mention a big thanks to the brethren in *The GOOD NEWS* from all of us that get to share in the Feast. I say this with love and tears of gratefulness. I only wish the Feast would last longer. It's terrible to come back to this horrid world. I can truly say with all my heart THY KINGDOM COME."

Mr. D. A., California

God Blesses Tither

"For 6 months I have tithed to you, as I am convinced this is truly God's

Work. At first I sent \$2.00, a tithe of my grocery allowance. Then an offer came to take over a failing Nursery School. Something I had always wanted to do; but lacked the courage because I feared failure. It looked like everybody was right when they told one to close up. Two people had already failed it, and it did look like I would be number 3. Then all of a sudden it began to grow; and now I am having to turn people down, because I can't handle everybody. I also am in the process of building a new building. If I hadn't been shown these laws of God were real laws, I would still be in the same old rut. Every day is a challenge, and I love life as I never thought possible. Our marriage was in trouble until we decided we'd try it God's way. I challenge anybody to show me a happier couple anywhere! I heard Billy Graham the other night say he couldn't prove God existed. What a shame he doesn't send in for these laws on the proofs that God exists. I know you can prove He exists."

Jean D., Georgia

Wonderful Feast

"Just got home from the most wonderful Feast of Tabernacles that I have attended. God was there in a special way this time. Of course I loved the other two that I went to, but this one was special." Victor E., Washington

"We had a rejoicing time at Jekyll Island. Even the squirrels were at peace like in the World Tomorrow. They would eat out of your hand. There was one that drank water out of the neighbor's cooler. He left the plug out and the squirrel would suck water out of it like a bottle. Mr. Garner Ted said double what you had purposed to give in the offering. When I doubled my little offering, I had a little over \$7.00 to drive almost 400 miles with my wife and 4 children. I am not bragging, just saying I am proud to have the True God for my Father. I didn't have one bit of trouble; and I had \$1.75 when I got home, so I did not need it anyway."

Gene M., North Carolina

"The Sabbath has been a stumbling block to me for several years, but God

has now made it possible for me to observe it. I suppose He always had but I lacked the faith to follow through. I had my own store and when I had the Sabbath truth revealed to me I thought if I could sell the store I would keep the Sabbath, but when I sold the store I found I was out of work for a month, so I bought another store. Now after two years of trials and losing money, kidding myself that I would close the store Saturdays, God has gotten me out of the store into a job where there is no Saturday work. I have been in the job three months and have had two raises and promotion. I believe keeping God's Sabbath pays in all ways."

Man, Victoria, Canada

Make-Up Booklet

"I am writing to ask a question. Is the use of make-up, its minimum or maximum use, pagan or wrong? Personally, I don't like make-up, or the idea of literally piling various cosmetics on my face. Being a teen ager, I prefer the natural look. The question is, 'Are the women in God's Church supposed to wear any make-up?' I would like to know God's truth concerning this matter."

Ruth M., California

Third Tithe Year

"This Feast starts my third tithe year. I was a little worried if I would be able to pay my bills and buy groceries when I arrived back home from the Feast, as I had only 4 days' wage coming, and I had 3 tithes coming out of that. I got my check on Wednesday after getting back home. I payed first, second, and third tithe and could only pay a few of my bills then after buying groceries. One bill was really pressing,

so I reminded God that I had done what He commanded and asked Him to let this debtor wait until I received another pay check. Two days later was the regular pay day where I work. Everyone else was receiving his check. I knew I wouldn't get one. Then the boss came over to me and handed me a check for \$47.74. He said he knew I wasn't to get a check, but the IBM had run it out by mistake. He said the plant superintendent knew this, but before he could tear it up he had to check with the business manager. The business manager told the superintendent to go ahead and give it to me, that he felt I had earned it by putting in good work in the past year. So God gave me what I needed—some extra to run me until I get payed. I'm certainly thankful for the wonderful truth God has revealed to me."

Herbert R., California

Hungry for More

"For nearly a year now we have been receiving *The PLAIN TRUTH* and are on Lesson 8 of the Correspondence Course. Since August we have been attending the Toledo church. Mr. Markow has given us more correction from the pulpit in 3 months than we ever had in 30 years in another church. If ever either one of us are fit for the Kingdom of God, it will be through the spiritual nourishment of the church and all the printed material we are receiving. There are so many more articles that we want. I don't know where to start. My husband jokingly said I should list what we have and request one of each of all the rest."

Mr. and Mrs. Dale F. B., Ohio

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Ambassador College Press is in real need of **experienced, qualified, skilled printers**. If you have completed a six-year apprenticeship and have had experience in the commercial field, or if you are an apprentice with at least two years or more experience in a commercial printing plant—composing or pressroom—please write for an application form. Address your inquiry to:

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PASADENA, CALIF. 91105

(If you have filled out an application before, do not write for another.)

Bible Questions

(Continued from page 16)

"beyond" in "appearance" to a FUTURE time!

