

The Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God



**LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR
THE WORLD TOMORROW!**

JANUARY-FEBRUARY



More About Our Cover...

Here we see one of the one hundred footings being poured which support the vertical members of the giant tabernacle building in Mount Pocono. This building is large enough to accommodate six basketball courts end to end between the center columns alone, with room enough left over for thirty bowling alleys on each side! Just another way in which your tithe of the tithe and God's power add up to provide the necessary facilities to keep the Feast.

Ambassador College Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Thankful Reader

"For a long time I've wanted to write you, to thank you for many things, but I haven't known quite how to put my thanks. I still don't, but I'm going to try anyway. When I look into the eyes of my infant children, I feel an urge to thank God for the wonderful future they can have; I usually do thank Him. When I realize that they won't have to grow up entirely in this wretched world, but can thrive in that good and wonderful World Tomorrow, I am very happy and know that my struggle with my own human nature is sure worth it. But sometimes I do wonder what I would be doing if I had never heard the World Tomorrow broadcast; I have the same feeling of relief I did many years ago as a youngster when I foolishly tried to teach myself to swim in a lake after dark. I almost drowned, but my feet caught on a rock-like ledge on the way down, and I pushed myself up out of the water and walked ashore. I snapped my neck from the struggle and had a bad headache, but the warm night air felt like a balm to my skin and I felt very happy and very safe. I feel very happy now, knowing why I exist, why my wife exists, why my children exist, why EVERYONE exists."

Paul A., Oxnard, Calif.

A Good Investment

"We just wanted to tell you how we've been blessed recently. A few

weeks ago, our minister mentioned that there are probably many of us who are saving money to buy something for ourselves that we don't really need, and how much better it would be to send that money in to the Work, even if it meant not being able to buy what we wanted right away. We had saved ten dollars toward purchasing a small freezer and even though it was a small amount, we sent it in. By the next week, we had been given a new television, had found some extra money we had overlooked in our budget, and when Mr. Armstrong's special emergency letter came, we sent in our freezer savings again; however, this time it was over *forty dollars!* And less than one week had passed since we sent in our "meager" ten dollars. Now, listen to this! Two days after sending our freewill offering, we received a check for \$40 and another check for \$50—and both from different sources. We now have the exact amount to buy our freezer, *with cash, and without having to go into debt in any way!*"

Mr. and Mrs. Tim S.,
Knoxville, Tennessee

Repentant

"I used to attend Sabbath Services four years ago at Lexington, Kentucky. My wife and I both attended regularly. Somehow we got side-tracked and dropped out. We were both young. I was eighteen and she was sixteen. Being married so young I think the

(Continued on page 20)

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Ambassador College Photo

The 1970 Feast of Tabernacles planning and preparation has begun. It will be the biggest year ever. Read how to do your part in making it the best ever.

by Albert J. Portune

DID YOU enjoy the 1969 Feast of Tabernacles? From the 54,000 who attended the six sites in the United States and Canada comes a resounding YES! From 9,000 more around the world — “It was delightful.”

Truly the Feast of Tabernacles is a wonderful time. God’s Holy Days (Lev. 23) are an annual panorama — in capsule form — of His magnificent plan for mankind.

As the Holy Days themselves show, only a few now are privileged to understand that plan. Only the “Firstfruits” — portrayed in the Feast of Pentecost — are called now to understand!

We are those Firstfruits!

God has given us His Holy Spirit which imparts to us not only the begettal as sons of God, but spiritual knowledge and perspective — spiritual understanding.

With this dimension we are able to see and com-

prehend what most of mankind is unable to grasp. This insight imparts to us a zeal and fervor which makes our purpose and mission here on earth an all-consuming passion.

Meaning of the Feast

The Feast of Tabernacles is the *summing up* of God’s purpose — our purpose. It portrays the time and fulfillment for which we work and strive and hope. No wonder it is such a wonderful time.

As we attend the Feast of Tabernacles, having kept the other Holy Days leading up to it, our minds are full of God’s plan and purpose.

We remember that God has allotted seven thousand years for His plan to be fulfilled. Six thousand He has given for man to write the record of his works and way on this earth — a hideous diorama of evil, suffering, vanity, greed and death.

We remember (from the Passover) that God sent

His only begotten Son into the world to pay for the sins of mankind. But man has rejected his Saviour and only a few have truly accepted him now — only the Firstfruits in the time of the spring harvest pictured in the Feast of Pentecost (Lev. 23:15-21).

These are the ones who truly realized their sins and *changed their lives* — putting the leaven of SIN out as the ancient Israelites did symbolically — keeping the Days of Unleavened Bread — days God's Church keep today so they never forget a true Christian is a CHANGED person. (See Exodus 13:1-10, Lev. 23:6-14 and Romans 6:1-13.)

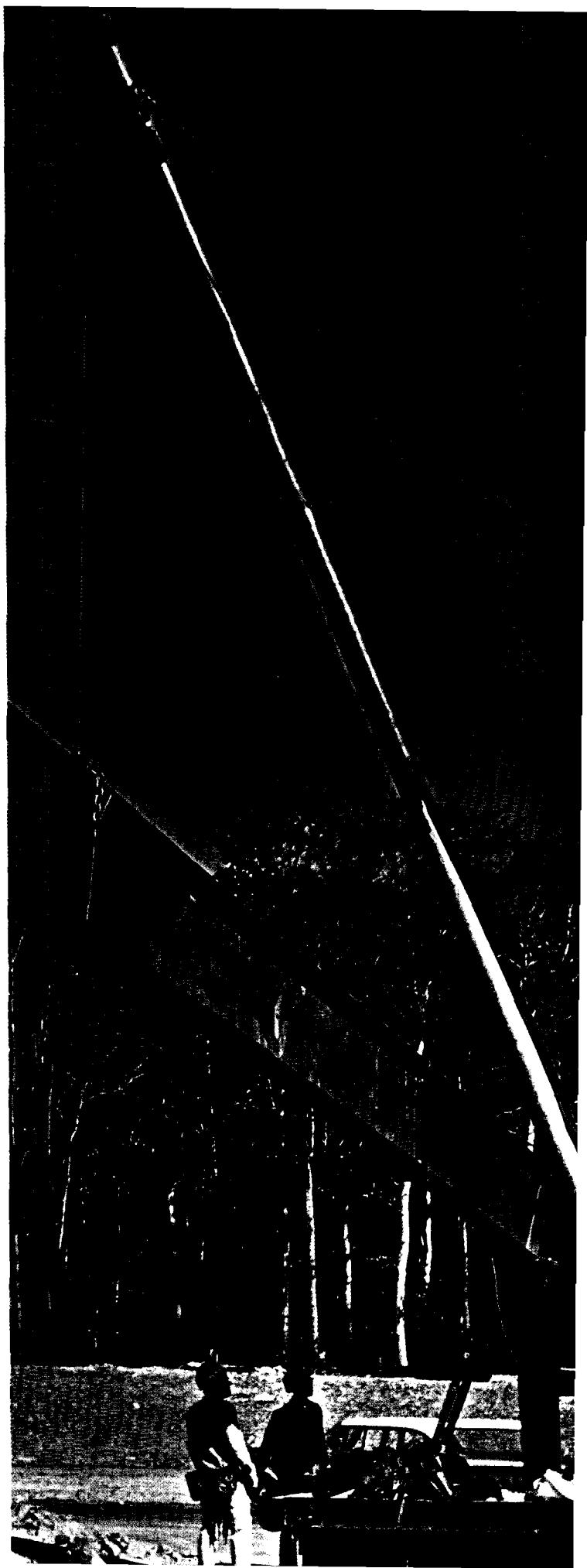
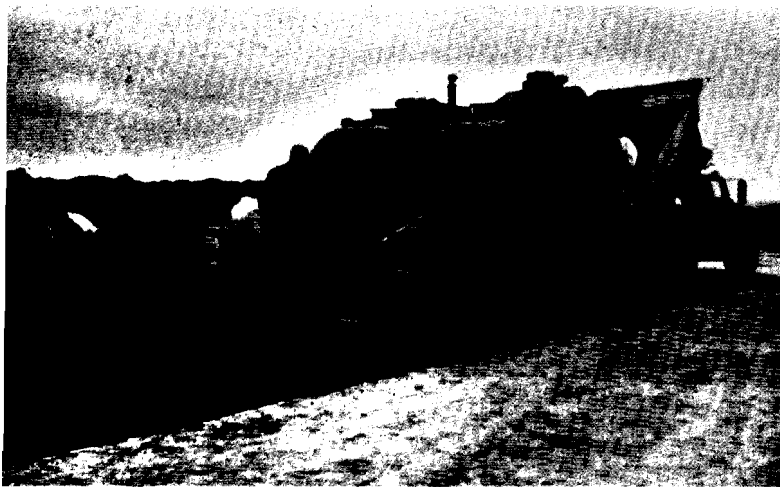
At the Feast of Tabernacles, we also recall the Feast of Trumpets (Lev. 23:23-25). We realize, because of the signs of the times, that we are truly living in the "last days" and that soon the TRUMPET WILL SOUND! We are moved by the reality that *very soon* Jesus Christ — the Messiah — will return in power and splendor as King of Kings and Lord of Lords to subdue the rebellious ways of man and establish His Kingdom at last. We know this because we keep His Holy Days. (See I Thes. 4:16-17, Rev. 11:15-19, Rev. 19:11-19, and I Cor. 15:52.)