Notice, Verse 9 of Matthew 17: "Jesus charged them, saying, Tell the vision to no man." Moses and Elijah were merely a VISION! The disciples saw Christ as He would look when He returns to this earth. But only in vision and not in reality!

Revelation 1:13-16 describes Christ as He appears now—"and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength" (Verse 16). And Revelation 21:23 tells us that Christ will be shining with great light AFTER He has returned to earth to set up His Kingdom. This makes it clear that the transfiguration of Christ was a transformation of Jesus by God to give Him the same appearance He would have at His second coming! The three disciples were seeing Christ just as they were going to see Him again when He is "coming in His Kingdom"!

"Should Christian brethren close personal letters to one another 'IN JESUS' NAME'?"

Just what does the phrase "In Jesus' name" signify? Do YOU know?

God's ministers—when performing the office of their ministry—close their letters with this phrase. Mr. Armstrong closes his letters to Co-Workers and Members of God's Church this way.

The phrase "in Jesus' name" is just another way of saying, "by Jesus Christ's authority," or "as the direct representative of Jesus Christ." The phrase is

similar to a policeman saying, "Stop! In the name of the law!"

When closing a letter, God's ministers use this phrase to signify that they are acting as representatives of Jesus Christ, doing the work of Jesus Christ and His True Church. It also shows that Jesus Christ—the LIVING HEAD OF THIS CHURCH—backs up what they have written in the body of their letter.

To Almighty God in heaven a name has a great deal of meaning.

It is so very important in fact that one of the TEN COMMANDMENTS warns, "Thou shalt not take the NAME of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his NAME in vain" (Ex. 20:7)! Jesus Christ's name identifies Him as our Saviour, God in the flesh. It conveys to our minds His reputation, and responsibilities. One of Satan's most diabolical plots has been to use Christ's NAME in His false religion to deceive the world!

Yes, a NAME is important in God's sight!

Since, when you are writing a personal letter to someone else in God's Church you are NOT ACTING AS CHRIST'S REPRESENTATIVE, it would be WRONG to sign your letter, "in Jesus Christ's name." If you did so it would actually TAKE CHRIST'S NAME IN VAIN! For the phrase "in vain" means "to no useful purpose"!

However, it would not be wrong to close a letter to a friend with a phrase like, "in Christian fellowship" or "in Christian love." Using this type of closing to a personal letter is good. It conveys that close, truly DEEP relationship we have together in and through Jesus Christ, as members of His Church.

Are You Sure We Are God's Ministers?

(Continued from page 10)

sending the Gospel over the air waves by the voice of HIS HUMAN INSTRUMENTS!

He is seeing to it that YOU are receiving this magazine, to feed and nourish you in His Truth, to warn you of impending dangers, to try to HELP each hungry "babe in Christ" gain an entrance into His glorious Kingdom. But the magazine is written, edited,

typed, printed, and mailed by human instruments.

It is the same in calling His ministry!

Many have assumed the Apostle Paul was the exception to the rule that ministers were always ordained through HUMAN INSTRUMENTS, by the laying on of the hands of the ministry!

That assumption is false!

Paul's Ordination

Read the account of Paul's ORDINATION by human instruments with your own eyes!

Turn to Acts, the 13th chapter. Here, you see the gathering of the elders at Antioch, and the ordination of Paul. The entire account was explained in a former article; but very briefly remember that Paul had been struck down on the road to Damascus, blinded, and made willing to receive God's Spirit through a real REPENTANCE!

He was able to "preach Christ" to the Jews at Damascus then, "proving that this is very Christ!" (Acts 9:20, 22). But notice that Paul was not a MINISTER—he was not an active member in the governmental body of the church—he was merely doing what ANY OF YOU should be able to do . . . be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15).

After this short "witnessing" that Jesus was the true Christ, Paul went to Arabia (Gal. 1:17), and returned to Damascus. After three years (Verse 18), Paul then went down to TARSUS, the city of his birth. Prior to this time, however, Paul had been with the other Apostles in Jerusalem, after Barnabas had told them of the miraculous way in which God struck him down. He learned from them, "And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem" (Acts 9:28).

Just as God's ministers are actually sent out to a local church to preach sermonettes—or perhaps even to serve as acting Pastor for a period of time—so PAUL WAS TRIED AND PROVED in the actual ministry.

Notice how Barnabas, also a disciple of the church, later took Paul with him when he went to Antioch, and they taught many people for another additional YEAR (Acts 11:25-26). It was only after this time of actual ministerial experience and training—having been alone with Christ in the desert—having been under the direct supervision of the Headquarters Church at Jerusalem, then taken with Barnabas, who was older in the faith, to Antioch, that

God finally led His servants to *ordain* Paul!

Notice, as the elders were ministering to the Lord at Antioch, they were FASTING (Acts 13:2). During this time, as they were in fasting and prayer—the “Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them” (Verse 2).