Filled with *these* great and stirring truths, we further also know that after the conquering Saviour returns, this world will finally know true peace under God.

With Jesus as King, all nations will learn God's

Right — Mechanical muscle places a major supporting steel girder.

Below — Asphalt paver hard at work laying part of the many acres of driveways and parking areas used during the Feast.



We realize the Feast of Tabernacles is a VITAL and urgently necessary function of the life of every true Christian. We want each one to get the *deepest* spiritual and physical benefit from it. That's why we work so hard to plan it, organize it and prepare for it.

We All Have Our Part

But, brethren, we cannot be successful in making the Feast of Tabernacles have a deep spiritual impact on thousands of lives without YOUR help.

God showed us a number of years ago how to provide the facilities and services needed for His people for the Feast.

The Festivals were growing larger!

God's Church was growing!

We outgrew our *one* Festival Tabernacle in Big Sandy, Texas.

We enlarged it.

We outgrew the enlargement in ONE YEAR!

The cost to provide facilities for the Feast began to take on larger and larger proportions. To provide sites and facilities from funds available for preaching



Here a craftsman lays some of the colorful exterior brick work characteristic of all the beautiful Administration buildings at the Feast sites.

way at last. (See Isaiah 2:1-5, Micah 4:1-5 and Isaiah 11:1-9.) The rebellion of man will be subdued.

All nations will have their blindness removed — they will SEE GOD as we do. (See Isaiah 25:6-9.) In this will be fulfilled the meaning of the Day of Atonement (Lev. 23:27) — the Day when all men will be made AT ONE with God.

Then will begin the 1000-year reign of Christ (see Rev. 20:1-7) — the 1000 years God has allotted for the world to see what God can do!!

That will be a world of peace, abundance, happiness and productivity under the reign of the great Saviour Jesus Christ as King.

All of this powerful, poignant, inspiring meaning courses through our consciousness at the Feast of Tabernacles. No wonder 63,000 people truly rejoiced in their attendance and in the culminating purpose they had in being there.

Brethren, as we at Headquarters go through the monumental planning, organization and labor of preparing for the NEXT Feast of Tabernacles — 1970 — the realization of the MEANING to so many people urges us along in our commission.



Ambassador College Photos

Muscle power at work compacting the fill around one of the poured concrete footings.



the Gospel would severely hamper our primary commission.

God showed the way.

Each of us saves a *second tithe* to attend God's Feasts — chiefly the Feast of Tabernacles. A study of the funds available and a long-range projection was made.

It became clear.

If each member would contribute a *tenth* of his or her second tithe to the collective need for Feast facilities, this TITHE OF THE TITHE would provide the facilities and services for the Feast of God's people.

What a blessing this was!

Mount Pocono became our first project. A beautiful site was miraculously shown us by God. Now a magnificent site is completed where 15,000 people will meet this year.

Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri emerged, through God's guiding, as the next site. Another series of miracles led us to acquire almost the ONLY available and properly situated site in the whole area.

Construction began and last year we held our first Feast there with 7,000 in attendance on our own site. This year 12,000 will attend there. Work continues in the Ozarks to complete parking areas, rest rooms and landscaping to make it the beautiful site it will become.

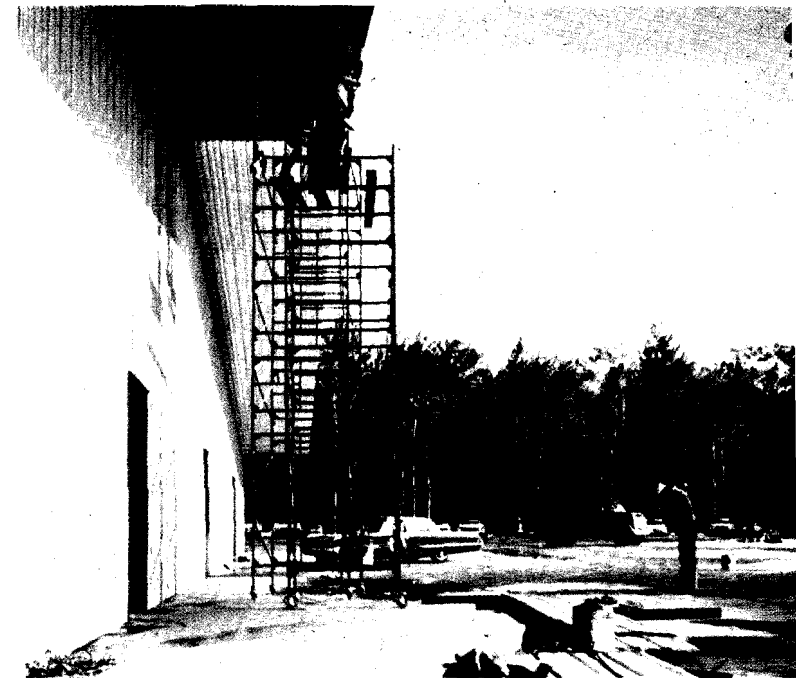
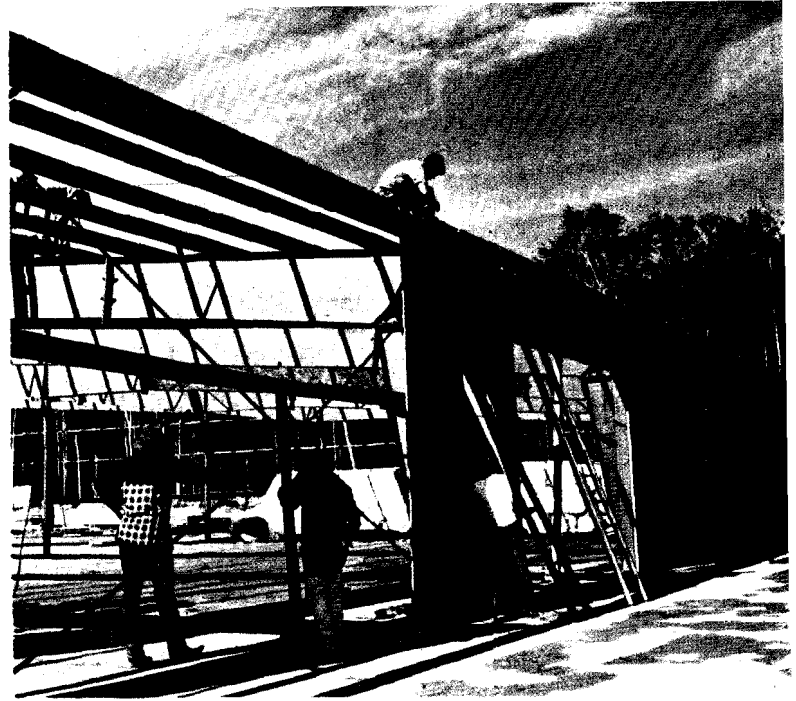
Continued Growth

But, God's Church continues to grow.

Fifty-four thousand attended in 1969. Sixty-four thousand will attend this year. Seventy-seven thousand in 1971 and ninety-two thousand in 1972.

We will just be able to accommodate everyone in the six present sites this year. But in 1971, we must have another site ready — and another in 1972 — another in 1973. And then? Yes, in 1974, TWO SITES IN ONE YEAR.

Two years ago we began looking ahead to 1971. We studied maps, charts and graphs. We then centered



Ambassador College Photos

Left — A workman busy but balanced, makes final inspection before the insulation is installed — just two weeks before the Feast began in the Poconos.

Top right — Sides are quickly completed as men fit each prefinished sheet into place individually.

Center — Building nears completion as construction crew finishes the overhang at the front over the main entrances.

Bottom — Volunteer workers busily laying down sod to add that extra touch of beauty to the Tabernacle grounds — just days before the Feast.

on a 200-mile-diameter circle in mid-northern U. S.

We searched that circle for possible areas with all the unique facilities to provide a Feast.

We found three.

We examined them all.

God again made it plain — the Wisconsin Dells!

Again miraculous events occurred, and we were guided to just the right property in just the right location. It was available, and we bought it.

Now, construction is under way — preparing for the Feast of Tabernacles, 1971.

Organization

Developing these sites and planning the Feasts has taken on larger and larger proportions. Our staff here at Headquarters now works year round. We call upon our own complex IBM computer for help and speed.

In the "Field," we are organizing a development team responsible for the physical construction and development of the sites as they are needed.

Mr. Raymond Cole, who pioneered the Feast site in Mt. Pocono, has now become the vice-president of Feast construction and development of these new sites. His responsibility will be to coordinate and put together the crew and machinery to make these sites a reality under the direction of the Festival Office at Headquarters.

This whole Feast organization has been a remarkable and inspiring evolution under the guidance of God.

A Balance of Supply and Demand

Although the amazing growth figures are staggering to us at Headquarters, there is a built-in balance to this God-led program.

The more members there are, the more facilities are required. But the more members there are, the more tithe of the tithe there is available — IF WE DO OUR PART.

We can take care of ample Feast facilities IF God's brethren KEEP UP THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

Therefore, brethren, read carefully what YOU should do!

Each member saving second tithe should make an estimate NOW of how much total second tithe you will have by the time the Feast comes. Then, take TEN PERCENT of that estimated amount as the amount you will need to send to Headquarters for Feast development.

Just as soon as you have put aside that much, you should send it immediately to Headquarters. Don't wait until later — the work must be done NOW.

All of us should have our TITHE OF THE TITHE available to send by at least the end of February.

For example, if you estimate your second tithe will total \$600.00 by Feast time, then you should send \$60.00 just as soon as you have set aside that much.

If, at the end of the period you have *under-estimated* your second tithe and the total for the year will be more than you estimate, you may send in the 10 percent of the *additional* amount toward the end of the year.

If you find later you have overestimated, you may write and we will refund any overage you may have sent, if you so desire.

Some few of you may have to send in partial amounts from time to time "as you go," because it is impossible to estimate your income for the year.

Brethren, realizing how vital the Feast of Tabernacles is for all of God's people, it should be a *real joy* to have part in such a God-led program. We should do our parts willingly — anxiously.

We are counting on you!

Right now the income from tithe of the tithe has dropped off — right at the time we need it most. We all should be able to send in our estimated amount very soon.

One last thing, brethren.

God has also instructed us not to forget the stranger, and the widow and the fatherless in our plans to attend the Feast of Tabernacles (Deut. 16:11-15).

Each of us should also plan to send in, as we are able and according as God has blessed us, an additional portion of our second tithe to help those to attend, as well.

Many, many who otherwise would miss this most rewarding and inspiring time, are able to attend the Feast, because we do not forget them.

God's way is good— it is the way of outgoing concern.

It is the way of love.

Looking ahead — when we are all standing there at the first service of the Feast of Tabernacles, singing praises to God — we can look around at the facilities *we* have had a part in providing, and at the people we have had a part in helping to be there, with a real deep sense of satisfaction in the part we have played in it all. □

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

*You are in a war! Your eternal life depends on the outcome!
Read in this article what and how to fight.*

by David L. Antion

EVERYBODY likes a fight. No one knows this better than movie producers. That's why nearly every western, spy thriller, or even comedy situation has its *fight* scene. In many cases the picture builds up dramatically to the big fight — the all-out fist fight — where tables, chairs, windows, posts, bottles and nearly every other thing in sight is smashed to pieces.

People love it. But most don't know *why*.

Children love fights. Witness their fighting nature on any playground or school yard.

Even women like fights. Take a look at the front row seats of any boxing or wrestling event. Listen to the high-pitched screams from the audience as *women* fight fans get very involved with their favorite contestant.

A Part of Human Nature

Believe it or not, God made us fighting beings. He put it in man's nature to want to fight and conquer. In fact, *we cannot be happy without fighting and conquering*.

The problem is that most do not *know* WHAT to fight. We fight the wrong things. We want to fight *other people*. We become jealous, envious of others. We quarrel with our mates.

People want to fight all right — but they want to fight other people. And although God made us fighting creatures, He commands us to live in peace.

Notice: God says, "Follow peace with *all men*" (Heb. 12:14). And again He says, "Be at peace *among yourselves*" (1 Thes. 5:13). God admonishes us again, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for *peace*, and things wherewith one may *edify another*" (Romans 14:19).

Not Flesh and Blood

God intends that we fight! But He does not want us to fight other people and *especially* not our own brethren — the other children of God!

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places [margin]" (Eph. 6:10-12).

You have enemies — vicious, clever, murderous enemies. They are spirit beings — demons — who are fighting you on a spiritual front. They are assaulting you — causing doubt, division, discouragement.

Nothing gives the demons more pleasure than to divert your energy and attention from the spiritual fight and to see you get involved in a battle against other brethren. Jealousy, envy, hard feelings greatly please them.

God intends for you to fight — but not on your own strength. You have to take the whole armor of God — He supplies the tools and means for you to battle against the devil and his demons.

The day you were baptized, the enemy — Satan and his demons — set out to kill you spiritually. They are relentless in this pursuit. Therefore God admonishes you to use His armor and to FIGHT!

Here are the weapons of God's warfare. God gives us the truth with which to gird our loins, and righteousness as a breastplate. Our feet are encased with the preparation of the Gospel of peace. And we have a shield to protect us from

the darts of the wicked. That shield is made of faith. Our head is covered with the helmet of salvation — hope for eternal life and our looking forward to entry into God's Kingdom. And one of our most powerful weapons is the sword God has given us. That is the Word of God. Besides all this Christians must pray *for* one another and *help* one another in this all-out struggle for eternal life. See Eph. 6:14-18.

The Second Battle Front

Yes, the devil is our enemy. We have to fight him and the demons. But there is more.

In Romans 12:2 we read, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Notice! Christians are to keep from being conformed to this world. And that's not easy to do!

The society around us — its attitudes, way of doing things, trends, styles, government policies, ideologies, religious and educational philosophies — these are all lumped into one gigantic pressure which the Bible refers to as "this world." The world is like a gigantic press trying to squeeze us, conform us — into its patterns.

Christians are told, "Come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4).

There is only one way for you to keep from being crushed and conformed by this world. You have to fight it! The world never ceases to pressure you into the wrong way. It reaches out for you — constantly putting pressure on you — through the media of television, radio, advertisements, books and magazines, and associations with other

people. And the world is reaching out to grab your children. You need to fight for your family as well as for your own life!

There is a war going on — a war in which you can be made a slave. If you don't fight, you will not win.

The Third Battle Front

You not only have to fight the devil and his demons and to fight to resist the pulls and pressures of this world, you also have to fight another very powerful and insidious enemy. That enemy is your own human nature.

Here's how the Apostle Paul describes this war. "I find then a law [a working principle], that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, *warring against the law of my mind*, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:21-23).

There is a war going on inside every Christian. A fight against human nature! Human nature resists you in your efforts to do good. It is a pull in the opposite direction — trying to pull you into the way of sin — warring against you!

Paul further explains this battle in Galatians 5:17. "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these [two] are *contrary* the one to the other: so that you cannot [it is difficult to] do the things that ye would."

When you were converted, you received the Holy Spirit of God. That spirit imparted to you the divine nature of God. But you are still flesh. You are human. You are filled with the nature of man — human nature. The spirit and the flesh are contrary — enmity is constantly present. There is an antagonism between the things of God and the things of the flesh. They actually thrust themselves one against the other.

In other words, there is a constant war going on — human nature *pulling on you* trying to maintain your bondage to sin — and the divine nature leading — showing the way through the Laws of God.

YOU MUST FIGHT YOUR HUMAN NATURE! YOU MUST RESIST THE PULLS OF THE FLESH! And it is a battle!

The Principles of Warfare

The day you were baptized you were drafted into a war — a spiritual war. On that day God made available to you the equipment with which to fight on the three battle fronts — the demons, the world, and your human nature.

But it is difficult for us to recognize that we are *truly* in a war. And we fail to conduct ourselves like the Christian soldiers we should be.

God gives important principles for soldiers. Notice. "Thou therefore *endure hardness*, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3).

Here is one of the first principles a soldier must learn. He must be willing to "endure hardness." Look at our men in Vietnam. They have to be willing to slosh through mud, endure jungle heat, fight insects and jungle rot, and put up with uncomfortable sleeping conditions and canned food.

What if a soldier had this attitude? "I'll fight for my country if I can have my three hot meals a day, box spring and mattress, warm fire and stuffed easy chair at night. And I don't mind the shooting as long as it's not in the rain or under muddy conditions. And, I can't stand blood, *nor can I afford to miss my favorite TV programs on Sunday night!*"

Well, such statements are laughable when you think of them coming from a soldier. But what about yourself? Are you willing to endure hardness?

Or do you say, "I'm willing to be a Christian as long as everything goes all right?"

As a soldier of Jesus Christ you must be willing to endure hardness — go through trials — and still keep fighting the enemy. You must recognize that there will be obstacles to hurdle, problems to overcome. But you are made for this! And with God's help you *can conquer!*

Notice another principle in warfare. "NO MAN THAT WARRETH ENTANGLETH HIMSELF WITH THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier" (II Tim. 2:4).

In World War II both the Germans and the Japanese realized the importance of this principle of warfare. Thus the Germans used Axis Sally and the

Japanese used Tokyo Rose to cause American soldiers to violate this cardinal principle of war.

Here's how it worked. Tokyo Rose would broadcast over frequencies readily available to American troops. She would play American music — the kind that GIs liked to listen to. She would talk in her soft, sexy voice to the GIs themselves. Sometimes she had factual information and other times she made up names and places. Her object was to get the minds of the American fighting men onto their problems back home.

To do this she sought to bring about doubts in their minds as to the fidelity of their wives and sweethearts. She would say things like this: "Why should you soldiers be fighting out here for a lost cause? Why should you have to go through all this suffering while other men back home are taking your wife out to dinner and dancing? Hey, Bill, do you know who's dating your girl now? And Johnny, your wife has seen your best friend for the last three nights."

Many of the soldiers just laughed at the statements by Tokyo Rose and Axis Sally. But a good number were actually affected. They got to thinking about the last letter they received from their wife or sweetheart. They began to entangle themselves with the affairs of this life — the problems back home. And the next day on the battlefield their attention was not totally on the war. As a consequence many were killed or wounded.

Since the devil knows this principle of warfare, it is his purpose to see to it that we become concerned with the affairs of this life. He would like to see us bog down — get our minds on our finances, our relatives, gossip in the local congregation, our little problems, and to relax in this fight for eternal life.