God’s Holy Spirit directed the minds of His praying, fasting servants—His HUMAN INSTRUMENTS! For example, the Holy Spirit said, “Separate Herman Hoeh and Roderick Meredith unto me for the work whereunto I have called them!” He directly REVEALED to Mr. Armstrong—who could see by the FRUITS being borne of these men, by their consecration and dedication to God’s Work, by the *need* of the Work—by their spiritual leadership and qualifications that *God* was doing the calling!

And so it was with the Apostle Paul!

The ministers were told to “separate” Paul! A *setting apart* or a “separation” for an office is just another word for ORDINATION! Notice what happened!

“And when they had *fasted and prayed* (as in *all* cases of ordinations), AND LAID THEIR HANDS ON THEM, they sent them away” (Acts 13:3).

There is the record of the ordination of the Apostle Paul BY HUMAN INSTRUMENTS, in the exact same way God *always* calls and chooses His true ministers—after conversion, a number of years of *study* and *preparation*, actual field testing and proving in the ministry, and final ordination when GOD shows His ministers His will!

False “Visions” and “Dreams”

Some, however, who are always looking for ways to GET AROUND the set and established ways of their Creator and RULER, want to “have their own way,” and so try to achieve their wrong goals by wrong means!

Frequently, some will get a certain “feeling” they are being called to the ministry! Setting their heart on the ministry, they DECIDE God has called them to be His stewards—and try to *maneuver* THEMSELVES IN! Notice, they have NOT been trained—have NOT ful-

filled the divinely imposed Scriptural qualifications, have NOT been observed, tested and proved by God’s true ministers—they merely “make up their minds” and then VOLUNTEER!

BUT NONE OF GOD’S TRUE SERVANTS HAVE EVER VOLUNTEERED IN THIS MANNER!

Others have a “dream” and then come to the ministers, *telling them* God is calling them to the ministry! But WHO HAD THE DREAMS IN THE BIBLE? The one being called? Or the human *instrument* used in the actual calling?

Notice! In the case of the Apostle Paul, the miraculous vision on the road to Damascus WAS ALSO COUPLED WITH A VISION WHICH APPEARED TO ANANIAS—a truly converted man, who was *already* in God’s Church—whom God used as the instrument in *baptizing* Paul. Ananias DID NOT *ordain* Paul—he merely *baptized* him!

God’s true servants are not called by weird dreams and visions which God keeps HIDDEN from His *already*-called and ordained officers of the church.

A lay member will not be called to the ministry without the MINISTERS being the FIRST ONES TO RECOGNIZE IT—BEFORE THE LAY MEMBER EVER DOES!

A Host of “Volunteers”

The Bible is also explicit on a whole GROUP of men who “volunteered” for the ministry, or a prophetic office, or a position of leadership in the congregation!

“Now Korah . . . rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel . . . against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, *Ye take too much upon you*, seeing ALL the congregation are holy . . . wherefore then lift ye up YOURSELVES above the congregation?” (Num. 16:1-3.)

Notice! Moses and Aaron were accused of having APPOINTED THEMSELVES and “lifting up themselves” over the congregation! *You* and *I* know, however, that Moses and Aaron were *called of God*!

But—as is nearly ALWAYS the case when a presumptuous person tries to USURP authority, he repudiates the office of the one in the already-estab-

lished position, and accuses that person of having arrogated the office to himself!

Let’s never let this happen to any of us! Notice the fearsome END of Korah! “. . . the ground clave asunder that was under them: and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods . . . and they *perished* from among the congregation” (Num. 16: 31-33).

Satan “volunteered” to *take over the office of God*! All the FALSE prophets *set themselves* up, claiming to be the true Prophets of God! Adonijah, Solomon’s half-brother, tried to set himself up as King over Israel, and was finally killed for his presumptuousness! Simon, the sorcerer, wanted the power of God, and tried to *buy* it with money! Peter said, “Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money . . . thy HEART IS NOT RIGHT in the sight of God” (Acts 8:20-21).

Any person who tries to *arrogate to himself* an office of the ministry *joins ranks with Korah, with Adonijah and all the false prophets, with Simon Magus and with Satan the devil himself*!

Your Responsibility

God tells you to STUDY—to study *long and hard*, and come to KNOW His express Word! Come to know, to understand, to really *comprehend* the truths of His Word so YOU CAN NEVER BE DECEIVED!

Secondly, your Creator tells you to PRAY that *more and more* dedicated servants of His will be called, trained, qualified to enter His true Ministry. PRAY for the students in the Ambassador Colleges. PRAY for your brethren in the churches, in the Spokesman Clubs, and in the scattered areas all around the world.

“PRAY ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest” (Matt. 9:38).

And above all things—once you have PROVED God’s Truth—NEVER doubt it, NEVER compromise with it, NEVER listen to the siren song of deceivers and persecutors.