WE CAN'T GET OUR MINDS OFF THE WARFARE AND ONTO THE AFFAIRS OF THIS LIFE, OR WE WILL SURELY BE KILLED!

Reward Goes to the Winners

In God's Church we hear a lot about overcoming. But do we get the real meaning of this term?

Both the Greek word used in the

New Testament writings and the English word "overcome" mean "to conquer."

Now notice Jesus Christ's statement in Revelation 2:26. "And he that overcometh [conquers, subdues], and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations."

Who gets power over the nations? Who will rule with Christ in His Kingdom? Who receives the prize? Does it go to the losers?

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame [conquered], and am set down with my Father in His throne" (Rev. 3:21). Who gets to sit with Christ on His throne? To whom does this reward go? It goes to the conquerors — the ones who win in this warfare.

Have you ever seen a boxing match, wrestling match, football game, basketball game or other sporting event where the cup or prize or crown went to the loser? *Losers just don't win!*

And if we lose in this fight, it will mean that we *have been* conquered.

Christ makes this statement in Revelation 21:7. "He that overcometh [conquers, wins] shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Notice the prize! To the conquerors goes the grand prize — inheritance of all things. It is a joint inheritance with Jesus Christ, who is the Great Conqueror!

Jesus Christ was the greatest warrior that ever lived. He met the devil on a spiritual battle front unparalleled in history. He conquered. He went up against His own human nature time and again and came out the victor. He resisted this world — fighting against its pressures all of His life. He was victorious!

But He did none of these things on His own strength. He Himself said that by Himself and of Himself, He could do nothing (John 5:30.) He knew that He had to have God's instruments of warfare and God's help. This same help is available to you and me. But we must recognize we are in a war. We must recognize it is a *fight* for eternal life! And the reward goes to the winners. Losers get nothing.

Men of God — Great Warriors

Today our battle front is on a spiritual plane as described above. But it is interesting to note that all of God's great men were warriors. Some of them were fighters on a physical plane, but they also had to fight the spiritual fight of faith.

Joshua had to fight his way into the Land of Canaan. David had to fight in order to preserve his kingdom. Samson fought. Jephthah fought. Even Abraham was a fighter (Gen. 14).

But God has called *us* not to fight other human beings, but to fight the spiritual fight of faith.

And how do we get into God's Kingdom? Do we fall in? Do we slide in?

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence [margin: is gotten by force], and the violent take it by force [or, it is gotten by men of driving force]" (Matt. 11:12).

Here is the comment from the *Expository Dictionary* on this verse. "Those who are possessed of eagerness and zeal, instead of giving up to the opposition, press their way into the kingdom." It is a fight, a press, a driving effort to get into God's Kingdom! [It might be of interest to note here, that *Herbert* means *warrior* — therefore *Mr. Herbert Armstrong* could just as well be called *strong-armed warrior!*]

God made man to conquer. Even a noted psychologist understands this about human nature. He said, "We are engineered as goal-seeking mechanisms. We are built that way. When we have no personal goal that means something to us, we are apt to find life itself purposeless. We are built to conquer environment, solve problems and achieve goals and we find no real happiness or satisfaction in life without this. People who say that life is not worthwhile are really saying that they themselves have no personal goals that are worthwhile."

How true! Man loves things that are challenging — things he must overcome. Notice sports. Would people go hunting if all animals were tame? Would golfing be interesting if every swing were a hole-in-one? No, we are attracted by the adventure of accomplishment — the adventure of overcoming.

Right or Wrong You Will Fight

Man has a fighting nature. He will fight something. And if a person is not fighting the right things, he ends up fighting other people.

Take, for example, people who are lonely and have no hobbies or outside interests. What do they do? In most cases they end up minding other peoples' business, causing problems through gossip and envy. Since they have no other worthwhile goals, they turn inward and want to fight their fellowman. There are millions of such unhappy souls in this world. Their human nature cries out for something to conquer. But they don't know what to fight.

What about you? You are designed to conquer and overcome. You must win against your human nature! You are pitted against the devil and his demons and you must come out the victor! The world is pressing you — trying to conform you to its patterns — and you must resist!

Be driving, intense, and forceful when it comes to overcoming these obstacles! But be loving, kind, and patient *with other people*.

Notice Paul's statement shortly before his death. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to *me only*, but unto all them also that love His appearing" (II Tim. 4:6-8).

Paul described his life as a Christian as a fight. He did not say, "I have lived a good life." He said, "I have fought a good fight."

He had won. He had conquered. And he knew there was a crown in store for him as well as for all others who fight the good fight and keep the faith.

Brethren, can we realize we are in a fight for Eternal Life? Can we get rid of the lethargy that is characteristic of our times? Can we see the goal before us?

Here is God's admonition to you. "FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH, LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE" (I Tim. 6:12). □

AN EXTRA BLESSING!

Could you be missing out on one of God's Promises? Find out in this article!

by Frank Brown

WORLDWIDE, if a survey were to be taken right now, God's people would undoubtedly count themselves as *THE most blessed* people on the face of the earth! And rightly so! God has revealed to His people His laws concerning such things as *child rearing, marriage, diet and finances*. As a direct result of His people obeying these laws, God promises happiness and blessings in this life as well as a reward in the future wonderful world tomorrow.

God's Law, which is spiritual in its understanding and application, brings with it tremendous *physical* blessings to all who understand and obey it. It is the only way real, lasting blessings can come, as many of you reading this right now would willingly testify.

But is it possible that *you* may be missing out on an *extra* added blessing?

Do you know that GOD PROMISES SPECIAL BLESSINGS WHICH ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO ALL His people *all* the time? Do you know that there is a group of people in God's Church *right now* who are experiencing blessings that the majority of us CANNOT have at this moment no matter how hard we may try?

No, God is not a respecter of persons. The people receiving this *extra special blessing* consists of those in their *third tithe year!* This is the matchless *privilege* that comes only to God's people just once every three years, and only *twice* in a seven-year cycle! Those who keep this commandment faithfully are accorded a *special* blessing that those who are not keeping it at the same time CANNOT have!! That's right, *only twice* in seven years does this opportunity present itself! You need to understand more fully how to gain this extra blessing so that it doesn't pass *you*

by unawares, or you miss out on it for lack of faith!

God's Attitude

As the Bible abundantly testifies, God is gravely concerned with the circumstances of the helpless of this world. Not only those who are "poor in spirit," meaning humble and submissive, but also those who lack this world's goods due to circumstances beyond their control. Take a concordance and check out the number of times the words "poor," "needy" and "widow" appear. You may be surprised! The right regard for the poor and needy is a great part of a society governed by God's Law, and this is especially true concerning the welfare of a much-neglected group — the widow, the fatherless and the stranger.

But like everything that GOD is deeply concerned about, man seems to have made a supreme hash of this problem. The way mankind has handled the problems of the widow and orphan throughout history is one of the reasons why God is so angry at this world!

Notice what He says through the prophet Amos, and then apply what is written to today's society: "Forasmuch therefore as your treading is upon the poor, and ye take from him burdens of wheat: ye have built houses of hewn stone, but ye shall not dwell in them; ye have planted pleasant vineyards, but ye shall not drink wine of them. For I know your manifold transgressions, and your mighty sins: they afflict the just, they take a bribe, and they turn aside the poor in the gate from their right" (Amos 5:11-12).

Doesn't this exactly fit today's society? Aren't the poor, especially the widows and fatherless, really neglected? Most of us have learned from bitter

experience that it takes *money* in this world to enjoy a decent, balanced diet. To live in a nice house. To enjoy the finer things of life. And yet the *poor* of the world, especially the elderly, the widowed or sick, *cannot* enjoy these things, and many are grudgingly given a miserable pittance from the government on which to eke out an existence when they have outlived their usefulness to society! Cast off like an old pair of shoes!

Yes, God is *very angry* at a nation which has not learned to properly take care of this segment of its society. So very often the widow has to lead a life of fear and worry, frustration and anxiety, hopelessness and sorrow, all *because of circumstances* beyond her control. Does this sound like the way GOD WOULD HAVE IT? OF COURSE NOT!

A Better Way!

There is a better way! Like everything else pertaining to this life, God has provided for every contingency! He has provided a *better way to live!* God has His own "Social Security" for widows and orphans that is *just* and *equitable*. It allows for a person in these straitened circumstances to lead a life unencumbered with huge financial burdens and problems. A widow or orphan in grief and loneliness should not *have* to worry about such things!

Let's read about *God's Way* in more detail in Deuteronomy 14, verse 28:

"At the *end of three years* thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase *the same year* and shalt lay it up *within thy gates*: and the *Levite* (because he hath no part or inheritance with thee,) and the *stranger*, and the *fatherless*, and the *widow*, which are *within thy gates*, shall come, and shall

eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy GOD may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest."

The Bible shows that the *first* tenth of your income is for the Levite TO DO THE WORK of carrying out the first commission in taking the Gospel to the world! (Numbers 18:20-21 and Matthew 28:19-20.) The *second* tithe is to be used by you in order to attend the Feast of Tabernacles each year (Deuteronomy 14:22-27), while the *third* additional tithe, payable only every *third* year, is for the support of the widowed, the stranger, the fatherless, and for the incidental needs of the Levite. The Levite, or present-day ministry, is supported almost entirely from your first tithes; but any *additional* help that is sometimes needed comes from third tithe in order to not burden the operation of the first commission. *Some areas* of ministerial support, however, come almost *entirely* from the third tithe fund! This is God's Way of providing for those in need. It is *fair*. It is equitable. It is *not* spent for anything except as defined by God's Word!

This third tithe fund, as it is called, is maintained at God's Headquarters and is distributed on a regular monthly basis to all those in this category who are needy and have no other form of support. It is also used for emergency purposes, on a one-time assistance basis, by those who are qualified according to the Bible definition.

Brethren, you will undoubtedly be surprised to learn that over *one million dollars* will be distributed during 1970 alone for the benefit of the fatherless, stranger and widow! Several thousand people, including many fatherless families, are supported out of this fund on a regular basis, just in the way that God ordained! It is truly a blessing to be able to contribute to the well-being of so many people and KNOW that it is doing the greatest possible good! There are no spongers or malingerers taking advantage of a huge expensive bureaucracy! All those who benefit are genuinely in need.

At this point it might be as well to clear up a possible misconception about third tithe. Some few are of the impression that it is a SHAME to receive third

tithe help, as if it were "*welfare*" or unemployment money. *Nothing* could be further from the truth! It is a part of God's way of providing for those among His people who are widowed or deprived in some way and cannot support themselves. Third tithe help does *not* go to the lazy, idle, shiftless or able-bodied who are perfectly capable of working. Some few have refused help *offered* from third tithe because they "have never taken charity" or feel that they do not want to "burden the Church." The *motive* may be commendable, but please do *not* feel too proud to be helped! God in Heaven *wants* to help those who are genuinely in need and qualify. Your refusal may hurt others in your family, so please do not take it lightly. Incidentally, should you feel that you are in the category outlined in Deuteronomy 14:28-29 and *are* in need, please counsel with your local minister about it. It may be that *you* can be helped from third tithe, and receive a blessing from God.

Blessings Are Real!

Here in the Business Office in Pasadena, we receive many letters from widows and elderly people thanking God for His help, many of which are very moving in their thanks. Here is one, for example, from a lady in Sacramento:

"I have just received my first 3rd tithe assistance check. I'm overwhelmed with love and gratitude for God's right way. The Bible is filled with evidence of God's love and concern for widows. I'm so thankful that God saw fit to call me to know His wonderful truths. My life is filled with examples of the miracles He works in caring for widows. Now I can stay at home with my little girl and serve in the Church instead of having to be a 'working mother.' Thank you so much."

Mary D.,
Sacramento, California

Many more are received exhibiting the same feelings. This kind of fruit alone shows that it is GOD's way, and we really appreciate these acknowledgments of God's generosity.

But a strange thing has happened! Believe it or not, letters outlining the blessings that come when *paying* third tithe outnumber those *receiving* it by *ten* or even *twenty* to one. God's Word is *GOOD!* He keeps His promise!!

Remember what He said the *purpose* of these tithing laws is in Deuteronomy 14 at the end of verse 29? "... That the Lord GOD may bless thee in all the work of thy hand which thou doest." Look at the following remarkable letter from a member in Maryland:

May 4, 1969

H. W. Armstrong
Box 111
Pasadena, California 91109

Dear Mr. Armstrong,

After the Feast of Tabernacles in 1967 we began our first 3rd tithe year. We had heard of the tremendous blessings of God to others who had given the third tithe, but like many other things in life the actual experience brings first-hand knowledge much more precious than word of mouth.

We went into God's third tithe year expecting to be blessed — thoroughly convinced of God's perfect way. We decided in advance to record our blessings so that others might witness the absolute reliability of God.

The attached sheet records the physical blessings bestowed upon us — recorded as they came. So bountiful is God's kindness so as to be almost unbelievable. He truly opened the windows of heaven.

Boy's jacket and boy's coat
Source of raw milk (extremely rich) (not able to get before)
1 pr. lady's shoes
1 man's jacket
1 pr. boy's boots
2 prs. boy's bedroom slippers (new)
1 pr. lady's shoes
4 sets of boy's underwear (new)
4 prs. boy's pants (new)
4 boy's shirts (new)
2 boy's jackets (new)
1 lady's dress
Job reevaluation — raise of about \$6.00 per week. (Boss said I benefited more than anyone.)
\$12.00 (for boys)
Fifth of brandy
1 TV set (used)
\$10.00 (for boys)
\$10.00
1 pr. lady's hose
1 pr. lady's eyeglass frames
2 men's cologne
\$6.00 (for boys)
Eye-roust of beef
\$10.00 (for boys)
Large bag of apples
Milk — 1/2 gallon
Typewriter for boys (used)
6' rule (found)
2 prs. lady's gloves
2 lady's pocketbooks
4 lady's sweaters
5 lady's aprons
1 lady's duster
2 necklaces and earring sets
10 lady's blouses
8 lady's dresses
1 lady's nightgown
2 prs. lady's shoes
1 pr. man's trousers
1 man's sport shirt
1 muffin tin
3 prs. boy's pants (new)
7 boy's sport shirts (new)
7 prs. boy's pajamas (new)
8 boy's undershirts
1 boy's bathrobe
3 boy's sport shirts (new)
1 pr. boy's undershorts (new)
3 prs. boy's socks
Milk — 1 gallon
1 boy's sweat shirt
7 lady's dresses
1 lady's playsuit
\$10.00 (for boys)
3 dozen eggs
8 lady's skirts
1 lady's suit

Apples and grapefruit, approx. 12
 Fresh eggs (unable to get before)
 5 lbs. raw sugar
 2 boy's flannel shirts
 \$12.00 (for boys)
 2 bedspreads
 1 cream pitcher
 Butter — 1 lb.
 10 boxes frozen vegetables — assorted
 4 large bags frozen peas
 6 men's undershirts
 6 prs. lady's underwear
 8 drinking glasses
 1 large bread mixing bowl
 \$15.00 (for boys)
 Bananas and fruit — approx. 24
 2 beef steaks — 1 eye-roast
 Set of measuring spoons
 TV repair cost
 Tickets to a dinner/dance
 \$10.50 (for boys)
 Deodorants (2) and home permanent
 2 prs. boy's dungarees (new)
 2 lady's bras (new)
 Sausage — 1 lb.
 1 can Bakon yeast
 Butter — 1 lb.
 2 prs. boy's shoes (new)
 2 boy's suits (new)
 3 boy's shirts (new)
 4 prs. lady's shoes
 2 lady's skirts
 1 lady's blouse
 1 lady's coat
 2½ lbs. ground round beef
 Facial soap (6 bars)
 2 eye-roasts
 1 bag (4 lbs.) apples
 2 prs. draperies
 2 prs. lady's bedroom slippers
 Ice cream — ½ gallon
 Tube toothpaste
 2 man's shirts
 1 boy's shirt
 2 prs. boy's socks
 6 prs. man's slacks
 1 man's suit
 4 prs. men's socks
 3 man's sport jackets
 20 lbs. sugar
 3 boy's shirts
 1 lady's blouse
 1 lady's duster
 \$10.60 (for boys)
 1 pr. boy's dungarees (new)
 1 pr. boy's tennis shoes (new)
 8 man's shirts
 1 pr. man's pajamas
 4 oz. vanilla extract
 Ice cream — ½ gallon
 \$2.00 (for boys)
 1 man's raincoat
 Tablecloth (new)
 30 potted tomato plants
 TV set (new)
 Tent
 1 man's jacket
 1 man's shirt
 1 pr. man's socks
 Tea bags (60)
 1 lady's dress
 1 lady's raincoat
 2 boy's shirts
 4 quarts strawberries (fresh)
 \$10.00 (for boys)
 10 prs. lady's underwear
 2 prs. lady's stockings
 Tomato plants, approx. 20
 \$7.00 (for boys)
 Fry pan
 Hamburger rolls (8)
 Plastic tub
 Orange juice, 2 frozen
 \$2.50 (for boys)
 1 lady's wallet (new)
 6 prs. boy's shorts and pants
 4 boy's shirts
 1 boy's knit jacket
 1 pr. boy's socks
 1 boy's shirt and pair clam diggers
 2 lady's scarves
 Planter
 Flour — 36 lbs.
 Tomatoes — 6 quarts
 Cherries — 6 gallons
 Braunschweiger — 1 lb.
 Snacks, cheese twists and other
 Pancake flour — 1 lb. box
 Maple syrup — 1 quart
 Pen and pencil set
 Fruit — assorted, approx. 12 pieces
 \$3.00 (for boys)
 Bike — 26" boy's (new)
 2 prs. lady's shoes
 1 lady's pocketbook
 1 man's shirt
 1 pr. boy's pants and 1 pr. boy's shorts
 1 jar peanut butter
 5 tomatoes
 Freezer — 21 cu. ft. \$300.00 (new)
 Tomatoes, beets, apples, cucumbers, lettuce,
 squash

4 bushels of peaches, apples, blueberries,
 elderberries
 6 prs. pillow cases (new)
 3 dish towels
 Plastic freezer containers — approx. 1 doz.
 Ice cream — ½ gallon
 1 cherry pie
 3 kitchen cabinets — wall type
 Soap — 6 bars
 \$4.00 (for boys)
 1 pr. sunglasses
 2 lady's blouses
 3 man's ties
 Eggs — 1 doz.
 Fifth cherry wine
 24 plastic containers for freezing
 2 bushels apples
 3 prs. boy's pants (new)
 1 boy's shirt (new)
 2 prs. boy's shoes (new)
 6 prs. boy's socks (new)
 3 prs. boy's pants (new)
 1 boy's shirt (new)
 1 pr. boy's shoes (new)
 5 prs. boy's socks (new)
 \$30.46 (for boys)
 Raisins (1 lb.)
 Trip to Luray, Va. — gas, caverns
 and dinner for family
 3 prs. boy's pants
 3 man's suits
 5 jars pickles and relishes
 Milk — 1 gallon

These physical things, good as they are, will perish with the using, but the faith, gratefulness — the spiritual imprint that God made in our characters during the 3rd tithe year are everlasting. We came out of that year physically and spiritually better off than ever before.

Thank you and the Church of God for bringing God's precious truth to us.

J.W.D., Jr.,
 Cockeysville, Md.

Now open your Bible and read God's promise in Malachi 3:10! An exact fulfillment of a promise to a faithful tithe-payer! This man's third-tithe year was more prosperous than he had ever dreamed! Here is another letter from another member (coincidentally!) in Maryland!

"During this third-tithe year I received salary increases in the amount of \$1,397.00. In addition I was permitted to work overtime and earn an unexpected \$500.00 more. As if this was not enough, I had no need for automobile or appliance repair services during the year because all the mechanical equipment God has entrusted to my care operated perfectly. To me, all of the above happenings are miracles. I say this because about thirteen months ago I added up my expected income for the year and compared this with expected expenses, and the comparison showed the income would not cover the expenses. Please accept my deep appreciation for your part in causing me to hear of God's good and uncomparable way of life."

Arnold B.,
 Catonsville, Maryland

Faith Is Necessary

Brethren, God's Blessings are real and tangible, and these letters are taken from many, many hundreds received here!

Of course, these rewards are also

spiritual because it takes FAITH to obey God, and it seems that obedience in financial matters is *so much harder* than almost anything else. The reason? Because in money matters it is so easy to look at the *physical*. We know what the paycheck will be at the end of the week. We KNOW what debts have to be paid. We KNOW (absolutely!) that we won't have a raise for at least nine months. "And my wife is pregnant... and little Johnny needs new shoes... and the car is due for a transmission check... and my teeth need fixing... and I have only one good suit..." etc. This type of reasoning is easy enough to see and become desperately worried about, especially at the beginning of a third-tithe year. It's so easy to count money. It doesn't take *faith* to balance a checkbook. But tithing *does* take FAITH! A great deal of it! And it must be continual!

The Bible says "without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6). If we want to please God, we should be *exercising* faith diligently, daily, continually. And keeping third tithe is certainly a very good exercise of faith.

"It's hard to believe, but even though this is our third tithe year, we are being so blessed by God that we actually have money left over that we never had before. It used to be that we were a few days behind on the rent each month if my check didn't fall on the first of the month. Now when the rent is paid I almost have enough to pay it again and this reserve is growing. Another thing is that I am now saving a Holy Day Offering a little per week as well as putting back entertainment and clothing money."

John R. C.,
 Rowland Heights, California

Now there's an exercise of *living* faith — and that person has money in the bank to prove it! To say nothing of the spiritual treasure being stored in heaven as a result of faithful obedience (Matthew 6:19-21).

Being faithful with third tithe also has another benefit, aside from those mentioned above. Notice I John 3:17-18: "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children,

(Continued on page 19)

MAKE Your Bible Study INTERESTING!

Have you ever gone to sleep while studying the Bible? Do you have to force yourself to "get in" your Bible study each day? Does "studying by the clock" sound all too familiar? Perhaps you even find yourself neglecting study altogether? These are very common errors — and it's time to learn the way out of them.

by Ronald L. Dart

IT JUST doesn't seem possible for baptized members of God's Church to get bored with Bible study! Nevertheless, they do. *You do.* You won't want to admit it, but it has no doubt happened to you.

Yet you can recall when the Bible was fascinating. You couldn't wait to begin studying and learning from it each day. But that was back when you were in your first love. Remember?

You sat down to do a half hour of study on the *Correspondence Course* and found that two hours had passed before you knew it. A new PLAIN TRUTH magazine arrived in the mail and you were unable to put it down until you had read the whole issue. You had been challenged by Mr. Armstrong to "prove all things," and you did search the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so.

Yes, back then you had a powerful motivation for studying the Bible. You suddenly realized that the Bible didn't say what you always assumed that it said. You wanted to find *truth*. You wanted to find out whether Mr. Armstrong was right or not. You wanted to find God's True Church! And you did.

Is Your Goal Reached?

God has led you to His Truth. You know that *this* is God's True Church.

So now that motivation is gone.

And nothing has come along to replace it. As a result, *far* too many of you have lost your once-vibrant sense of purpose — and consequently Bible

study has little attraction for you any more.

Your sole motivation may now be the *crutch* that "the ministers say so." If the minister says we must study "at least one-half hour each day" to make it into God's Kingdom, then out comes the stopwatch and we are set for precisely thirty minutes. Some seem to think it is the *thirty minutes* that prepare us for God's Kingdom rather than the Bible study!

If thirty minutes of Bible study a day is your goal, it's no wonder you aren't getting anywhere. When you have "put in" *your* thirty minutes, you have "served your time" and you have reached your goal. You feel totally satisfied, don't you? Sorry — you have accomplished *nothing*.

Why do you study the Bible? What is your goal? Where are you going? If you have a *goal*, then thirty minutes of Bible study will find you thirty minutes closer to that goal. Furthermore, you'll eagerly await your *next* opportunity to get *still closer*, because that goal will always be there drawing you on. Bible study will once again become interesting, scintillating and invigorating — and once again two hours will pass before your "thirty minutes" are "up." But if you don't know where you are going, how can you ever hope to get there?

You can't. And that's why this article was written: 1) to help you know where to go, and 2), to help you get there.

Let's organize this crucial instruction

by asking and then answering two fundamental questions:

1) *WHY* should you study the Bible?

2) *HOW* can you make Bible study interesting?

WHY STUDY? — To Gain the Abundant Life

Even a carnal mind can be highly motivated to study the Bible. Why? Because the carnal mind wants to be successful, happy, healthy, wealthy and wise. Consequently, many great men of *this* world have made Bible reading a regular habit. They came to realize that the Bible is *the* book that understands man, describes him, and tells him how to live.

Read what some of these men have had to say about the Bible:

George Washington: "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

W. E. Gladstone: "I have known ninety-five of the world's great men in my time, and of these, eighty-seven were followers of the Bible. The Bible is stamped with a specialty of origin, and an immeasurable distance separates it from all competitors."

Daniel Webster: "If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the scriptures. If we abide by the principles taught by the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper: but if we and our posterity neglect its instruc-

tions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." *Hulley's Bible Handbook*, pages 18 and 19.)

Are you tired of being poor? The Bible tells you the cause and the cure for poverty. Do you want to be a success? The Bible helps you to understand what success really is and tells you how to achieve it.

Take for example the book of Proverbs. Why was it written? "To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; to receive the instruction of *wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity*; to give *subtlety* to the simple, to the young man *knowledge and discretion*. A wise man will hear, and will increase *learning*; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels" (Prov. 1:2-5).

Who can live an abundant life without wisdom and instruction? Who can prosper in business without justice, judgment, equity, and subtlety in all his dealings? Anyone should jump at the chance to learn such things.

The way to riches and honor and life is contained in the Bible — therefore, "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life" (Prov. 4:13). *Even carnally*, if we want to live to the full, we can't afford to neglect the Bible. How much more does this apply for our *spiritual* needs and goals?

WHY STUDY? — To Do God's Work as a TEAM

What should our *main* motivation for Bible study be? The obvious answer to this question is *wrong*. Most of the members of God's Church would immediately and confidently state that "we must study the Bible so that we can maintain our own spiritual growth and thereby qualify to be born into God's Family." Of course this reason is absolutely true — but it *should not* be, indeed it *must not* be, our *primary* reason for Bible study!

To the Apostle Paul, his own salvation was his *second* most important goal — yes, his *SECOND*.

What was first? Paul tells us in the ninth chapter of Romans. Now he knew

that even *converted* minds were not going to believe what he was about to say. So he begins in chapter 9 with a three-fold declaration of his whole-hearted sincerity: "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart" (Rom. 9:1-2).

"For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: who are Israelites" (verses 3-4).

In Paul's mind — as incredulous as it does sound — *even his own personal salvation* was subordinated to the worldwide salvation of the whole nation of Israel. In other words, Paul realized that *the Work of God* was more important than *anything* else. His own life — even his own *eternal* life — could not come ahead of God's Work.

Do you catch the awesome significance of Paul's emotionally powerful statement? *God's Work is more important than individual salvation!* That's heresy to worldly "Christianity" — but God inspired it, Paul wrote it, and we preach it.

The collective experience of all of God's ministers *today* verifies and confirms this living law. Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong himself continuously emphasizes this point:

Those people who are more interested in their own personal salvation than in the worldwide Work of God eventually (and invariably) fall by the wayside. On the other hand, all those who put their whole hearts into the Work are always rewarded with enormous personal growth.

Now we know that *the Church* is the instrument that God is using to do His worldwide Work. But the Church is composed of *individual members*. And if those individual members are spiritually weak, then obviously the Church must likewise be spiritually weak to that same degree. Conversely, as its members *grow* in strength, so the Church *multiplies* in strength — and consequently God's Church becomes the vigorous organic unit which generates the electrifying dedication absolutely necessary to fulfill the gigantic commission which Christ has given to His Body.

All of us must come to realize how intimately we are involved in God's Work. Not because we say so. But because the Eternal Creator of the entire universe has given every member of His Church *personal* responsibilities and *detailed* assignments — all of which are specifically tailored for us as individually distinct, begotten sons of God.

And *Bible study* is one of our "personal responsibilities" and one of our "detailed assignments."

"Oh well," some of you are probably now thinking, "that's encouraging all right, but *my* Bible study is not helping anybody. I'm never going to be a minister; I'm never going to teach."

Wrong — on *all* points!

You have got to learn to think BIG. God thinks on unfathomable levels of immensity. And you're practicing to *be* God. So force your mind to expand beyond the confinement of your "four walls." Meditate — and pray that God inspires it.

You must come to realize that Bible study by the members of God's Church is what builds a strong Church. And a strong Church is essential to do God's Work. So, as an irreplaceable component of God's Body, *you must do your part*.

Picture yourself 10 to 15 years from now. You will be God — and you *will be* ministering, and you *will be* teaching. You're being groomed for that job at this very moment.

Because of *your* unique background, occupation and experiences, you are the best-equipped human being in the world to deal with thousands and perhaps tens of thousands of similar human beings. Think about it. If you are a farmer, factory worker, civil service employee, housewife or high school student, *your personal Bible study today* is God's method of training and preparing you to be the counselor, the instructor, and the minister for these thousands and tens of thousands soon to be sitting in *your* congregations in the world tomorrow.

WHY STUDY? — To Do God's Work Personally

For some strange reason, many have assumed that "the Work" is purely the

responsibility of the ministry. Not so! Very clearly in the Bible, the Work is shown to be the Work of the *Church* — and that includes every individual in it.

The primary purpose of God's Work is to give today's wretched world the good news of tomorrow's wonderful world. And *you* are intimately involved — not only as a member of the TEAM (as we stressed in the previous section) but also as a distinct individual.

How many people do you know — from high school, on your job, in your community, from travel, among relatives, neighbors, friends, associates, acquaintances, and on and on? Many *hundreds* of people to be sure. Taking an average of 250 personal associations apiece for the brethren in God's Church, we find that a personal witness is going out to many millions of people!

In Matthew 5:14-16 Christ said: "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill *cannot be hid*. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Now you can't *hear* light. You can only see it. We have often used this passage to help Church members who have been prone to "preach" to unconverted relatives. Some of us seem to like nothing better than a good religious argument, and so we take the light that Christ has given us and we shine it like a glaring spotlight directly into somebody else's eyes. That is *not* what Christ wants.

But neither does He want us to remain hidden. Notice that this city — which was put on a hill — *cannot be hid*. No matter how quietly we go about obeying God, we are going to be *seen* sooner or later — and that's good, because Christ *wants* us to be seen.

And when we are discovered, people are going to start asking questions. What are you going to say when they do? Does Christ command us to refuse to answer? Did He ever order His followers to become defensive and clam up, or to mutter something about what "my minister says"?

Read the answer in I Peter 3:15: "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."

The time is soon coming when *you* are going to be called upon to give an answer concerning *your* faith. You may have to answer to a court of law, an unconverted relative, a hostile employer, a curious neighbor, or an interested friend.

But be careful! You might unnecessarily involve yourself or others in a court case, further antagonize a relative, lose your job, create a neighborhood feud, or cause your interested friend to lose interest.

There seems to be a peculiar perversity of human nature which compels us to go to one of two extremes. We either preach to, argue with, and antagonize people, or else we become automatons that do everything because "my Church teaches it" and we won't answer anything for anybody.

You say your beliefs come from the Bible. But if someone challenges you on something you believe, it sounds awfully weak to say "It's in ah — the Bible ah — *somewhere*." You need to be able to tell them not only *what* the Bible says, but *where* it says it. To do this, you are going to have to do some studying. As Paul wrote Timothy, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

This is *not* to say that you are to preach to your friends and relatives. Normally, the less said the better. But if you are prepared, God may use you to help someone to a knowledge of the truth.

I would not have come into God's Church as quickly as I did if it had not been for a member of the Church who answered my questions as I asked them. He never tried to "argue religion" with me. I had to drag some of the answers from him — but he had them, and he knew where they were found in the Bible.

I might not have come into the Church *at all* if he had been unprepared!

WHY STUDY? — To Grow Spiritually

The obvious purpose of Bible study is to maintain and accelerate our own spiritual growth. Remember, it must *not* be our primary motivation — but it is important. Without this personal spiritual growth, the greatest goal of a Christian — to be born into God's Kingdom — can never be realized. Bible study provides the food to stimulate that growth.

Over and over again in the Bible, God compares physical food with spiritual food. In I Peter 2:2 we read: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Without the physical milk, a newborn babe would show abnormal skeletal development. The same thing is true in the spiritual realm. Too many members of God's Church are living with a case of spiritual rickets — they are undernourished.

As we grow in the Church, we should progress from the milk of the word to *strong meat*. As Christ said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

We who have been begotten by God's Spirit must now mature unto the stature of the fullness of Christ. We must now come to have the mind of Christ — to be *strong* in the faith. How do we do it? What is it that makes the big change in our lives to give us spiritual strength and spiritual backbone?

Read the answer in Psalm 119:9. "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? *by taking heed thereto according to thy word.*" A Christian must compare the way he lives with God's instructions for living found in the Bible. He has got to look at the Bible as a *way of life* and make a fervent, wholehearted attempt to live by it.

II Timothy 3:16-17 lays out some of the goals and purposes of Bible study for us: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." We need to have these goals and purposes in mind when we study our Bibles. We are

not just "doing our duty," we are *working toward a goal* — becoming God!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR BIBLE STUDY INTERESTING

In the previous four sections we have been showing *why* we should study the Bible.

You all agree.

But the question is how? Human nature quickly becomes bored to any repetitive action — and our reaction to Bible study is no exception. Consequently it becomes our individual responsibility to candidly face this problem — and to solve it.

And that's precisely the purpose of the second part of this article. Here are seven practical methods for making your own study of God's Word as interesting as possible.

Now please don't just memorize these points. Nobody's going to spring a test on you. Blind memorization won't do you one bit of good. But think about these seven aids. And apply them. That will do you an *eternity* of good.

1) Establish Overall Goals

We've already enumerated our four all-encompassing goals for Bible study: 1) To gain the abundant life, 2) to do God's Work as a TEAM, 3) to do God's Work personally, and 4) to grow spiritually.

Sure, we've enumerated them — but how will that help you? It won't — not unless you force your mind to focus on them. And meditate about them. And *use* them. Continually. And especially at the *beginning* of your study.

2) Set Specific Goals

In addition to the "big picture" goals of Bible study, we need to set smaller, more immediate goals for ourselves. The human mind demands stimulation and incentives along the way. For example, Christ said that man should not live by bread alone but by *EVERY word of God* (Matthew 4:4). How can you do this if you *haven't even READ every word of God*? You can't. And yet, a recent survey showed that *many members of God's Church still have not read all of the Bible*.

Correct this deficiency — systematically. Go to the table of contents at

the front of your Bible. Which of those books haven't you read in their entirety? Mark them. Then begin to read them, checking them off as you go.

Many of you will probably want to read the Bible all the way through from Gen. 1:1 to Rev. 22:21. Even if you read very slowly (200 words per minute) you can accomplish this task — and feel a sense of personal satisfaction — in less than 62 hours of reading. At this speed you can read the Bible completely through in just one year spending only 10 minutes of your time each day!

Perhaps you *have* read all of the Bible, but look at the table of contents again: Do you *know* the basic message of each of the books. To whom were the prophecies of Zephaniah directed? What is the central message of the book of Lamentations? How many of God's statutes (Ex. 21-23) are you familiar with? Get busy and fill in your weak spots in Bible knowledge!

Certain Bible study aids can be useful in adding interesting details. *Halley's Bible Handbook*, for example, will give you a breakdown on the basic subject matter of each section of the Bible. It will also help tie the numerous books together by pointing out parallel accounts in other books and by giving the historical setting of these events. It is *very* helpful to put a prophet into his correct historical setting. Many obscure passages become quite clear when we do this.

3) Study Basic Doctrine

Do you thoroughly understand all of the fundamental doctrines of God's Church? You may well be *convinced* of the truth of an argument *without* understanding it. *It has been said that you truly understand a subject only when you can explain it to someone else*. This is a critically important principle. Can you *explain* and prove from the Bible why we keep the annual Holy Days and not the ritual sacrifices? If not, then you don't really understand this basic doctrine — and you need to go back and study it again.

Be systematic on *each* doctrine. Use sermons, articles, booklets, and Correspondence Course lessons. Mark the ap-

propriate proof texts and scriptures in your Bible. Chain reference them from one to the other so that you can march right through scripture after scripture for each subject.

Could you explain to a new person in the Church the meaning of God's Holy Days? How do you *know* that the Feast of Trumpets symbolizes the return of Christ? Could you prove it? If not, then you *don't* really understand it.

What about the Holy Spirit? Can you *demonstrate* that the Holy Spirit is not a person and that there is no trinity? I'm sure you're convinced, but can you explain it?

What about the question of "Why were you born?" Could you prove from the Bible that the purpose of human life is to *literally* become God? How about "law or grace" — could you explain that one?

4) Study for Personal Correction

God chastises every son whom He loves (Heb. 12:6). It's not fun — but it's the only way we're ever going to become God!

One of our heavenly Father's most effective methods of correction is through Bible study. It is our responsibility to apply the Biblical lessons, examples, admonishments and corrections to our own lives.

Here's a start: Which Biblical character exhibits problems which are similar to your own personal problems? What mistakes did he make that you can avoid? How did God handle him? What was God's advice? How can you benefit by these lessons?

You should be just as systematic when studying and praying for personal correction as when studying doctrine. First list your specific problems. Next compile the scriptures which deal directly with each of those problems. Then, write out an analysis of each problem together with an explanation of how each scripture should help you to overcome that problem. Finally, deeply appreciate God's correction — and change.

5) Mark Your Bible

A well-marked page in your Bible is like an old friend. An unmarked page is

a total stranger. Learn to mark your Bible — and watch your study take on a new zest.

Now you don't have to use six different colors, three rulers, four separate pen-point widths and an artistic flair. Your Bible will not be put on display — the Smithsonian Institute doesn't want it. What you should do is produce the most effective *tool* for your own private use.

For example, boldly mark the Bible so that you will be able to spot the story flow at a glance. When you are reading through the book of Kings, write the name of each king in the margin so that you can recognize each one of them instantly as you leaf through your Bible.

Use smaller print for explanatory and exhortative notes. Write down the understanding of a "difficult scripture" and indicate the application of a "two-edged sword" verse.

We like to kid around about our "inspired margins," but seriously, a well-documented and expounded scripture will come alive as your own personal possession — it will spark your imagination and sustain your interest.

6) Ask Questions

Make it a goal to keep a piece of paper in your Bible to write down questions. And having written your questions down, be sure you get them answered. Don't be embarrassed to "show your ignorance" — ignorance is shown only by those who *don't* ask questions. But first of all do a little research on your own — and *then*, if you can't find the answer, ask the minister or send the question up in Bible Study.

Be sure to ask a lot of questions. Be curious without being critical. God doesn't want a lot of weak "doormats" hanging around His Family — people who aimlessly swallow everything they're fed without questioning or caring. God wants sons; and sons ask questions to "prove all things" (I Thes. 5:21) that they are indeed *right*.

7) Vary Your Approach

Don't use the same method of Bible study all the time. Be different. Change your style. You can read through an entire book one day and then spend the

next several days drinking in of just one chapter.

Meditate about what you are reading. Meditation and Bible study, intertwined together, are a mutually multiplying combination. Visualize the Biblical passage in your mind's eye. Put yourself into the story.

When you read about the personal experiences of a specific individual (like David), get involved — picture yourself in his shoes. Live through his exploits, trials, problems, errors, repentances and reliances upon God as a real-life, day-to-day situation. Don't allow the sanctimonious-sounding King James language to throw you. Pore over modern translations. *Live God's Word*.

Bible study should *never* become boring. If you have the right goals and you are interested in making your study interesting, *it never will!* □

EXTRA BLESSING

(Continued from page 14)

let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."

It gives us the opportunity of serving other brethren who are needy, teaching us compassion and love for those in God's Church. We are also instructed in Paul's letter to the Galatians: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, *especially* unto them who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10). We now have this opportunity to serve those of our brethren who are in less fortunate circumstances than we are. Let's use and profit from every such opportunity!

Must Observe It Faithfully!

Unfortunately, brethren, the sad fact is that many are not giving to the third tithe fund as faithfully as they should be. Receipts for the year so far indicate that some may be delinquent in this duty before God. If we at Headquarters are to continue to maintain this fund in the way that God requires — and will bless — everyone now in their third tithe year should be observing it faithfully. The decreasing third tithe income indicates that some are *not* being as faithful as they should.

In the event that some are not clear as to when the third tithe year begins, it

may be just as well to outline some of the Biblical principles relating to this doctrine. The key scripture in Deuteronomy 14 makes it clear that the third tithe should be brought forth *at the end of the third year*. Since ancient Israel was basically an agricultural nation, the harvest at the end of the year (just at the Feast of Tabernacles) represented the *whole year's* increase.

In today's economy each paycheck you receive is counted as increase. In other words, at the same time as you pay your *first* tithe amount in your third tithe year, you should *also* pay your *third* tithe amount. The two amounts should actually be the same! As mentioned earlier, this fund is maintained from Pasadena (or, in the case of overseas members, from the place to where you send your first tithe) and all donations should be clearly marked as to "first tithe," "third tithe," "offering," etc., with the amount for each. You may include your third tithe in with your first tithe and offering, but be sure to enclose a note breaking down the total amount.

For some unaccountable reason third tithe income jumps tremendously in the month of December and drops alarmingly during January! In actual fact, the income *should* vary only slightly during the year, with a more noticeable change around the Feast of Tabernacles. This sudden jump may be because some are sending in their third tithe all on one check for the whole year. Please avoid doing this if possible since our planning is projected on a fairly steady income basis.

Your third tithe year should begin two years after baptism at the Feast of Tabernacles closest to the date of your baptism. Using this method helps you to keep an accurate accounting of when to begin, and helps us in our financial planning to better serve those in need. If you have any questions as to when *your* third tithe year should begin, ask your local minister, or write your questions with your next letter to the Work if you do not have a minister available.

Brethren, the need right now is great, and it does seem that some are not taking advantage of this priceless *extra blessing*. Be *faithful* with *His* third tithe! □

Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 2)

ministers were glad to see us quit. We are older now and I hope a lot smarter. Our lives have been hell since we left the Church. We were not baptised, but we hoped to be someday. However we got side-tracked by a wolf in sheep's clothing and have spent the past four years paying for it. We would like to attend services again and try to become real Christians. Would you please send a minister to see us? We are not living a Christian life now, but we want to. I feel our only hope is to go back to the Church again. Please send someone to see us as soon as you can."

Ralph R.,
Louisville, Kentucky

Thoughtful Husband — Thankful Wife

"When I came home from Church this Sabbath, my husband had a large bouquet of flowers in our living room, and a lovely corsage for me to wear in the evening to a special place he, himself, had chosen. The evening was so special in every way — it was our 18th wedding anniversary. All the lovely

things he tells me I am, I could never have been without God's truth or without true education in home and marriage. My husband is not in the Church, and yet through the years as I have changed, so has he — as I obey, so does he — and I just feel so 'thankful today' that I couldn't let this time pass without telling you of the joy you have brought to our lives through God's Work."

Mrs. Ken E.,
Anaheim, California

Cancer Conquered

"We wrote you for prayer and anointed cloth for my cancer, and received wonderful improvement. The doctors said they just could not believe it. I am having more X-ray pictures after three months and am expecting complete recovery, as my lungs last time had only two little spots and the doctor thought it could only be scar tissue."

Mrs. N. W. C.,
Chariton, Iowa

Truth to India

"Though I am a Christian by birth, I was unable to understand the Bible

clearly. I am really enlightened by your Bible lessons and PLAIN TRUTH magazine. At the same time I am very much disappointed by my wife and children. As soon as I received the lessons by the postman, my wife will snatch away the lessons, and from her, my daughter will take away the lessons. At my home everybody wants to read first — I am in a fix. Now I have an idea to solve the problem. I made all my house people to sit in a place and I am reading the lessons loudly and explaining them. They are very pleased now; at the same time I am also happy. Now my children have stopped going to Sunday school and they are concentrating on your Bible lessons."

P. J. P., Mysore State, India

Fellowship at Last

"I enjoyed my first contact with God's people in the Duluth Church. It's good to be able to discuss the beliefs I have and get my questions answered. I couldn't get over how friendly all the men and women were to me — a newcomer. Usually one just sits by one's self with no one to talk to. Not so in God's true Church!"

Mrs. D. B.,
Int'l Falls, Minn.

The Bible Answers Your Questions

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

What did Christ mean when He said, "let the dead bury their dead"? (Matt. 8:22.)

Jesus was teaching that it is more important to be concerned with doing God's Work and salvation than any other physical matter (Matt. 6:33).

The context of Christ's statement reveals that He offered this man a special opportunity to participate in His ministry and teach the way which ultimately leads to ETERNAL life. When this man said that he must first go and bury his father, Christ told him to let the dead (spiritually dead) bury their dead. Was

Christ denying this man an opportunity to attend his father's funeral? Obviously not! After all, a funeral only takes a few hours and Christ continually gave example after example showing how Christians are to have compassion and show the proper respect for others. He was even present at funerals during His ministry, where He raised the deceased to life again (John 11:17-44; Luke 7:11-16).

Why, then, did Christ answer this man in such a manner? He realized what the man said was nothing more than an EXCUSE. The young man's

father was, most probably, an elderly man still living, but about to die. This man, realizing his father's condition, told Christ, in effect, that he did not want to get involved in God's Work until after his father was dead and buried. This indicates that he placed undue emphasis on family ties and other mundane, worldly matters pertaining to this *physical* life. He could have found someone to fulfill his responsibility towards his father if he had wanted to. That is why Christ told him to let the spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1 — those not being called now) be concerned with such physical matters.

The lesson we are to learn from this account is that no one should allow himself to be hindered by physical circumstances (the cares of this world) from having a part in God's Work once he has been called.